

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 21st September 2009 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor F J Brown
Councillor F J W Brown
Councillor R Constable
Councillor P M Cox
Councillor J H Crane
Councillor B W Hayes
Councillor S D Kerridge
Councillor T J Lee
Councillor G Norman
Councillor M Pyrah
Councillor A N Wright

Also present the Clerk and Assistant Clerk

1. DECLARATIONS:

Councillor Norman declared his interest in Agenda Item 15 and Councillor Hayes in Agenda Item 16

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – None

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Chairman reported briefly on the current situation on the fire at Murfitt's Tyre processing plant on the Wisbech Road following the Councils site visit earlier in the month where they were briefed by the Fire Service. It was agreed to invite a representative from the Environment Agency to the next full council meeting to hear about the environmental impact the fire has caused to the area.

4. APOLOGIES: Councillors Ambrose Smith and Boyd

5. MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 17th August 2009 the Planning Committee and Cemetery Working Party Meetings held on 1st September 2009 were confirmed

6. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: No recommendations

7. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported on the response from Rail Track regarding the level crossing on the by-pass. They blamed driver error and found no faults but maintenance work is due in November and it will be looked at then.

The Insurance Claim for the damaged CCTV camera was settled in the sum of £970.00.

Councillor Mrs Kerridge arrived at this point

8. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Councillor F J W Brown reported:

The Council are looking at budgets and services could be cut. Decriminalisation of parking is in the programme and a pilot scheme employing a warden to check on street parking violations could start in the towns and villages before Ely.

At a recent meeting Littleport was the preferred location for a new secondary school in the area and if necessary a further school could be built in Ely.

9. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Councillor F J W Brown continued by reporting the County has to find £116 million pounds in the next 20 years. Infrastructure is a problem, power supplies in many areas are nearing capacity and to be prepared for hard times.

This council needs to ask why as a parish we are not recognised as an area of need. This should be made an agenda item at a future meeting

Councillor Brown responded to question put by Councillors arising from his report.

10. CEMETERY WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members agreed the recommendations of the Cemetery Working Party and the proposed changes to the Cemetery Fees for the year commencing 1st April 2010

11. SKATE PARK:

Councillor Wright reported there is a problem at the Skate Park which is on land leased to the Parish by the Leisure Centre. Councillor Wright asked what by laws were in place. He was against taking away facilities. Councillor F J W Brown suggested going through the legal process of a dispersal order and also push for an alcohol free zone in the Main Street.

Following further discussion Councillor Wright proposed

Contact Community Safety officer re:

1. Dispersal order at Skate Park
2. Assist with Alcohol ban in the streets
3. Look at Lease and terms agreed with Leisure Centre
4. Review our by-laws

Seconded by Councillor Pyrah and carried

Councillor Brown reported there were still issues at St George's Medical Centre.

12. BLACK HORSE DROVE AND PARSONS LANE PLAY AREAS:

The Clerk reported:

Following Councillor Pyrah's negotiating to reduce the price of the new equipment at Black Horse Drive to fit the budget (£12,000). The reduction affected the installation charges and supply of safety fencing. Though the Cemetery Staff would be overseen during the installation there were some areas that were beyond their areas of expertise and would take them away from the Cemetery for several days. The Clerk having spoken to the Chairman approached ECDC to seek funding from Section 106 for the shortfall of £1585.27, this grant was approved and payment has been received. The equipment is now installed and several members of the Black Horse Drive

Community have expressed their thanks to the Parish Council and it is proving very popular with the children.

Petty vandalism continues at Parsons Lane – a new sign promoting the Pathfinder grant was kicked down within days. Smashed glass around equipment and in the bark – Matta surfacing may be the solution to the problem.

Councillor F J W Brown and the Clerk have been in touch with the Medical Centre regarding a PTZ camera which could cover the play area and also installation of a street light. Councillor Brown asked that the Clerk be given the authority to progress this as a matter of urgency. Cutting the hedge back will also help.

Kompan have still not responded to issues discussed at a site meeting in early September. Strong letter to be sent. The parish is still holding 25% of the money back until matters are resolved.

Councillor Mrs Kerridge felt very strongly that it should be ECDC's responsibility to replace the bark surfacing with Matta as bark was the wrong surfacing.

The Clerk will submit the necessary grant application for the camera and the Medical Centre will be making a contribution towards it.

13. REPRESENTATIVE TRUSTEE:

Councillor Norman was re-appointed as a representative trustee to Littleport Town Lands Charity for a further 4 years.

Councillor F J W Brown left the meeting.

14. EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT:

Members noted the comments in the report and the Assistant Clerk reported she had almost completed the risk assessments which would be brought to the council shortly.

The Clerk reported the council has £65,000 in the emergency reserve fund and the earmarked reserves from last year were being spent on current projects in this financial year.

15. PROPOSED PATH CREATION – BRANCH BRIDGE:

Members approved the creation of a path at Branch Bridge.

16. CPALC – FUTURE JOBS FUND:

The Assistant Clerk gave an outline of the scheme to assist young long term unemployed to gain work experience. Members agreed to participate in the scheme during the summer months whereby the successful applicant will assist the Cemetery staff.

17. LAUNCH OF LITTLEPORT & LITTLE DOWNHAM YOUTH STEERING GROUP:

Councillor Hayes reported on the reestablishment in partnership with Littleport Rotary Club of the Youth Steering Group to include Little Downham Parish. Eight organisations have been invited to the inaugural meeting. Likely to hold 4 meetings annually.

Questions were asked – why the need for a relaunch; why has Littleport not got as youth council and has the parish council agreed to the partnership with Rotary.

More information is required on youth councils and Councillor Hayes was asked through his steering group to look into the creation of a youth council

18. FRIDAY NIGHT YOUTH PROVISION:

The proposed drop in at the Fire Station on a Friday evening has not materialised yet. Various agencies are working to resolve this matter. Leave the decision to the youth workers on what alternative provision they can provide until matters are resolved.

19. NEW FOOTPATH – PARSONS LANE/WOODFEN ROAD:

Members approved the new footpath and funding for the protection to stop people driving over the path.

20. REGISTRATION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH LIMES CLOSE/FRIARS NINE/ UPTON PLACE:

Councillors made no comment, however Councillor Mrs Kerridge supported the application stating that Littleport should have as many paths as possible.

21. SMELLS FROM DRAINS IN MAIN STREET:

The Chairman raised this issue having been accosted by local retailers who have been suffering for many years from this ongoing problem. Agreed to get Environmental Health to attend when the drains smell and to ask Jill Harrison for a copy of her diary and send copies to Anglian Water and Environmental Health at ECDC.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN
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DATE