

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 15th November 2004 at 7.30pm

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

Also present District Councillors N Morrison and L Rodrigues

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a] Police Open Meeting 23rd November in Littleport Village Hall
- b] 2 PCSO's due to start training duties 22nd November and operational in Littleport from 18th December
- c] Letter of thanks from Littleport Judo Club re 137 Grant
- d] Library Development Meeting 17th November
- e] Royal Shakespeare Company made a return visit to Littleport Leisure Centre last week, performing Julius Caesar and Two Gentlemen of Verona
- f] Thanks to councillors attending the Remembrance Day Parade

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cooper, Pyrah and County Councillor Bailey

3. MINUTES:

Before the reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 18th October 2004, the Planning Committee meeting and Cemetery Working Group Meetings held on 25th October 2003 and the Special Finance Meeting held on 8th November 2004 were confirmed Councillor Wright asked in pursuance of Minute Number 7 Para 4 of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th October 2004 to be correctedCouncillor Wright will not vote for anything which will put extra on the council tax .

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Norman reported on the five quotes received for the 2005 Grass Cutting Season and Street Lighting Energy and Maintenance Charges

It was recommended

- i] to accept the Quote from K H Services and to defer a decision on the litter picking until later in the agenda.
- ii] to accept the Street Lighting charges

Agreed.

5. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

- a] County Council have decided not to install a mini roundabout at the Saffron Close junction with the Ely Road but will install a table similar to the agreed one at The Coppice junction
- b] Negative response on Traffic calming in Victoria Street
- c] Church Clock has been repaired again under warranty
- d] East Cambs and District Councillor Morrison have also written in support to retain the Payphone at Lynn Road.
- e] Gave brief report on Ely Sector Meeting
- f] Youth Meeting on 12th November was very encouraging. Minutes will be circulated later.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Rodrigues – no report

Councillor Morrison reported on his attendance at various meeting and the Council had not met its recycling targets.

Councillor Wright pointed out recycling was a long term commitment and waste was measured by tonnage. Not so long ago people were encouraged to recycle by composting. The recycling scheme utilising brown bags had been extended recently.

The area of contamination at Ponds Hill/Old School Close cannot be defined. Investigations have so far cost the District Council £50,000. The contaminants are coal by-products and there are no background levels published. Councillors stressed their personal opinions were based on what had been heard and not facts known. The District Council is conscious of the problems and is pushing for what they can.

Office Accommodation – still awaiting full financial information and the final decision has been deferred until February 2005.

Paradise Swimming Pool in Ely will close for 6 months in January 2005 and this is causing major concerns. The district council has an obligation to maintain it. Currently the pool is subsidised by £15000 per month (£180k per annum) and this figure is likely to rise. In comparison the total budgets for all local Leisure Centres is £60,000 per annum. The council needs to look at long term solutions and the possibility of a proper replacement swimming pool

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report

8. LITTLEPORT HARLEY:

The Littleport Harley group were looking for written support from the Parish Council for the proposed 2005 event.

Councillor Wright proposed a grant of £500.00 plus underwriting losses of up to £1000.00 Seconded by Councillor Norman and carried. Councillor L E J Murfitt abstained.

9. PRECEPT 2005/6:

With the addition of £1500.00 in the Free Resource Section to cover the Littleport Harley grant the Precept as recommended by the Finance Committee was approved. A copy of the precept follows this report.

10. PARTNERSHIP MEETING:

The Littleport Partnership had asked for a meeting with representatives from Littleport Parish Council to discuss the future role of the Partnership and to define a clear role.

Councillors Mrs Howard, Wright and Cox were appointed as Parish Council Representatives. Proposed meeting date 1st December.

11. CASUAL LABOURER:

The Skate Park was continually left looking like a rubbish tip after gangs of young people had visited the site. The weekly cleanup by council staff was not enough. It was agreed to approach Branching Out to undertake clearing the site for a trial period of three months.

It was further agreed to approve the additional service offered by KH Services to litter pick the play areas in conjunction with the grass cutting at a cost of £200.00 based on 10 cuts per season.

12. CEMETERY TREES:

Councillor F J Brown declared his interest and took no part in the discussions.

Miss E Constable has written to complain about the height of the trees in the Cemetery which were affecting her view.

Photographic evidence of the trees has been circulated, but it was not clear which trees were causing the problem. The Clerk would contact Miss Constable and arrange a site meeting.

It was agreed the Council should adopt a policy on keeping the trees trimmed.

13. LICENSING ACT 2003:

Councillor Wright pointed out there was not a lot to consult on. The licenses would be split into Personal licenses and Premises licenses which will include Village Halls.

Each applicant will need a method of operation plan to cover all activities. The fees are being set by government. A Licensing Enforcement Officer will monitor complaints etc.

14. PARTNERSHIP MINUTES:

Councillor Hayes invited questions on the previously circulated minutes the last Partnership meeting.

The Littleport News was publishing its second edition this week. The Clerk will arrange for extra copies for Black Horse Drove to be delivered to Councillor Howard.

Councillor Hayes reported on the reasonable progress of the Youth Meetings and the diversity of the people attending the meetings including representations from the Police

15. GRANARY LANE PARKING:

Councillor Wright declared his inertest and left the meeting.

Councillors were unaware of problems in this cul-de-sac and concluded it was a neighbours issue. A copy of Mr Green's letter had been forwarded to County Council highways for their comments.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

.....
CHAIRMAN

.....
DATE