

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 16th February 2004
at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

- Councillor D T Murfitt
- Councillor N A Binks
- Councillor F J Brown
- Councillor L Cooper
- Councillor P M Cox
- Councillor J H Crane
- Councillor S Green
- Councillor J M Howard
- Councillor S D Kerridge
- Councillor L E J Murfitt
- Councillor G Norman
- Councillor M Pyrah
- Councillor A N Wright

Also present County Councillor P Bailey and District Councillors L Rodrigues and N Morrison

1. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD 2003:

The Chairman presented Mrs Linda Benstead with the Citizen of the Year Award for 2003

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a] The Cemetery Grass Cutter had been broken yet again. The Chairman and Councillor L E J Murfitt had a meeting with representatives of McCormack, Gordon Harrison and a member of the Cemetery Staff to see what was causing the problem. Now awaiting report from the manufacturers in Italy. A flail attachment might be the solution and it was hoped to arrange for a demonstration of one at the Cemetery.
- b] New bus stop flags and timetable cases are to be introduced over the next two years.
- c] Cambridgeshire Police Authority Local Consultation meeting 1st March 2004
- d] Diamond 44 – Boat Race 28th February 2004
- e] Following Publications available from the Clerk:
 - Twinning News - ~The Clerk – Hereward Housing Home and Away – Fens
 - Tourism News – Vital Village update
- f] New Station Car Park opened today.

3. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hayes

4. MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 19th January 2004 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 26th January 2004 were confirmed

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

There were no recommendations from the Finance Committee.

6. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported

- a] Street Lighting faults in Main Street are likely to be a manufacturers fault; both County Council and Ringway are hoping to resolve the problems shortly.
- b] Smart Card - the costs of the aborted project were borne by the Cambridge Community Network.
- c] Section 106 Funding – no response from District Solicitor – will write again
- d] District Council will endeavour to involve Parish Council in any discussions relating to the new plays areas proposed for the Highfield Development
- e] Interactive Road Signs should all be working now.
- f] No response on replacement bench in Main Street or free bench

In light of recent Government reports on obesity in children it was agreed a letter be sent to the County Council with a copy to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister regretting the proposed selling of the school playing fields for housing.

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Councillor Morrison reported on his attendance of the Environment and Transport meeting. Ely's new southern bypass was discussed and there were no issues affecting Littleport on the Agenda.

Councillor Wright reported

- a] The Rate had not been set awaiting County Council's rate.
- b] Proposed relocation of the District Council's offices was first mooted in December 2002. The Grange is now a liability with repairs estimated at £70,000 per annum over the next three years to catch up. It would be cheaper to lease a purpose built building. The best value for the Grange site would be for housing but it could also be used as a car park for in excess of 200 cars. The land was valued at £1.5 million and to demolish and level the site would cost £.5 million. £150,000 a year savings are envisaged if the offices were moved. Angel Drove was not a viable option. The final decision will be made at the full council meeting in July.

The Parish Council will receive a copy of the Chief Executives report.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Bailey reported:

He had been informed there were capital funds available for Youth provision but not for revenue funding. He would pursue the current project at St Neots and report back. The County Council budget is due to be set to-morrow with an estimated 6- 9% rise for the year 2004/5

The Huntingdon/Cambridge Guided Bus Scheme had been awarded £65million funding

9. SKATE PARK:

Councillor Norman reported on the installation works of the Skate Park which should be completed within three weeks.

The adjacent property owner had asked for a Leylandiis Hedge to be planted in place of the earth mound as a noise baffler along the common boundary.

Councillor Norman proposed planting a Leylandiis hedge to appease the neighbour
Seconded by Councillor L E J Murfitt

Councillor Pyrah seconded by Councillor Wright proposed and amendment to limit the height of the hedge to 10feet.

Councillor Mrs Howard seconded by Councillor Mrs Green proposed a further amendment that the hedge planted be a Beech.

Voting on the second amendment was lost by 4 votes for and 8 votes against.

The first amendment was carried by 8 votes to 3 with one abstention.

Littleport Leisure Centre had already given consent to a hedge with the proviso that the hedge remains for as long as there is a skate park on the site. Mr John Sallis owner of the adjacent property to sign a waiver against possible damage to his property caused by the hedge.

Warning notice (a requirement of the Insurance Company) has been ordered for the skate park

10. YOUTH PROVISION:

Councillor Mrs Green reported on the good numbers attending the Tuesday Evening Youth Group at the Parsons Lane Primary School and the Ouse Bus. The Youth Leaders have extended an invitation to any Councillor wishing to visit and see the schemes in action.

It was agreed to invite the head teacher Ms J Willson to attend a future meeting.

11. EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN:

The current District Local Plans runs up to 2006 and a review will start in Autumn 2004.

It was agreed to invite a District Council Officer to attend a meeting to discuss key topics including affordable housing as part of the review process. Nick Abbey the Chief Executive of Hereward Housing Association also be invited to give a presentation.

12. PLAY AREA BY LAWS:

Draft by laws was considered and it was agreed to include provision for circuses and fun fairs within the new frame work. (A copy of the proposed by laws follow these minutes)

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE