

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 19th November 2007 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor G Norman
Councillor C M Ambrose Smith
Councillor D J Boyd
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor P M Cox
Councillor B W Hayes
Councillor S D Kerridge
Councillor D T Murfitt
Councillor M Pyrah
Councillor A N Wright

Also present District Councillor Morrison, one member of the public, the Clerk and Trainee Clerk.

1. DECLARATIONS:

Councillors F J Brown and Norman declared their interest on Agenda Item 17

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public came in with a complaint about a councillor's conduct regarding a planning application. He was given the relevant paperwork and referred to the Standards Board.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Letter of thanks received from Field Theatre Group for Section 137 grant.

4. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Crane, Gardiner, Howard and Lee

5. MINUTES:

Before the reports of the of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 15th October 2007, the Street Lighting, , Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Working Party meetings held on 22nd October 2007, the Planning Committee Meeting held on 29th November 2007 were confirmed. Councillor Mrs Kerridge noted that no decision had been made on Finance Agenda Item 7 of the Finance meeting held on 15th October 2007 and it was agreed to bring it back to the next finance meeting. Pursuant of Agenda Item 18 of the Parish Council meeting paragraph two Councillor Wright asked that it be amended to read Councillor Wright pointed there may maybe vested interest s for three councillors who are residents of Barkhams Lane. The reports were then confirmed and signed.

6 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Brown reported on the 2007/08 pay awards for the Council staff which were approved.

7. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

- i. Revised grass cutting tender from CGM for cutting Parsons Lane Play area was increased by £6.00 per cut, which still made their quote the cheapest.
- ii. Street Lighting at Sandhill Bridge - Section 106 Grant, the application has been submitted to East Cambs and now goes before the committee on 12th December.

8 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Morrison had attended a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee where eventually the public were allowed to speak on the cuts to the AdEC grant. Voting followed party lines.

Councillor Morrison asked if the East Cambs Magazine was reaching the hinterland and was advised it was not.

Councillor Wright reported on the overlong Overview and Scrutiny meeting pointing out that in surveys carried out by the District Council the Arts were a low priority and the council needs to make £280k in cuts this year.

Councillor Mrs Ambrose Smith reported that she was on the selection panel for the Conservative parliamentary candidate to replace Malcolm Moss who is standing down at the next election.

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Mrs Bean's written report was received.

10 DRAFT PRECEPT 2008/09

Councillor Hayes asked for a breakdown on the under spend for this years precept. The Clerk reported that the PCSO budget for the year 2007/8 had not been spent.

Members considered the draft precept and made some minor amendments to the Cemetery budget. The Council will consider the final precept at the January 2008 meeting. The estimate for the next financial year is £110805.

11. PADDOCKS – TRANSFER DOCUMENT:

Member received the response from Hall Ennion and Young and agreed a copy of their letter be sent to East Cambs asking them to satisfy the queries contained in the letter.

12. NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL:

Following a very successful trial in Soham the District Council is rolling out the scheme.

The five councillors nominated to the Panel are Councillors Norman, F J Brown, Boyd, Cox and Murfitt.

13. PARTNERSHIP NOTES:

The notes on the Partnership meeting held on 10th October 2007 were received.

The Chairman reported that funding by the District Council for the partnership is being withdrawn and decisions have to be made for the way forward.

14. YOUTH STEERING GROUP MEETING:

The notes on the Youth Steering Group meeting held on 24th October 2007 were received.

Locality Showcase takes place in Witchford on 30th November.

15. CONTAMINATED LAND – ESSENTIAL TREE WORKS:

Gas House Green (Ponts Hill) is not Parish Council land; it was part of the highway until the Enhancement Scheme was implemented in the early 2000's. The Parish Council needs verification of the ownership of the two other pieces of land on the District Council's map.

Members agreed to the felling of the trees at Old School Close and Ponts Hill and asked that replacements are planted.

16. ALLOTMENTS – TENANCY AGREEMENT & APPLICATION FORM:

Members approved the Tenancy Agreement and asked for the Allotment Application form is modified to include e mail address and age of applicant only required for minors.

17. ST GEORGE'S MEDICAL CENTRE:

The Chairman and Vice Chairman having declared their interests left the meeting.

Councillor Wright was appointed to chair the agenda item.

Members discussed the Medical Centre's request for a gate or barrier at the entrance to the centre following continued vandalism and anti social behaviour.

Councillor Wright proposed three representatives from the Parish Council meet and discuss the content of the letter received and ask how they are going to enforce it. Seconded by Councillor Hayes and carried unanimously.

Councillor Wright, Cox and Pyrah were nominated for the meeting on site with Medical Centre representatives.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman returned to the meeting.

18. DOG LITTER BIN:

The Clerk reported on a request from the Leisure Centre for a larger Dog Litter Bin. Following discussion members agreed that the Leisure Centre should abide by the bylaw which forbids dogs from the centre; therefore their request for a bin was denied.

19. CODE OF CONDUCT – BARKHAMS LANE:

The Trainee Clerk reported that, when discussing road safety issues in Barkhams Lane, councillors living on Barkhams Lane should declare a personal interest. The interest is not prejudicial unless the matter under discussion would have a disproportionate benefit to those councillors living in Barkhams Lane

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE