

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 21st January 2008 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor G Norman
Councillor C M Ambrose Smith
Councillor D J Boyd
Councillor F J Brown
Councillor J H Crane
Councillor D E Gardiner
Councillor B W Hayes
Councillor J M Howard
Councillor T E Lee
Councillor D T Murfitt
Councillor M Pyrah

1. DECLARATIONS:

Councillor Lee Agenda Item 18

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS TIME:

None

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS:

The Chairman invited Sergeant Paul Rogerson from Cambridgeshire Constabulary to address the meeting on the role of the Parish in relation to the new Neighbourhood Panels and public participation.

Sgt. Rogerson clarified what the panels do and their aim to report back on results to councils prior to the quarterly meetings.

The object of the meetings is to get information from victims of crime first hand and to address these problems along in addition to the general day to day business of ASB, speeding etc.

It is hoped that the local COOP and Health Centre will attend the meeting.

The panel meetings involve other agencies covering Police, Health, Housing, Environment and Children & Young Peoples Services. The panel meetings appear to be working well in other areas

Sgt Rogerson confirmed that speed enforcement has been activated and hopes to have Community Speed Watch up and running in March 2008.

In conclusion Sgt Rogerson reported on the successful operation to close down a cannabis factory operating from a rented house in Littleport.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that Councillor Cox was recovering well from his recent surgery.

5. APOLOGIES:

Councillors Cox, Kerridge and District Councillor Morrison

6. MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 17th December 2007 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 8th January 2008 were confirmed and signed.

7. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Brown reported on the recommendation to invite the two candidates for the role of Internal Auditor to meet with a group of councillors and to take up references. Agreed

8 FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

Following the Play Equipment meeting to select new equipment for Black Horse Drove – the Equipment Catalogues were out of date and the majority of the proposed play equipment was no longer produced. The Clerk had now obtained an up to date catalogue and price list. These were passed to Councillor Mrs Howard.

ECDC responded to the Car Parking Charges – there are no proposals to charge for parking other than the Angel Drove Car Park.

Confirmation from District Solicitors Office future legal aspects of the Paddocks transfer will be sent to Hall Ennion and Young.

9. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Mrs Ambrose Smith reported on a recent selection meeting for a replacement to Malcolm Moss MP who stands down at the next General Election. From a short list of six candidates Steve Barclay was selected.

10. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report

11. PRECEPT 2008/9:

The budget for the PCSO in the current year was not taken up, Councillor Pyrah moved transferring £25,000 into the Reserve fund seconded by Councillor F J Brown and carried.

The Precept for the year 2008/9 is £115805

A copy of the precept follows these minutes

12. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

Standing Orders were readopted with no change.

Financial Regulations were readopted with the following amendments.

- 3:4 Raise to £300.00
- 5:3 Cheques signed by three councillors
- 10:2 Supply cemetery staff with Order book (Invoices to be signed off weekly by T Sindall)
- 11:1 i Change to £300

13. JOHN COLE:

A letter from the Cemetery Caretaker indicating his wish to work on beyond his 65th birthday in April 2008 was received. The matter was referred to the Cemetery Working party and will be reviewed annually.

14. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2007:

Councillor F J Brown proposed as Citizen of the Year 2007 Ms Julie Weaver seconded by Councillor Crane in recognition for her efforts to procure approximately £80,000 funding to refurbish the Village Hall toilets and kitchen. Carried unanimously.

15. DOG LITTER BIN – BLACK HORSE DROVE:

A resident of Black Horse Drove requested a dog litter bin to be placed near the River bank. Agreed to purchase one bin and its location to be approved by Veolia and the Dog Warden. Agreed to move a duplicated bin from Lynn Road and locate it near the Black Horse Drove play area.

16. ST GEORGE'S MEDICAL CENTRE:

Councillor Pyrah reported on his various meetings with Mrs Bartram. He had explained public money could not be spent funding private parties. The Council could be held to account by District Audit.

It is understood the Partners at the Medical Centre are installing 3 sets of sleeping policemen. Still trying to arrange a meeting between Yvonne Bartram, Gary Shepherd, Police and all other interested parties and to bring recommendations back to the Council.

17. THE MOORS DRAINAGE MEETING:

Councillors Lee and Murfitt attended a meeting at the Drainage Board to discuss flooding issues on the Moors.

ECDC were not represented. Various issues still need resolving in Silt Road, The Hythe, and Victoria Street etc. A report commissioned in 2000 by the Highways Department has never been acted on.

The meeting was more of a talking shop. Mr Layn needs to resolve the flooding issues before he can develop the land. Network Rail has allocated funds to deal with the Station end of the watercourse.

The Clerk will pass a copy of the 2000 report on to Mr Layn.

18. LIMES CLOSE – FOOTWAY:

Mrs Green of Limes Close had contacted the council to support her claim of a walkway from Limes Close through to Friars Nine which would be lost when Hereward Housing build on the redundant car parking area.

Recommended to write back pointing out it is not a public footpath and to defer until comments from Littleport Society are received.

19. LITTLEPORT PARTNERSHIP:

The Chairman reported ECDC has withdrawn funding and secretarial services from the partnership and it is hoped to keep the group ticking over as a grant source.

20. MALCOLM MOSS MP – YOUNG PEOPLE LITTLEPORT:

It was agreed to link this item with Agenda Item 21: Youth Steering Group

Mr Moss had written to the Clerk following his invitation from Mr Malkin to visit YPL in Granby Street.

It was noted that Mr Malkin’s YPL is sponsored by local businesses and acknowledge he provides a useful service however there is a commercial side to his work.

The Clerk would respond pointing out that Mr Malkin has now rejoined the Youth Steering Group and issues can be addressed through that group. Also in the past Mr Malkin has successfully applied for a Section 137 grant. No further applications have been received.

22. CEMETERY HEDGE:

Following three letters from Mrs Mitchell of 74 Parsons Lane objecting the Cemetery hedge being cut back to 6’ she has now accepted the fait accompli.

Over the years the hedge has pushed over the supporting fence onto neighbouring gardens to varying degrees. Mrs Mitchell wants the supporting fence removed and she will erect her own fence. Councillor Pyrah will evaluate the best course of action.

23. WAR MEMORIAL:

Councillors agreed to the request from the Royal British Legion to turf two small areas adjoining the War memorial on Church Lane which will be used to accommodate remembrance crosses.

24. POLICE “OFFICE”

Councillors supported the Police’s wish to convert the old Public Toilets in High Street to a small local office. The Council are still awaiting the “Stopping up Order” which would pass the ownership of the land from the County Council to the Parish. The Police have funding in the current year’s budget to carry out the conversion works.

25. AGE CONCERN COMMUNITY WARDEN SCHEME:

Councillor Mrs Howard reported on the continued success of the Warden Scheme which currently helps 24 people at any one time. There is a waiting list to join the scheme. Funding is a concern, Hereward Housing have withdrawn funding. Suggestion was made that Hereward should contribute on a percentage basis relating the number of their tenants who use the service.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

CHAIRMAN

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DATE