

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 15th March 2010 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor F J Brown
Councillor D Boyd
Councillor F J W Brown
Councillor D Gardiner
Councillor T J Lee
Councillor D Murfitt
Councillor G Norman
Councillor A Wright

Also present the Assistant Clerk

1. DECLARATIONS: Item 13 Councillor Norman
2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – None
3. CAMBRIDGESHIRE LIBRARIES PRESENTATION

Lynda Martin and Debra Maloney of Cambridgeshire Libraries gave a presentation regarding Littleport Library, its usage and facilities. Most of the library use took place during the morning. The library is staffed by a single employee although volunteers run groups. Cambridgeshire Libraries face funding cuts of 25% over the next 3 years affecting frequency of mobile libraries, book access points and the possible closure of some libraries. A question and answer session followed. As a result of concerns raised during the presentation regarding future library closures it was agreed to put an item on the next agenda.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Chairman attended the relaunch of the Indian Garden Restaurant. There will be a 10k multi terrain race at Littleport Leisure Centre on Sunday 25th July. A Lion's Club is being formed in Littleport.

5. APOLOGIES: Councillors Ambrose Smith, Cox, Hayes, Pyrah and the Clerk
6. MINUTES:

The reports of the Planning, Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 15th February 2010 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 8th March 2010 were confirmed

7. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Norman reported on the following recommendation-

That Section 137 grants be awarded as follows:
Magpas £200
Littleport Village Hall £200
Stepping Stones Pre-school £500
Littleport Show £200

The recommendation was agreed.

8. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The tenancy at 59 Parsons Lane was renewed for a further year.

The Adizone project time scale has been received.

A letter regarding the report on the Murfitt Industry fire has been received.

An e-mail from the District Solicitor has been received regarding the Paddocks transfer. The land has not yet been transferred to the district council and she is investigating taking enforcement action. The land is available for use as public open space and being maintained as such by the developer. In a subsequent e-mail the District Solicitor had no knowledge regarding the transfer of the land to the Parish Council. Councillor F J W Brown said that the interests of the Parish Council in this matter are being safeguarded by District Councillors Brown, Wright and Ambrose Smith.

9. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS: No reports

10. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: No report

11. PROPOSED CEMETERY ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY:

The report was received.

12. PUBLIC FOOTPATHS:

A letter has been received regarding the footpath 16/17 leading to footpath 10 in the area of Hempfield Road. The path is overgrown, littered and the surface is poor. It was agreed that the bushes should be cut back and litter picked up. It was also agreed to contact County Council to ask them to repair the surface.

13. VILLAGE HALL FLOOR:

Councillor Norman declared his interest and gave a report on the Village Hall floor. When the contractor lifted the old floor they discovered that there was no damp proofing under the floor. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman were consulted and the work went ahead to install a damp proof membrane. This incurred an extra cost of £1850 + VAT. The Village Hall committee have offered to pay the extra cost. They will pay the Parish Council £500 now and the balance when they have available funds. Councillor Wright said the insurer should be contacted as the loss adjuster failed to get further quotes for the replacement of the floor. Councillor F J W Brown asked if the contractor would put it in writing that the membrane would fix the damp problem. It was agreed to pay the invoice (cheque number 102484 £9768.99).

14. CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARIES:

Councillors Wright and F J W Brown declared personal interests. Councillor F J W Brown stated that all buildings of merit are in the existing area and the boundaries should not be extended. Councillor Wright said that it seems strange that Old School Close and the Fire Station are included in the conservation area. Being in a conservation area gives residents

problems when making alterations to their properties. Councillor Norman proposed that the area is not increased and some of the existing areas are taken out. Agreed.

15. BLACK HORSE DROVE REFURBISHMENT:

Councillor Lee gave an update on the refurbishment quotes. Councillor Lee met the contractors on site and gave them a wish list of repairs and requested itemised quotes for all of the repairs. Councillor Lee is evaluating the quotes as some contractors did not fully itemise their quotes. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting. Councillor FJW Brown suggested that the Big Lottery may have grants available and the freehold could be used as match funding. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to ask the neighbour if he is interested in purchasing the flying freehold and to reply by return of post. If he is interested the Clerk should get a valuation.

16. SKATE PARK:

A letter and photographs have been received from Mr & Mrs Sallis regarding the condition of the skate park. It has been attracting anti social behaviour involving vehicles. It was agreed to fill in the bowl and make good the area. It was also agreed to make a bund to prevent vehicles entering the area.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE