

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 17th September 2007

PRESENT: Councillor G Norman
Councillor C M Ambrose Smith
Councillor D J Boyd
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor F J W Brown
Councillor P M Cox
Councillor J H Crane
Councillor D E Gardiner
Councillor B W Hayes
Councillor J M Howard
Councillor S D Kerridge
Councillor T J Lee
Councillor M Pyrah
Councillor A N Wright

Also present County Councillor Mrs Bean, District Councillor Morrison, one member of the Press and the Clerk.

1. DECLARATIONS:

None

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Katherine Atkinson from the Ely Standard to the meeting.

- i. Reminder to all committees and working parties to hold their budget meetings.
- ii. Village Hall Open Afternoon on 15th September 2007 was a great success
- iii. Reminder to all councillors to complete and return to the Clerk the new registration and declaration forms
- iv. Mr Ellis of Ely Road is still not happy with the traffic calming on Ely Road, further e-mail sent to County Council Highways.

4 APOLOGIES:

None

5 MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 20th August 2007 and the Planning Committee meeting held on 28th August 2007 were confirmed and signed.

6 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

7. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported that she had contacted ECDC Legal Department about modifying the Parish Council's by laws relating to play areas. The District Council could see no difficulties for the Parish to incorporate the banning of drinks and imposing night time closures; however they could not offer any further help re-drafting the by-laws because their insurance does not cover working with outside bodies.

Councillor F J W Brown asked for the Clerk to get the Legal Department's comments in writing and to send him a copy at the District Council via Margaret Dooling.

8 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Morrison pointed out an error in the previous council minutes, he had received an invitation to attend the LDF meeting not that he had attended.

In response to Councillor Mrs Howard's question on the distribution of the ECDC Magazine there is a new man in post who changed the method of distribution and therefore those people not in receipt of a free newspaper did not receive copies.

Councillor Morrison reported on the awarding of the refuse and recycling contract to Veolia and incorrect press reporting on Landfill figures.

Councillor F J W Brown reported that the District Council had got a better deal on refuse collections and Donarbon have installed new machinery to sort the waste. It is hoped to be achieving the targets within 18 months.

Councillor Brown urged the Parish Council to support Wilburton in their fight against the proposed new town of Mereham and Councillor Ambrose Smith also supported the protest.

Councillor Brown also criticised the quality and time taken to resurface the Littleport by-pass and felt strongly that we deserved a better deal.

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Mrs Bean responded by saying the road works were down to the Contractors.

CCC Cabinet had received petitions on the Guided Bus / road closures
CCC was not doing much in relation to the New Schools Competition.

10 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT 2006/7

The Clerk reported that Risk Assessments were underway; the Trainee Clerk has been shadowing the Cemetery staff and working with them on the assessments.

Councillor F J W Brown suggested risk assessment training for the staff.

11. WOODFEN ROAD –OPEN SPACE:

Councillors received the drawings of the proposed modifications to incorporate parking bays and bollard type barriers at Woodfen Road and Gilbert Road.

Following lengthy discussion where concerns about school/parent parking, homeowners parking isolated from their properties members strongly opposed the scheme.

Councillor Wright proposed suggesting to the District Council that they consider making block paviour access for Nos. 35 -45 and 47-53 Woodfen Road. Seconded by Councillor F J Brown and carried unanimously.

12. MEREHAM DEVELOPMENT:

Councillor F J W Brown proposed that this Parish Council voice their view and write to Wilburton giving them support. He also proposed that letters be sent to the local member, Wilburton and Haddenham Parish Councils regarding the A10 which is already heavily over used and needs dualling. Seconded by Councillor F J Brown and carried.

Councillor Wright pointed out this development is 20 years too late. The development will affect Littleport and public transport.

13. AGE CONCERN WARDEN SCHEME:

Councillor Mrs Howard gave an update on this successful service provided to Parish Residents. Currently there are 24 people on the register. Hereward Housing has made a contribution to the scheme this year but has made it clear that was a final payment, additional funding will be required next year.

The scheme has rolled out to other parishes.

14. YOUTH STEERING GROUP:

Councillor Hayes reported on the recent Youth Steering Group meeting. There is a problem running structured course at the Parsons Lane School, the hire charges were too expensive and they are now taking place at the Regal. Mike Davey from CCC has been informed.

Mike Davey had agreed to come back to the Parish Council in October to give an account of youth works. An invitation will be sent for him to attend.

Councillor Hayes will go with Mick Oliver (Youth Worker) to the Leisure Centre to see if they can work together providing youth based events.

£7912.00 grant from Cambridgeshire Youth Bank for the Littleport's Answer to Hollywood project (LATH) due to commence in November has been paid into the Parish Council's Youth Account.

15. BLACK HORSE DROVE COMMUNITY BUILDING:

Councillor Mrs Howard reported that the funding of £70,000 from a developer to purchase the Community Building from the County Council was no longer available due to his failed planning appeal.

Councillor F J W Brown explained that a precedent had been set whereby a building had been sold to a parish for a peppercorn price. The parish needs to take legal advice and demonstrate that the building is essential to the community, seek District Council support and ask the County Council to view this as a special exception.

Councillor Howard proposed that a meeting between the Chairman and the Community Hall Committee be arranged to prepare their case was agreed

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE