

## LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 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 S D Kerridge  
Councillor T J Lee  
Councillor D T Murfitt  
Councillor M Pyrah  
Councillor A N Wright

Also present District Councillor N Morrison, the Clerk and Trainee Clerk

### 1. DECLARATIONS:

Councillor Hayes declared his interest in Agenda Item 15

### 2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – None

The Chairman proposed varying the agenda to allow Item 10 to be brought forward – agreed.

### 10. PADDOCKS/COMMUNITY CENTRE:

Standing Orders were suspended to all Clive Webber to present the report on the proposed Community Centre.

The report was in two parts covering Business Planning and Design. Key information dates for Parish Council's decisions would be forwarded to the Clerk and it was emphasised that the time table was very tight and no decisions could be deferred. Members were all urged to read the lengthy documents when presented in advance of the meetings. A lot of information was being gathered on existing facilities which eventually could be passed back to help their funding needs.

Councillor Cox questioned the rumours that the funding for the project was not secure as some of the money had been spent elsewhere. The Stage 1 of the lottery bid confirmed the funding already agreed and any shortfall could have an impact on the Second Stage validity.

The loss of Cecilia Tredget will also have an impact on the project.

Agreed to write to the Chief Executive asking for confirmation of the amounts of funds made available to Cecilia Tredget are still the case and ask for a reply within seven days. CC to be sent to the Leader of the Council

Mr Webber was thanked for attending and Standing Orders were resumed.

### 3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i. Resignation of Councillor Mrs Jean Howard had been received. Members recorded their thanks for her services to Black Horse Drove.
- ii. Village Hall Insurance – The Chairman consulted with several members prior to agreeing to add the buildings and contents to the Parish Council’s policy – this resulted in a saving of approximately £800. Chairman’s actions will be resolved at the next council meeting.
- iii. CAB had e mailed the Clerk regarding the decision not to make a grant. Members were told they are already funded by District.
- iv. Ely Standard is holding a coffee morning 24.04.08 and members are invited.
- v. Ely Master Plan just received hard copy, CD and questionnaires – Discussion next month
- vi. Invitation for Two councillors to attend an Open Night at St George’s Medical Centre. Agreed Chairman and Vice Chairman to attend the open evening.

4 APOLOGIES: None

5 MINUTES:

Before the reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008, the Planning Committee, Cemetery Working Party and Play Equipment Meetings held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 and the Special Parish Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2008 were approved and signed Councillor Hayes stated that Agenda Item 5a on the Planning Committee Minutes of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 was factually inaccurate and it was agreed that he furnish the Clerk with an accurate statement. Members then approved the reports

6 FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: None

7. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

Year end tax return for 2007/8 had been filed with HM Revenues and Customs

Barn Internal redecoration has been completed

Two quotes received to date for Black Horse Drove Play Equipment – on receipt of third quote will go to ECDC and other funders for grants.

Street Lighting Improvements to Victoria Street – revised quote received increased from £8000 – to £13728.56. Awaiting response from ECDC to see if the original grant can be increased to cover the extra costs.

Paddocks transfer – the Legal Department at ECDC have now corresponded with our Solicitors Hall Ennion and Young advising them on the current position.

8 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Morrison reported on some proposed tree works on a Sycamore Tree at a property in Church Lane.

Building work has stopped on the Cannon Kirk site for the time being. There is no trigger point for the play parks. ECDC have drawn up a Community Safety Strategy for three years.

Councillor F J W Brown they are targeting Anti Social Behaviour related to alcohol. He suggested placing a CCTV camera pointing towards a trouble spot at the Medical Centre might help; this needs researching on the legality of such an installation.

Work is in progress to produce a Master plan for Littleport and Soham. The parish wish list =needs to be re-examined.

European funding will be available for self build housing – need to look for land.

The parish cannot work in isolation and it would be prudent to invite an officer to an open type meeting to discuss the Master Plan.

Neighbourhood Panel needs more members, little support from County Council. Police targets were Highfield Estate and Medical Centre for ASB

Councillor Wright is not keen on a Master plan for Littleport – it has natural boundaries – the river and the by pass.. Need to re-affirm what we are doing.

Decontamination work has started on the old Gas works site. Agreed some form of letter giving the property owners and tenants that the is all clear should be issued.

Councillor Ambrose Smith reported a concerned local resident was taking up the cause to get the school crossing patrol at Parsons Lane moved.

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT No report

11. CEMETERY:

Councillor Pyrah reported

District Valuer had put a price of £35/40000 on the land at Oak Lane. Funding from the sale of 59 Parsons Lane was an option of applying to the Public Works Loan Board. Agreed to get 59 Parsons Lane valued with a view to selling to the tenant.

McCormack tractor meeting resulted in a refund of approximately £150.00 for the faulty wheels, full free service and upgrade to a fine cut flail attachment.

No money has been put in the precept to purchase a trailer. Still looking at mini diggers.

Recommend accepting Vinall Roofing quote of £957.00 plus VAT to remove bell tower, lead etc and make good.

Recommend accepting AFP quote to supervise the tie rod fitting in the chapel of £218.00 plus VAT.

Thanks to Councillor Wright for the donation of the sanitary ware for the toilets. The Plumber can start in two weeks.

Recommend purchase of 10 Leylandii trees to fill gap at Atkins Close.

Councillor Mrs Kerridge queried if our insurance covered the staff doing building works. Pointed out the work involved bricking in a window at ground level and not at height.

Members approved the recommendations.

12. HIGH STREET TOILET SITE:

The County Council having finally written to say that a “Stopping up Order” on the site was not possible asked if the Parish Council would like to buy it for £50,000 or it would be placed on the open market.

The Clerk was thanked for her research into the history of the site and had found a copy of a letter from 1936 suggesting that the land on which the toilets are situated be conveyed to the Parish.

It was unanimously agreed to seek legal advice on this document.

13. LOCAL LIAISON FORUM:

Councillors Cox and Wright were appointed to the County Council’s Local Liaison Forum (Murfitt Industries Tyre Granulation Plant)

14. REPRESENTATIVE TRUSTEE – LITTLEPORT TOWN LANDS CHARITY;

Councillor F J W Brown was duly appointed to serve a 4 year term as a Representative Trustee to Littleport Town Lands Charity

15. PARSONS LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL – PARKING:

Members discussed the correspondence from County Councillor Mrs Bean on the parent parking problems at Parsons Lane and Woodfen Road.

Councillor Brown suggested construction of a footway to the recycling could be done at no cost to the parish. This would enable the school crossing to be moved away from the current dangerous position.

The parking is not a parish responsibility and it was agreed that letters be sent to the County Council and the Police asking “What are you going to do precisely?” and those authorities should also counsel and engage with the parents.

Stick to simple approach, Councillor Wright suggested safety officer carries out a risk assessment. Agreed

16. INTERNAL AUDIT – INTERIM REPORT:

Members received the interim internal audit report.

17. BLACK HORSE DROVE COMMUNITY BUILDING:

The Clerk had e-mailed councillors on additional information regarding the building and a hard copy was made available to members. It is understood the documents were complicated and did not provide easy solution for the purpose required.

In confirmation of the foregoing report .....

CHAIRMAN

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DATE