

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 17th December 2007
at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor G Norman
Councillor C M Ambrose Smith
Councillor F J 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 D T Murfitt
Councillor M Pyrah

Also present The Clerk and Trainee Clerk

1. DECLARATIONS:

Councillor Norman declared his interests in Agenda Items 14, 15 and 16
Councillor Hayes declared his interests in Agenda Items 13, 14 and 16
Councillor F J Brown declared his interest in Agenda Item 15
and Councillors Crane and Cox declared their interest in Agenda Item 16

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Cards received from Branching Out and Fire Service.

Cemetery Staff have successfully completed Manual Handling/Working at Heights and Risk Assessment Courses

4. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Boyd, County Councillor Mrs Bean and District Councillor Morrison

5. MINUTES:

The reports of the Planning, Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 19th November 2007, the Special Parish Council Meeting held on 27th November 2007 and the Planning Committee meeting held on 10th December 2007 were confirmed

6. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor F J Brown reported on the recommendations to accept the CCTV Maintenance Contract quote from Chris Lewis Securities in the sum of £1040.00 for the year and Councillor Mrs Howard's question that Financial queries are minuted and when necessary answers brought back to the next meeting.

7. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported on the successful grant application for Section 106 monies to fund the street lighting enhancement at Sandhill Bridge/Victoria Street. £8000.00 has been awarded for the scheme and the County Council instructed to proceed.

ECDC are reviewing business rates for small businesses. Notification was received to-day of a refund of £649.00 will be made to the Parish Council for the year 2006/7. Forms for the current year have also been completed. It is possible that the Cemetery will also qualify for rate relief.

A request to the Play Equipment Working Party to come up with ideas for new play equipment. ECDC grant application forms have been received.

Eventually the lost e-mail to the Ely Standard was acted upon and the advert for the internal decoration of the Barn appeared last week.

Seeking competitive quotes for the Internal Auditor's duties.

Persimmon Homes are happy to attend a future Planning Meeting to give an update on their Planning Approval for the Parsons Lane Site.

Councillor Hayes reported that the Murfitt Industries Planning Application had once again been withdrawn.

8 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

No report

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Mrs Bean's written report was received.

10. CEMETERY - NEW SITE:

Councillor Pyrah reported that the Oak Lane site still required a valuation. He reported that Councillor Crane had put forward a suggestion that the Camping Close Playing Field might well be an alternative site. A list of pro and cons for the two sites were circulated.

Councillor Murfitt stated that the Parish Council had given an undertaking that the land at Camping Close would remain a play area. Members concurred

Councillor Mrs Kerridge pointed out that the matter could not be discussed since a proposition was passed in October 2007 to proceed with the Oak Lane site

Members agreed with the suggestion by the Chairman that the new Neighbourhood Panels forum might be a suitable venue to get a feel of the views from Parishioners on cemetery sites.

Councillor Mrs Kerridge warned councillors to look after our public open spaces.

11. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR:

It was agreed to hold this item over to the next meeting. Anyone wishing to nominate a suitable candidate should give the name of their choice to the Clerk and in the event of more than one candidate nominated, ballot papers can be produced. Members will be expected to give their reasons for the nominations

12. PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REMUNERATION:

Councillors were unanimous in rejecting receiving allowances. for their work as parish councillors.

13. EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL – OFF STREET PARKING ORDER 2008:

Councillor Hayes declared his interest.

Members received the Off street Parking Order 2008. Councillor Mrs Kerridge asked the Clerk to ascertain if parking charges will be introduced in Littleport.

14 LAYN PROPERTIES:

Councillors Hayes and Norman left the meeting.

It was agreed to send representation to the meeting requested by Mr Layn to discuss Surface Water Drainage proposals. on The Moors.

Councillor Murfitt and Lee agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

15. ST GEORGE'S MEDICAL CENTRE:

Councillor Hayes rejoined the meeting. Councillor Brown left the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Howard assumed the Chair for this item, Councillor Ambrose Smith arrived at this point.

Councillor Pyrah reported on the meeting held at the Medical Centre attended by Councillor Wright, Mrs Bartram and Gary Shepherd.

Several points were raised including the vandalism to the rear of the building which as approached by a rat run from properties on Wisbech Road. One resident claims to have a right of access to the Playing Field. This right was never conveyed to the Parish Council by the Martin family.

Secure fencing might be a solution, however it was agreed to seek a dispersal order through Brian Tully and to raise the matter with Inspector Savill. Councillor Pyrah will write the letters.

Suggestion to put in "Sleeping Policemen" to curb the problem of "boy racers". Councillor Wright would look for Section 106 monies to pay the costs.

Other suggestions included new CCTV cameras and monitored at the Barn. Look into Landlords responsibilities. GPI were given a 125 year lease on the land. Police should be made aware of the continued criminal damage and their responsibilities.

Another meeting should be held with the Medical Centre, Councillors Wright, Pyrah and Cox together with the Police and GPI. (Need to check what the landlords responsibilities are first are)

Councillors Brown and Norman returned to the meeting.

16. BARKHAMS LANE:

Councillor Brown raised the issue of the dangerous corner adjacent to 24 Barkhams Lane and suggested a 20mph speed limit be imposed by County Council. Both Highways and Planning have given scant regard to Parish's comments on traffic issues.

It was agreed to ask the Planning and Traffic Management what they are going to do, and for their suggestions to alleviate the rat runs around the village including City Road.

17. PADDOCKS TRANSFER:

It was agreed to ask Hall Ennion and Young to act on behalf of the Council in the transfer of the Paddocks.

18. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS:

19. COMMUNITY BUILDING:

Councillor Cox reported on the successful Stage One Big Lottery Application. A development grant of £25,000 was offered to allow the second stage bid to be drawn up. The time table of events meant a response to the grant offer has to be received by 3rd January 2008 and the second stage application by September 2008. The grant offer was to be kept confidential until 19th December 2008 when there would be a press announcement from the Big Lottery.

The Community Building Steering Group's proposition that the Parish Council "Accept the development grant to proceed to Stage II" was seconded by Councillor Ambrose Smith and carried unanimously.

The Chairman and Clerk to sign the document as required by the Big Lottery.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE