

## LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:

- Councillor F J Brown
- Councillor C M Ambrose Smith
- Councillor D J Boyd
- Councillor F J W Brown
- Councillor P M Cox
- Councillor J H Crane
- Councillor D Gardiner
- Councillor B W Hayes
- Councillor T J Lee
- Councillor D Murfitt
- Councillor G Norman
- Councillor M Pyrah
- Councillor A N Wright

Also present the Clerk

1. DECLARATIONS: None
2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – None
3. YOUTH COUNCIL:

Due to the extreme weather the representatives from Ely Youth Council did not arrive and it was agreed to invite them to attend a future meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: None
5. APOLOGIES: None
6. MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009, and the Planning Committee Meetings held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 were confirmed

7. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Norman reported:

Street Lighting Energy and Maintenance charges for the current and following financial year had been received.

Agreed to transfer money from Web site budget to Computer systems budget to purchase a back up device

8. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported:

She had met with a Crime Reduction Officer to look at ways to improve security at the Station Road Allotments following a spate of break ins. The area is too large to adequately fence them in. Leaflets offering advice will be made available to the allotment holders.

Welney Parish Council have had a good response to their proposed joint meeting of councils.

The Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme bid for a School Safety Zone and parking management outside Millfield Primary School has been successful.

Adizone – letters have been sent to residents near to the proposed site with responses due to ECDC by 31<sup>st</sup> December.

A disturbing number of “sharps” have been found at the Parsons Lane Play area in the last few weeks. Our staff collects them in the appropriate containers and the information has been passed to the Police who are actively monitoring the area. Councillor F J W Brown reported that another area of drug use is Mow Fen Drove.

9. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Councillor F J W Brown reported Council tax will have to rise by 10p per household in the coming year. Various measures were being considered to cut costs.

Councillor Wright pointed out income was down due to poor interest rates, poor sales of council houses, money had been clawed back from housing benefit claims. The budget still has to go through committee.

10. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: No report

11. FREIGHT MAP:

Councils were invited to comment on proposals by the County on their draft advisory freight map.

Concerns were raised on the following issues:-

Increase of HCV traffic from Block Fen to the A14. The route should not go through built up areas

Palm Paper from King's Lynn are heavy users of the A10 transporting newsprint.

Need to support improvements to the A142 at Ely; consultation shows no detail of diverting from road to rail transportation or improvements to A142.

Agreements should be legal and binding before the final draft map goes ahead.

The Clerk will submit these comments to the Environment Services team at the County Council.

12. SKATE PARK AND BY LAWS:

The Clerk reported that WREN had been in correspondence asking for her to sign a declaration that the Skate Park was still in existence. Due to the current uncertainty for the future of the park she was not able to accede to this request. WREN accepted the Clerk's verbal update on the current situation and report on proposed new ventures for the youth. WREN agreed there was no need for a financial penalty to be imposed.

Communities and Local Government are reviewing the making and enforcement of local bylaws. It was agreed to contact Improvement East to secure funding towards the costs towards expert assistance to help draw up new bylaws and to engage with the youth in the process.

Members agreed not to take any further action over the skate park at this time.

13: NEW CEMETERY ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY AUDIT:

Members agreed to Cemetery Development Services carrying out a groundwater audit on the proposed new cemetery site at Horsley Hale. The £2300 fee will be taken from the New Cemetery budget.

14. SALT BIN PROVISION:

The County Council are inviting local councils to purchase salt bins at a discounted price of £100.00. The County will then fill them when required.

Members agreed to providing bins at the following locations subject to Highways approval:- St George's Medical Centre Car Park - Parsons Lane/Entrance to St George's Medical Centre – Parsons Lane opposite Littleport Community Primary School – Victoria Street/Sandhill level crossing and Willow Court/City Road.

15. BLACK HORSE DROVE COMMUNITY BUILDING:

The Clerk reported that three quotes have now been received for the improvements works and extension to Black Horse Drove Community Building.

It was agreed to appoint a working party to oversee the works and to assess the quotations. Gant funding will be sought to meet the costs involved.

The Working Party members appointed are the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Councillor F J W Brown and Councillor Lee.

16: PUBLIC OPEN SPACE – WOODFEN ROAD:

Councillor F J W Brown reported the need to enclose the public open space at Woodfen Road and Gilbert Road as an area for children to play football, several homeowners are driving vehicles over the grassed area causing ruts etc.

Councillor Cox drew attention to the plight of car owners not being adequately provided for.

The proposal to enclose the area with funding from Section 106 was carried by 9 votes for, 2 abstentions and 2 against (Councillors Cox and Norman)

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE