

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 19th July 2004 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor P M Cox
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor F J W Brown
Councillor J H Crane
Councillor S Green
Councillor B W Hayes
Councillor J M Howard
Councillor S D Kerridge
Councillor D T Murfitt
Councillor L E J Murfitt
Councillor G Norman
Councillor M Pyrah
Councillor A N Wright

Also present District Councillor N Morrison

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A letter was received from Littleport Leisure thanking the Parish Council for their financial contribution for the new footpath lighting

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Binks and Cooper, County Councillor Bailey and District Councillor Rodrigues

3. MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council meetings held on 21st June 2004, the Cemetery Working Party held on 28th June 2004, the Planning Committee held on 12th July 2004 were confirmed.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

There were no recommendations from the Finance Committee.

5. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:-

- a] Response received from Inspector Gallop on Police issues – copy circulated
- b] Skate Park – grants payments have been applied for from WREN and ECDC. Now that the contractors are off site the landscaping and hedging can be done and litter bin installed

- c] Millfield School have a vacancy for School Governor
- d] Harley Memorial ground works for the reinstatement of the Harley Memorial will commence on Tuesday 21st July

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Councillor Morrison reported on the Annual Review of the Community Strategy Partnership which did not contain any crime statistics. Councillor Hayes will investigate.

Councillor Wright reported that he had received differing information on Housing allocations from the various departments involved with the Section 106 agreements.

The £66,000 allocated from the Highfield Development for Youth Provision will be paid by the developer direct to the County Council.

2003 Licensing Act has had final approval and the District Council is now responsible for all licensed premises. All new licenses will be issued over a six month period. Clubs will no longer be allowed to sell alcohol to anyone under 18. Licensed establishments will be able to choose their own hours. Formal objections to applications will be considered. it is not known yet how Village Halls will be affected.

Councillor F J W Brown reported that ADeC now had Youth groups as part of its remit and would be looking to Parish Councils for feedback on what is needed.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report

8. CEMETERY WORKING PARTY:

Councillor D T Murfitt reported:

The repairs to the footpaths within the Cemetery were in hand

Mr Ron Murfitt had complained that the Beech Tree roots were lifting his tarmac and all the trees abutting his property were blocking out light. The Tree Officer has been contacted to inspect and report on the Beech Tree.

Councillor Wright moved to resolve that the Cemetery Committee formally investigate seeking a new cemetery site and crematorium Seconded by Councillor Norman and carried.

The Burial Fees for the year commencing 1st April 2005 were approved (a copy follows these minutes)

It was agreed to purchase a smaller ride on mower able to negotiate between the headstones.

A notice and advert alerting the public that any headstones and memorials in the Cemetery that are deemed to be unsafe will be laid down. The validity of the topple test to be investigated.

Following much discussion it was agreed to limit the sale of pre sold plots to doubles only. Voting 8 for, 3 against and 1 abstention. The Cemetery Working Group would produce a document relating to the sale of plots.

9. AUDITORS REPORTS:

Copies of the External Auditors report for the year ended 31st March 2003 and the Internal Auditors report and comments for the year ended 31st March 2004 having been previously circulated were received.

The comment on the lack of authority to borrow was noted. Some councillors did not see it as borrowing but merely spreading the cost over a period. The second and final payment had now been made.

Councillors were concerned about the implications arising from the Internal auditors comments and agreed that he should be asked to meet with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to discuss various issues some of which are likely to increase spending.

A sub committee would be formed to draw up the risk assessment documents.

10. VILLAGE SIGN:

Councillor Crane had obtained a quote of £788.00 from a Specialist Contractor to restore the Village sign which was erected in 2001.

Cracking in the wood is in need of urgent attention and it was agreed to accept the quote. A copy of the quote will be sent to East Cambridgeshire District Council asking how much they will contribute to the sign's repairs. At the same time to remind the council that the damaged tree at Ponds Hill has not been replaced and the footpath still floods outside 30 Wellington Street.

11. CHANGES TO BUS SERVICE:

The changes to the Stagecoach Bus Service were received. It was agreed to write to the County Council asking when they are going to stop calling this a service and to quote from East Cambridgeshire's Community Strategy Document Strategic Aim B1 "to address issues of access across the district, in particular to seek to reduce social exclusion that is connected to transport deficiencies."

12. CRIME IN MAIN STREET:

Correspondence from Mr G S Spinks voicing unease about continued problems in Main Street was received. Concern was expressed at the lack of follow ups by the police when they are given names, dates and times of offences.

Councillors repeated their views that the Police Authority Chief John Reynolds has lost direction and is not doing his job. We want a better police forces and new blood is needed. Agreed to invite Councillor Reynolds to attend a public meeting.

Consideration to be giving to creating a byelaw to prohibit consumption alcohol in public places.

13. CCTV:

Copies of the report on the CCTV meeting had been previously circulated. The Chairman has since been in contact with several firms looking at other options to include a central monitoring point

It was agreed to hold a special parish council meeting to look at CCTV.

14. YOUTH PROVISION:

Copies of the report on the meeting held on 5th July were circulated at the start of the meeting. Councillor Hayes reported on the constructive meeting and that Section 106 provision would be made. Spending on Youth Services is only half of what it should be.

Councillor F J W Brown left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Hayes advised councillors to be flexible and to keep options open.

Councillor Mrs Kerridge proposed copies of the previous meetings held on 17th May 2004 and 21st June 2004 be sent to the Healthy Living Steering Group for their information. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Howard and carried.

Councillor Wright proposed that a special meeting of the Parish Council be held to select the criteria for the development of youth provision and Section 106 monies. Carried.

15. REMOVAL OF BT PAYPHONES:

Councillors were in agreement that the two rural payphones earmarked for removal should remain. This was seen as taking away a rural facility and would cause deprivation in a deprived area. The payphone on Parsons Lane could be removed.

16. LITTLEPORT PARTNERSHIP:

The report previously circulated was taken as read.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE