

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Councillor P M Cox
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor L Cooper
Councillor J H Crane
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 Morrison and 1 member of the public

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Resignation received from Councillor Binks
- ii. Next month's parish council meeting will be held at Black Horse Drove
- iii. Reminder to committees and working parties to hold their budget meetings before the end of October
- iv. Letter of thanks from Littleport Judo Club
- v. Youth Meeting date changed to 24th September 2004 and a Special meeting of the parish council to discuss the Community Building on 27th September 2004

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Green, County Councillor Bailey and District Councillor Rodriquez

3. MINUTES:

Before the reports of the Finance and Parish Council meetings held on 19th July 2004, the Planning Committee meeting held on 2nd August 2004 and the Special Parish Council Meeting held on 4th August 2004 were confirmed Councillor Mrs Kerridge questioned the accuracy of the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 4th August 2004, and wished to have included an earlier proposal by Councillor Wright "We are mindful to support the Healthy Living steering group's recommendations for a community building in Parsons Lane, Littleport" The resulting vote was 3 for the motion, 2 against and 3 abstentions.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Norman reported on the two year pay awards for Council Staff.

5. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:-

- i. Resignation of Councillor John Reynolds as Chairman of the Police Authority and his successor is Michael Williamson
- ii. Acknowledgement received from Moore Stephens - Annual Audit
- iii. One resident had written to support the removal of the Hale Fen payphone
- iv. Acknowledgment from Cambridgeshire County Council on bus timetable changes
- v. PCSO Simon Rampley is leaving at the end of the month
- vi. Refurbishment and renewal of street name signs - have supplied lists to Shirley Blake and Karen Goff at East Cambs
- vii. Village Sign 52% grant approved by East Cambs. Cars are still parking on the grass near the sign. Cecilia Tredget to be contacted.
- viii. Best Allotment won by Alan Manchett

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Councillor Morrison asked if Councillor Hayes had received any crime statistics from the Police. In reply Councillor Hayes reported that Inspector Gallop would be attending the partnership meeting on the 18th August and would supply the information then.

District Audit gave a good report on the District Council.

The Little Downham School bus service to the City of Ely College has won a reprieve. It was agreed to offer the support to Little Downham and to write to the County Council asking for an assurance that there will be no problems in the future for Littleport pupils attending the college bearing in mind the Section 106 money they will have to invest

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

No report

8. RISK FILE:

The Clerk reported on two incidences reported on damage to play equipment and the actions taken to repair.

9. VJ DAY 2005:

It was agreed V J Day should not go unnoticed and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman liaise with the British Legion on the matter. The Council would be prepared to make a donation at a later date.

10. HARLEY MEMORIAL:

The District Council asked if the parish council would take on the maintenance charges for the CCTV monitoring equipment in Church Lane covering the Harley Memorial. It was agreed the Parish Council meet the £135.00 per annum charge.

11. JOINTLY FUNDED MINOR IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES 2005/6:

It was agreed to refer this matter to the Footpaths Working Group to put in a bid and it was noted that the parish contribution has risen from 60p per elector to £1.00

12. GUIDANCE FOR COUNCILLORS:

The document guidance for councillors on tackling anti social behaviours locally was received.

13. SKATE PARK:

Councillor Brown reported on a letter just received from the Leisure Centre which highlighted four areas of concern, some of these had been noted in a recent site inspection, including rubble and ruts in the grass making it impossible to cut without causing damage to machinery; litter; cars drawing onto the field and with the erection of a suitable barrier this should stop; screening hedges to the side and rear of the site and a fence to stop off the access from Black Bank Drain. A risk assessment on the site has been carried out but the report is not yet to hand.

The Leisure Centre is also suffering from nuisance and vandalism and asked the question what is the council going to do. The onus is on the police to take out anti social behaviour orders.

Following lengthy discussions it was agreed to write to the Police. Erect signs offering rewards the reporting of the perpetrators of vandalism etc To write to Batramps “despite being paid in full that this council is dissatisfied at their failure to leave the site in a clean condition and if they fail to take action within 14 days the council will employ their own contractor and send them the account”. Copies of the letter will be sent to the County Council and District Council.

Action list: Carry out site clearance, pursue the Police, pursue Anti social behaviour orders against trouble makers, organise erection of signs, bollards and fence. The Chairman and Councillor F J Brown to report back to the next meeting.

14. BURIAL SEMINAR:

The Clerk reported on her attendance at the CALC Burial Seminar on 31st July. During discussions it was noted that there in not yet a kite standard for the controversial topple test. It was agreed that CALC should purchase a tester and hire it out to parish councils.

The District Council were considering various sites on their suitability for crematorium and cemetery use, a response is due shortly. A minimum of 5/10 acres is required for a crematorium.

It was agreed to join the Association of Burial Authorities through CALC who would be able to give independent advice of burial issues.

An advertisement stating the intention of the parish council to lay down unsafe memorials in the Cemetery at the discretion of the staff. would be placed in the local paper.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

CHAIRMAN

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DATE