

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 16th March 2009 at 7.30pm

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

Also present the Clerk and Assistant Clerk

1. DECLARATIONS:

Councillor Pyrah declared his interest in Agenda Item 12 and Councillor Mrs Kerridge in Agenda Item 10

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME –

Councillor Pyrah made a statement regarding agenda item 12 agreeing with the need for secure fencing to the abandoned property but was unaware of damage caused by youths. The footpath to the rear is on ongoing issue.

It was resolved unanimously to alter the order of business to bring Agenda item 9 forward and to suspend standing orders to allow Mr Clive Webber to make a statement.

9. PADDOCKS COMMUNITY BUILDING:

i. Mr Webber read out a prepared statement regarding the failure to secure lottery funding for the proposed community building on the Paddocks highlighting 5 key points. A full copy of his report follows these minutes.

Members wished to place on record their thanks to Mr Webber and the sub-committee for all their hard work.

ii. Councillor Cox echoed Mr Webber's comments and urged councillors' not to lose sight of the Section 106 monies – they could disappear?

Councillor Cox further said:

- We should insist that the original Section 106 Monies identified by the former district council should be honoured.

- We have been told by our district leaders, “Section 106 monies are to be distributed & spent in smaller amounts”
- We should request implementation of the draft, section 106 third deed of variation? (The Paddocks transfer to the Parish)
- Recent press releases had show large sums of money being sought for ambitious projects elsewhere in the District; Littleport appears to have been abandoned.
- ONS, statistics show that Academic achievement s by Littleport parishioners, is significantly lower than averages nationally & in district.

Councillor Wright stated we were back to square 1 Originally £132,000 had been set aside for a family centre. Questions need to be asked when will the Paddocks will be transferred and confirmation that the £132,000 is still there. Need to take care we are not short changed in the future

Agreed to hold a separate meeting with facts. Ownership of land, money available options

3. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Anticipated dates for the new planting of shrubs etc at Parsons Lane Play Area and the official opening of the new equipment from the Pathfinder grant were announced.

4. APOLOGIES: None

5. MINUTES:

Before the reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 16th February 2009, were confirmed Councillor Mrs Kerridge raised concerns about an apparent decision made under Chairman’s Announcement at the February 16th Parish Council Meeting regarding County Council sale of Farming Land and it was agreed to amend the minutes to state that the members did not wish to see this as a future agenda item

6. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Norman reported on the following recommendations:

- To award funding the Youth Team for equipment on condition it is Insured -£1175.10
- Section 137 Funding – not to award grants to Ely & Soham Dial a Ride or Ely Schools because their applications were not on the correct form. They will be advised of this decision.

Councillor Lee left the meeting

Stepping Stones Pre-school Play Group £350.00

Littleport Show £200.00

Agreed

7. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

CCC has just advised our solicitors that a previous owner of the property abutting Black Horse Drove Community Hall had an option to purchase the passage way (flying freehold). Mr Arnold is no longer the owner and our solicitors taking this up with the County.

Mrs Madeline Eva Graham deceased left a bequest to the Parish Council to fund the future maintenance of her grave and headstone. After all disbursements the Parish received £115.76 – this sum has been placed in the capital account.

Part of the modular play equipment at Parsons Lane had been vandalised and was left in a dangerous condition. All efforts to isolate the piece of equipment have been thwarted and it was agreed to remove the slide completely. The spare part would take at least two months to arrive and would cost in excess of £2300. Councillor Pyrah suggested a local firm fabricate a new one in stainless steel. This may not meet BS standards and would not be progressed at this stage.

Councillor Murfitt asked for an update on the Lynn Road parking.

8. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Councillors Ambrose Smith and Wright reported on their attendance at the Standards Board hearing that day at East Cambs where Councillor Morrison was censured under Section 3 whereby he undertakes appropriate code of conduct training within six months of the meeting.

Councillors concurred with Councillor Ambrose Smith's wish to record her support of the Clerk.

Members were concerned about the costs involved in this hearing.

10 NOMINATIVE TRUSTEE – TOWN LANDS CHARITY:

Councillor Mrs Kerridge left the meeting.

Members unanimously agreed to re-appoint Councillor Mrs Kerridge to serve a further 4 year term as a Nominative Trustee to Littleport Town Lands Charity.

12. HEMPFIELD ROAD VARIOUS ISSUES:

Councillors Lee and Pyrah left the meeting.

Following correspondence from Dr. Kovach councillors agreed the footpath to the rear of the property was a county issue and this has already been flagged up to county with no response to date.

The abandoned half built house should be reported to Health and Safety and the Planners at Ely and the alleged anti social behaviour be reported to the police.

13. YOUTH MEETING:

Councillor Hayes reported on a very successful function held in the Village Hall by YPL recently. The Rotary Club had taken on the Youth Club from the Regal at Ten Pin Bowling in February. Councillor Hayes has produced a comprehensive draft list of the various activities available to the youth in the village. The boxing sessions at Littleport Leisure have proved popular and are now running 3 nights a week. Careers event at City of Ely planned for year 5 pupils.

14. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS:

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE