

## LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor F J Brown  
Councillor C M Ambrose Smith  
Councillor R Constable  
Councillor P M Cox  
Councillor J H Crane  
Councillor B W Hayes  
Councillor S D Kerridge  
Councillor D Murfitt  
Councillor G Norman

Also present the Clerk

1. DECLARATIONS: None
2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – None
3. PARSONS LANE PLAY AREA – CCTV

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Will Davis to the meeting to discuss measures curb the use of drugs in the children's play area at Parsons Lane following the recent spate of discarded needles. A council staff member was scratched by a needle recently; and is currently undergoing various blood tests. Sgt Davis reported the needle was currently being tested for DNA. He was unable to divulge what steps the police are currently undertaking to curb the problem but reported that there had been 14 drug related warrants issued during recent weeks which were having some positive effect.

Sgt Davis asked the council to consider overt CCTV and better lighting at the area to help combat this problem.

Councillor Mrs Kerridge did not agree with lighting and CCTV cameras in children's play areas.

Councillor Cox summarised the likely costs of a single PTZ camera to link in with the current system to be in excess of £10,000 plus a lighting column which could be a further £8000 or so.

General discussion ensued and it was noted since the latest incident the park is not being used by children as illustrated by an e mail from a local resident. Posters are being displayed with warnings

Councillor Murfitt suggested approaching the Medical Centre again as recent events might see a change in their views on a camera.

Councillor Hayes proposed the council look into the matter, get more facts and figures, lay down the options in print with a report on the play area, the Police discuss the matter with

the Medical Centre, nominate representatives to meet with Police and Medical Centre as quickly as possible and report back to Council. Agreed unanimously

Representatives agreed : The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillor Cox

Sgt Davis was thanked for attending

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Cambridgeshire Horizons Green Vision Survey  
ECDC Health and Wellbeing Survey plus invitation to attend stakeholder event at Littleport Leisure 25<sup>th</sup> March. – Members urged to complete the survey.  
Reminder of the joint Parish Council Meeting at Welney 23<sup>rd</sup> February.  
Letter received from resident Re; Footpaths – bring to next meeting  
Letter received from resident Re: Parking at Elmside

5. APOLOGIES: Councillors Boyd, F J W Brown, Gardiner, Lee, Pyrah and Wright

6. MINUTES:

The reports of the Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were confirmed

7. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Norman reported on the following recommendations-

- i. Accept Grays Surfacing quote of £9680 plus VAT as the lowest to replace the footpaths in the Cemetery
- ii Increase the rent on 59 Parsons Lane to £416.00 pcm

Agreed:

8. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk has met on site with CC Highways to agree in principle the locations of the proposed new grit bins.

Council is now registered to complete VAT returns online ahead of the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

9. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Councillor Ambrose Smith reported on a recent Masterplan Meeting at Littleport Leisure introducing the successful consultants. A workshop is being arranged with invitations being issued to all councillors shortly.

10. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: No report

11. ST GEORGE'S PCC SECTION 106 REQUEST:

A written request from St George's PCC seeking Parish Council approval to apply for a grant from ECDC using Section 106 monies to fund essential repairs and modifications to the South Porch of the church elicited concerns from Councillor Cox as to whether this was a proper use of the money and would it open the floodgate to other churches.

Councillor Mrs Kerridge pointed out grants are given on a points system and we should back the church in principle. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Ambrose Smith. An amendment by Councillor Cox found no seconder. It was agreed to support the request. Councillor Murfitt abstained.

#### 12. NEW SECONDARY EDUCATION PROVISION;

Members received the report on Secondary Education provision for the district. Councillor Hayes reported that three options from ECDC were going forward and the first option was for a school to be in Littleport. Currently there are 705 children 5 and under on the Medical Centre role.

#### 13. BLACK HORSE DROVE:

In the absence of Councillor Lee the Clerk reported that he had met with a number of builders with a view to obtaining more specific quotes. The closing date for the quotes is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Councillor Lee will report back to Council on the quotes in due course.

Councillor Murfitt reported on the Black Horse Drove Community Building Management Committee meeting where Councillor Lee apprised the members of the building works etc.

The Committee would like permission to close the hall whilst the renovation works are undertaken.

The owner of the adjacent property has not made an offer on the flying freehold. Members agreed to ask the District Valuer to put a figure on it. Dependent upon the figure recommended council would then offer it to the neighbour. Any figure under £10,000 – the council would retain the flying freehold and the area would be converted into a useful storage space.

Councillor Hayes asked who would be running the hall and if a lease had been drawn up between the Council and Management Committee.

#### 14. PADDOCKS TRANSFER

Councillor Cox noted it had been at least 12 months since any word on the transfer of the Paddocks had been received.

Councillors agreed a letter be sent to the District Solicitor asking for an update on the situation.

#### 15. ADIZONE – LEISURE CENTRE:

The Chairman and Vice Chairman attended a successful meeting with the Leisure Centre Management Committee to discuss the relocation of the proposed Adizone to the Leisure Centre. The Leisure Centre were happy for the equipment to be

installed on the Camel Road site as long as there were no financial implications for them; but asking for the provision of a sign displaying the closing time of the equipment ( 9.00 am - dusk) and for the council to consider including the Leisure Centre in any revision of the bylaws.

To cover Public Liability the Leisure Centre Staff member responsible for the day to day litter pick etc will be classed as a voluntary casual employee of the Council and will report all defects etc to the Clerk.

16. VILLAGE HALL FLOOR REPLACEMENT:

Following water damage to the village hall floor from a burst pipe, flooring experts were called in to quote to replace. On inspection they noted that the specifications on the existing floor's replacement about 20 years ago had not been adhered to. There are two different thicknesses of strip flooring. Insurance assessor came out and due to his error failing to obtain a comparison quote gave Allianz the go ahead to settle the claim to do the floor using the Pica quote. Arrangements to close the hall for a week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> February had been agreed with all regular users. The cheque received on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010 payable to Pica (£13024.45 inc VAT and policy excess) only covered the floors replacement and not the other works entailed. This has resulted in a shortfall of £6948.65 plus VAT. Members agreed to meet the shortfall from the Community Building budget and asked the Clerk to go back to the insurers to see if they were prepared to increase the payment.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

.....  
CHAIRMAN  
.....  
DATE