

## LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 7.30pm

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 T J Lee  
Councillor D T Murfitt  
Councillor A N Wright

Also present one member of the press

1. DECLARATIONS:

None

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None

3. CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2007:

The Chairman presented Ms Julie Weaver with a certificate in recognition for her fund raising efforts for the Village Hall.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

County Councillor Mrs Bean is arranging a meeting to discuss parking issues at Parsons Lane Primary School and would like a representation from the Parish Council to attend. Councillors Boyd and Gardiner agreed to attend

Mr David Groom has taken early retirement from County Council Highways. Agreed a letter of appreciation be sent.

PCSO Emma Graves has been transferred to Ely. PCSO Ian Hawkins is her replacement. Agreed a letter be sent to Emma

5 APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Howard, Pyrah and District Councillor Morrison

6 MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> January, and the Planning and Cemetery Working Party Meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008 were confirmed and signed

7 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

8. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

County Council Highways response to issues in Barkhams Lane etc. Suggested these might be addressed through the Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme process and Mr Richards would be happy to meet councillors nearer the time to discuss the concerns.

Littleport Garage Limited is ceasing monthly accounts with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Understand Jet Garage on by pass have monthly account facilities.

9 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor F J W Brown reported on the Ely Master Plan process. Littleport should push for more parking at the Station and exploit the railway. Housing development should be concentrated on the highland and business/industrial around the Wisbech Road area.

Councillor Wright pointed out the master plan is an expensive process centred on Ely; Littleport and Soham must not be sold short. Out of town shopping will need to be addressed sooner or later. A number of large concerns have shown interest in Ely but have not passed planning, there is a long way to go with the process and it requires careful watching and is not detrimental to the villages. Could Ely sustain a multi screen?

In view of the high target for new build up to 2020 in the area it would be prudent for the parish to preserve some land for a possible new secondary school.

Councillor Mrs Ambrose Smith suggested looking at cycleway links to the Station and Leisure Centre.

Councillor Murfitt asked what was the cost for the alleged incorrect parking signs on the rate payers.

10. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Mrs Bean submitted a written report which was received.

11. CEMETERY:

Councillor Wright declared his interest and before leaving the meeting intimated he knew of as possible source who may donate sanitary ware for the cemetery toilets.

Councillor Pyrah in his absence had produced a detailed report

Cemetery Fence – Councillor F J W Brown suggested it be left to the Mitchell's to take up the fence.

Cemetery Chapel- the weight of the bell and lead in the bell tower are causing the walls to bow. Cemetery handyman is confident he can remove the bell tower etc with the appropriate scaffolding. Tie bars installed under the guidance of a structural engineer, guttering, redecoration and other associated works to be carried out by the cemetery staff as and when time permits. Some of the costs can be met from the sale of the lead. The bell will be offered to the Littleport Society.

Toilet Facilities: The Clerk had written to several local plumbers for quotations to refurbish the toilets – the quotes will be put to the Finance committee.

Trailer Base: Obtaining three quotes for a suitable trailer base suitable for transporting mowers, diggers etc. to submit to the March meeting.

Councillors Boyd and Gardiner offered to place the redundant benches on E bay for sale.

New Cemetery - Unanimously agreed to ask the District Valuer to value the proposed site at Oak Lane at a cost of around £500.00.

#### 12. MOORE STEPHENS – AUDITORS:

Members accepted the Audit Commissions proposal to appoint Moore Stephens as external auditors for the Parish Council for a 5 year term commencing with the 2007/8 accounts

#### 13. NATIONAL STANDARD PLANNING APPLICATION FORM:

Members received the draft local validation requirements of the National Standard Planning Application form.

#### 14. BLACK HORSE DROVE:

The County Council had written requesting an update on the business plan for the acquisition of the Black Horse Drove Community Hall. Councillor F J W Brown proposed the council reiterate their request that the hall be sold for a peppercorn sum under the exception policy and to ask for a written response. Letters to be sent to the Leader of the County Council and the Head of Cabinet reminding them of the school closure at Black Horse Drove and they profited from it.

Littleport Society to be asked for any research information they have on the building.

Councillor Mrs Howard had sent in to a written report stating the hall committee were not in a position to draw up a business plan.

15. SANCTUARY HEReward: - WISBECH ROAD DEVELOPMENT:

Members resolved to approve Sanctuary Hereward offer of £10000 in consideration of their public open space provision with the proviso that it is clearly ring fenced for a new cemetery in Littleport and the funds given to the Parish Council.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE