

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 20th July 2009 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor F J Brown  
Councillor C M Ambrose Smith  
Councillor D J Boyd  
Councillor F J W Brown  
Councillor R Constable  
Councillor P M Cox  
Councillor J H Crane  
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 OF INTERESTS: None

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: None

3. YOUTH PROVISION:

The Clerk reported that Jo Sollars would now be attending the August meeting and it was agreed to defer the related Agenda Item 12 until next month.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Letter of thanks from Stepping Stones

Branching Out 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Invitation 7<sup>th</sup> August

Swine Flu – Volunteers required to man crisis centres

Register of Members Interests – reminder to members to check their details are up to date

5. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ambrose Smith, Boyd, Gardiner and Hayes

6. MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009, the Planning Committee and Special Parish Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009, the Cemetery Working Party Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and the Allotment Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009 were confirmed.

7. FINANCE COMMITTEE: No recommendations

8. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported

Land Registry Search showed no owners registered for Friars Nine. Councillor F J W Brown suggested the parish register the land due to its link with the Paddocks

Ely Road Land adjacent to the rear of 14 Millpit Furlong – Land Registry adjudicated the land be included within their cartilage as it has been fenced off in excess of 12 years

Village Hall Fire Safety – Fire Officer reported it as satisfactory.

Response to Section 106 letter received

Vandalism at Parsons Lane has continued. The same piece of equipment has been targeted. It was agreed to go back to the manufacturers Kompan to see if a metal replacement could be fitted in place of the wood.

The dead Beech tree at the Cemetery was taken down on the instructions of the Tree Officer as it was in a dangerous condition and could fall over at any time.

9. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Councillor F J W Brown suggested the Parish Council request a weight limit for vehicles on Victoria Street following a tractor and trailer crashing into a house earlier in the day; also to seek District support on the matter.

The Ely and Soham Masterplans are at the delivery stage; Littleport process should start soon. Difficult times are ahead with budgets and some services could be vulnerable.

10. CEMETERY:

Councillor Pyrah reported on the efforts made to find a cheap replacement tractor for the McCormack. None of the models were suitable. Pecks were then asked to price up the repairs to the McCormack. Due to the urgency of the situation the Clerk contacted all councillors by email/mail for approval for the necessary emergency repairs to be carried out. The cost of the repairs and labour £3740.02 plus VAT. The majority of members responded to the email and were unanimous that the council proceed with the repairs.

Members ratified this decision. Councillor Wright proposed the costs for the repairs are taken from the new Cemetery budget, Seconded by Councillor Norman and carried unanimously.

Costings to replace the footpaths will be brought back to the next meeting

11. REVISED STAFF CONTRACTS:

Mrs Merrick (assistant clerk) left the meeting.

Agreed to hold over decision on putting the assistant clerk on an incremental scale until the District Councils review on pay scales has been completed and then align it with the new scales.

Councillor Wright sought clarification on 18.2 pension rights passing to the children of a deceased clerk.

12. YOUTH PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT:

Held over until next meeting

13. SANCTUARY HEReward – LOCAL LETTING PLAN:

Councillor F J W Brown commended what they were doing in restricting the occupancy of bungalows in Upton Place to the over 45 age group, this was a start but they should look at the whole letting policy for bungalows in Littleport. Members were fully in agreement and the Clerk would write to Sue Payne asking her to look at the whole letting on bungalows.

Councillor Brown continued to say that Sanctuary Hereward have reinstated the local board.

14. MASTERPLAN – LITTLEPORT REPRESENTATIVE:

Nominations were invited to fill the one position on the Littleport Masterplan Working Party

Councillor Pyrah was nominated by Councillor Norman seconded by Councillor F J W Brown and Councillor Cox was nominated by Councillor Murfitt and seconded by Councillor Constable.

Members voted by a show of hands had Councillor Pyrah 4 votes and Councillor Cox 3 votes, Councillor Pyrah was therefore duly elected to represent Littleport.

15. BLACK HORSE DROVE:

The Clerk reported she was fainting for site elevation drawings from the architect before submitting a planning application for the toilet extension. The property has been insured and the Clerk will soon be making an application to have the Community Building zero rated. The owners of the adjacent building have not made an offer in writing on the flying freehold although they have expressed their interest in purchasing it.

16. COMBINING THE PARISH ANNUAL MEETINGS:

Members unanimously agreed holding the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Open meeting on the same night together with the Citizen of the Year Award.

17. BRANCHING OUT – WOODEN GIFT TO PARISH:

To commemorate Branching Out's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary they have offered to make a wooden gift for the parish.

Members' suggestions included a wooden sculpture, notice boards for the cemetery, bench round a mature tree, heritage of Littleport – depicting Horses at Apes Hall and a gibbet. Ideas to be brought back to next meeting.

18. REDMERE – ALLOTMENT LAND:

Residents from Redmere wanted Parish Council help in claiming some recreation land behind their properties to convert into allotments which they believed belong to the Parish Council.

Following a Land Registry Search which shows the freehold is registered and speaking to local people about the history of the land. A local benefactor provided a recreational facility on a field used for rotational cropping to allow football to be played. This field has now been sold on and is therefore the parish council cannot help.

In confirmation of the foregoing report .....

CHAIRMAN  
.....  
DATE