

## LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Community Room Black Horse Drove on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 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 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 12 members of the public.

### 1. CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:

The Chairman welcomed Ms Beverly Howard Manager of the Ely and District Citizens Advice Bureau to the meeting.

Ms Howard gave a resume of the current levels of help offered to people and in the past year 800 clients from Littleport have received help on 2000 issues including benefit advice, debt advice, trust funds, employment advice and legal issues.

The bureau is run by 16 dedicated volunteers giving six hours a week. During school holidays there is a cut back in service due to family commitments.

From October a funded outreach service will operate from St George's Medical Centre for 4 hours a week offering benefit advice. Three year funding for this project has come from East Cambs and Leader Plus. The normal surgeries held in the Barn will continue to operate on the first and third Tuesday of each month. from 10.00 to 12.00.

Following a short question and answer session the Chairman thanked Ms Howard for attending.

### 2 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a] An open invitation was extended to all Parish Councillors to attend the Installation and Induction of the Reverend Rosemary Maskell as Vicar of Littleport on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2004 at 6.00pm
- b] Notice of Youth Provision Meeting Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2004 at 1.30pm  
Agreed to invite the new Vicar to attend
- c] Reminder of Special Parish Council Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> September 2004 at 7.00pm  
re: Community Hall, Healthy Living etc.

d] Official opening of Skate Park on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 12.00

3 APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hayes, County Councillor Bailey and District Councillor Morrison

4. MINUTES:

Before the reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2004, the Planning Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2004, the Play Equipment, Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2004 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2004 were confirmed Councillor F J W Brown in pursuance of Item 10 queried the Parish Council's agreement to fund the CCTV contract for the Harley memorial when the District Council had £20,000 for a work of art. His query did not alter the correctness of the report. The reports would be signed at the end of the meeting.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

There were no recommendations from the Finance Committee

6. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported on:

Response from Andrew Baxter re: School transport copy circulated to all councillors

E-mail from Steve White on Youth Provision at the proposed new Primary School. Councillor F J W Brown asked for us to query the sale of school playing fields to finance the new school in light of the recent Government directive that no playing fields should be sold for housing.

High Street Toilets – County Councillor Bailey had received an E-mail from Jim Bussingham at the County Council seeking an update on our interests on the toilet site. The matter is currently in the hands of David Groom at County Council Highways who wants to demolish the toilet block and create a pocket park.

Bus shelter at Crown Lane has still not been installed. The original shelter chosen in August 2001 has been changed to another design which requires Highways approval.

7. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

District Councillors F J W Brown and Wright reported nothing much was happening at the District Council due to senior staff holidays but would anticipate more detailed reports in the coming months once the budgets are discussed.

8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The Clerk read a report from County Councillor Bailey a copy follows:-

However, if you can put in my report that I have been liaising regularly and lobbying the County Council Portfolio Holder for Education and the Youth Team to reach a better deal for our Youth Provision. I am optimistic that the meeting on the 24th (which I will attend) will have several positive outcomes. Once we have had that meeting I hope to be able to update the Parish Council to seek their approval or comment on the various proposals.

9. CASUAL VACANCY – CO-OPTION:

Mrs Christine Ambrose Smith was unanimously appointed to fill the vacancy for Littleport West Ward following the resignation of Councillor A N Binks.

10. PLAY EQUIPMENT, ALLOTMENTS, OPENS SPACES:

Councillor F J Brown reported that Wicksteed Leisure had been instructed to carry out the repairs to the Play equipment. Lappsett were replacing the See-Saw at Croft Park Road. The grass around the skate park requires flailing to show up the ruts. A fence erected by Anglian Water near to the Skate Park was demolished within hours. John Rudd has been instructed to erect the warning signs. District Council have still not installed the litter bins.

Councillor Mrs Kerridge asked why the litter is not cleared daily from the Skate Park. The current budget does not allow for seven day working.

The Police are looking into Anti Social Behaviour Contracts on two young people who have been identified as the ring leaders for most of the trouble at the Skate Park.

11. LONE WORKERS:

Agreed the Chairman and Vice-Chairman liaise with the Clerk over a strategy for lone workers and ways to improve safety in the Barn.

12. TRAFFIC CALMING – ELY ROAD:

Councillor Norman had received complaints about traffic noise from vehicles driving over the cobbles. After much discussion it was proposed by Councillor Norman to ask County Council Highways to look at ways to reduce the noise of the cobbles and erection of a safety barrier on the Ely Road near to the entrance to the new estate. Seconded by Councillor Wright. The proposition was carried with two abstentions.

13. STOPPING UP ORDER - 48C BLACK HORSE DROVE:

Councillor F J W Brown proposed that consent be given to the Stopping Up the Highway at 48C Black Horse Drove under Section 116 Highways Act 1980 Seconded by Councillor L E J Murfitt and carried with three abstentions.

14. GREENHOUSES ACCESS FROM TEN MILE BANK:

Councillor Mrs Howard raised the concerns of the many residents travelling along Ten Mile Bank at the access being erected on Ten Mile Bank at the bend known

locally as Peacocks Corner. It is understood that the access had been altered from the original plans. However it is understood a new access is currently with the Highways Department for approval. The Parish Council will monitor the situation and talk with the planners.

15. MAIN STREET BENCH:

The correspondence from the District Council regarding the bench outside No 29 was received.

16. DISTRICT COUNCIL – OFFICE ACCOMMODATION QUESTIONNAIRE;

It was agreed each Councillor would complete their own questionnaire relating to choices over the Office Accommodation for the District Council.

17. LOCAL POLICING:

Councillor Mrs Howard opened the discussion raising her grave concerns over the number of police in the area. She noted that Norfolk had mobile police surgeries using a police car and felt this was something Cambridgeshire could consider.

Chief Superintendent Needle and Michael Williamson the new Chairman of the Police Authority have been invited to attend a meeting in Littleport but as yet have not responded.

Councillor Wright raised his concerns about the increasing costs of paid civil servants talking about problems and the high costs involved. People want to see police back on the beat.

Agreed the council should take the initiative and write to the Secretary of State sending copies to the various police officers. The statements made in Chief Superintendent Needle's statement are not accepted by the parish council. There is a lack of police in rural areas. This should be drawn to his attention and publicised in the press.

It was noted that Inspector Gallop would not be reforming the Littleport Community Safety Group.

18. LITTLEPORT PARTNERSHIP MEETING:

Councillors objected to information on Section 106 agreements being made available to the Partnership before District and Parish Councillors have been informed. The partnership is an unelected body and public interest issues should be Parish Council agenda items. The Section 106 agreements should come to the Parish Council first.

It is accepted that Councillor Hayes works very hard for the Partnership and through it funds for many projects have been raised.

Councillor Wright outlined the history of the partnership from its inception some 12 years ago as part of the Rural Challenge bid.

It was agreed to ask our District Councillors to talk to District Council Officers on the future of the partnership and to report back.

19. EAST CAMBS FORUM:

It was agreed the Chairman and Vice Chairman represent the Parish at the East Cambs Forum on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2004.

20. STREET NAMING THEME – HIGHFIELD:

Councillor D T Murfitt proposed a “farming “theme as appropriate for the new housing estate being built on Highfield Farm. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Howard and carried unanimously.

21. STREET LIGHTING:

County Council Street Lighting is still in discussion with EDF Energy about the supply and way leave agreement to the outstanding lighting column outside Number 18 Black Horse Drove.

Councillor F J Brown and Councillor Mrs Howard would confer on the matter.

22. CCTV:

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting to look at proposals for a Wire Distribution System for Main Street. It is in the early stages and provisional figures had been received but were subject to verification. A more in depth report will be made to the next meeting.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE