

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 20th December 2004 at 7.30

PRESENT:

- Councillor P M Cox
- Councillor C M Ambrose Smith
- Councillor F J Brown
- Councillor F J W Brown
- Councillor J H Crane
- 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 two members of the public.

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a] Cecilia Tredget will be attending the January meeting to report on the plans for the multi purpose community building
- b] Christmas cards from ACRE and Branching Out
- c] Councillor Hayes is responding to treatment in hospital and is likely to be an in patient for several more weeks.

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hayes and District Councillor Rodrigues

3. MINUTES:

Following the deletion of Councillor S D Kerridge as an attendee of the Finance Committee Meeting the reports of the of the Planning, Finance and Parish Council meetings held on 15th November 2004 and the Planning Committee meeting held on 6th December 2004 were confirmed:

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Norman reported:

The Finance Committee would seek clarification from Audit on the need to obtain additional quotes for a three year grass cutting contract and was it acceptable to enter into a three year contract.

Agreed. Councillor Howard abstained

5. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

- a] Phone Box on Lynn Road to be replaced and possibly be re-sited closer to the Station
- b] Licensing Act 2003 response received
- c] Parish Paths Partnership Application has been submitted. Grant levels have yet to be approved.
- d] The monthly free newspaper is now publishing the Parish Council's contact number. No word on free papers for Black Horse Drove.
- e] Cemetery Trees - the offending trees which required cutting back were not on cemetery land
- f] Malcolm Moss has written to the Chief Constable regarding policing levels in Littleport following complaints from the electorate.
- g] Ron Bidwell is concerned about the uneven flag stones at the War Memorial. A report on will be submitted in due course for council consideration.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Wright reported on the rates support grant settlement and the District Council would be looking at a 2.5% increase for the next year. Three year funding packages have been announced with a set of new rules.

Councillor Morrison asked if the vandalised bus shelter had been reported to the Police. The Freedom of Information Act comes into force on January 1st 2005 East Cambs has been short listed with six other District Councils and County Council in the Government's "Beacon Awards" scheme for 2005. The council reached the shortlist because it was able to show that in association with partners it is helping to provide more affordable homes in one of the country's most expensive areas. The final decision on the award will come in April.

Councillor F J W Brown reported on the new round of government housing targets released and the impending Distinct Councils planning review. Affordable housing is not available in Littleport and there is a need to look into shared equity. Local people should be made aware of the problem and any homes built should be restricted to eligible first time buyers with Littleport post codes

More ASBO's should be implemented and the police need to be more vigorous.

Councillor Morrison suggested inviting Brian Tully to attend a future meeting to explain the various procedures that have to be followed before making the order. The cost of securing an order is reported to be £5000 which councillors doubted.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

E-mail received regarding Agenda Item 10.

8. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Several names were put forward for consideration. Councillor F J Brown nominated Roy Neal, Drum Major with Littleport Band for 60 years. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Howard and carried unanimously.

9. ST GEORGE'S' CHURCH YARD;

A request from the Church Wardens asking for a contribution towards the estimated £1500 costs to flood light the north side of the Church following continued vandalism to church and property was received.

Councillor Wright proposed a £500 donation Seconded by Councillor Brown and carried. Councillor Crane abstained.

10. TRAFFIC CALMING – ELY ROAD:

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mr T Evans of Ely Road to present his petition and speak about the concerns of the residents regarding the changes in the traffic calming measures which would reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. The main concern for everyone would be the noise levels emanating from farm traffic and lorries visiting the silo at Chettisham going over the raised platforms.

Standing Orders were resumed and a discussion ensued taking note of the comments received.

Councillor D T Murfitt proposed supporting the locals against the installation of raised tables, Interactive 30mph signs should be used, coloured road markings and pinching of road edges also. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Howard and carried unanimously.

11. JOINT PARISH AND PARTNERSHIP MEETING:

Councillor Wright reported that the circulated minutes were a watered down version. Actions proposed by the Partnership are endorsed by Parish Council by specific resolution.

Councillor Wright will write down the protocol and bring it back to the next meeting.

12. POLICE:

The letter on Police Reorganisation was received.

13. PLAY AREAS:

Councillor F J Brown reported on the major cleanup operations that had taken place at the Skate Park and Parsons Lane Play area. Branching Out had done an excellent job filling numerous skips with rubbish. All residents living around the Playing Field have received warning letters about fly tipping and the dangers of prosecution.

Discussion on the need for additional lighting at the Skate park.

It was agreed to look into the cost of lighting, involve the neighbours, erect a gazebo, check with other councils on lighting and seek Leisure Centre approval.

Councillor F J Brown was thanked for all his efforts.

14. PADNAL:

Councillor L E J Murfitt reported on a request that Parish Council look at a proposed planning application and give an indication of their approval before they submitted an application.

It was agreed this was highly irregular and out of order. It should go through proper channels and be determined at a planning meeting. Therefore it was agreed not to offer an opinion.

15. RIVERSIDE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME:

Councillor Wright moved to support the schemes as listed Seconded by Councillor Mrs Howard and carried.

A copy of the schemes follows these minutes

16. CCTV:

The Chairman reported that two quotes had been received and a third one anticipated by the end of the year. A Sub committee would be needed to evaluate the quotes in due course.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE