

## LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Report of a Parish Council Meeting held in The Barn on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

- Councillor G Norman
- Councillor C M Ambrose Smith
- Councillor D J Boyd
- Councillor F J Brown
- Councillor F J W Brown
- Councillor R Constable
- Councillor P M Cox
- Councillor J H Crane
- Councillor D Gardiner
- Councillor S D Kerridge
- Councillor T J Lee
- Councillor M Pyrah
- Councillor A N Wright

Also present the Clerk

1. DECLARATIONS: The Chairman declared his personal interest in Agenda Item 15
2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – None
3. NEW CEMETERY PRESENTATION:

The Chairman introduced Mr Justin Smith from Cemetery Development Services and invited him to explain the result of the recent survey and the options open to the council on the proposed site at Horsley Hale.

Mr Smith explained that the Environment Agency does things by the book but are open to discussion and debate. Burials are not a mandatory service. The EA could object to any planning application and impose conditions. The following options are open to the council:- Find another site; Single depth burials; raise the soil level by up to 1 metre. This could be a cash positive solution by charging £ 6/cube to developers etc. Or the costly option of isolating bodies in burial chambers which would cost in the region of £1000 each.

A suggestion to lower the water table by digging out the ditches would be investigated.

Councillor Wright proposed the new cemetery would be single depth, look into deepening the ditches, go back to the EA with package, apply for planning permission and to acquire the land. Seconded by Councillor F J W Brown and carried,

Mention was made on reclassifying part of the site as a natural burial site – which uses bio degradable coffins and non embalmed bodies. This option can be looked at in the future once the relevant permissions are granted.

Mr Smith was thanked for his attendance.

- 4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Adizone opening this Sunday at the Leisure Centre.  
Concert on 18<sup>th</sup> September in St George's Church.

5. APOLOGIES: Councillor Hayes

6. MINUTES:

The reports of the Planning, Finance and Parish Council Meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2010 and the Planning Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010, were confirmed

7. FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councillor Gardiner made the following recommendation to pay over £842.92 from the closed Littleport Magazine Group bank account to Littleport Life. Agreed.

8. FOLLOW UP DIARY:

The Clerk reported Staff Appraisals would be carried out this week, and Littleport Leisure do not permit non members of the Club to sit on their management committee, therefore the three councillors nominated are ineligible to attend meetings.

9. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Councillor F J W Brown reported the review of the Council's Constitution has been withdrawn for now , the LGA 2007 being repealed.

All funds for Strategic partnerships has been withdrawn and money frozen. Likely sufferers from cuts include CAB and Community Transport.

A Car Parking Review is underway, looking at a pay on exit in conjunction with Civil Parking Enforcement. It was noted Waitrose own their car park.

Councillor Wright pointed out the car parking currently adds £500000 to the rates and charges are necessary.

He further reported that he had been brought before the Standards Committee for his remonstrating with an officer regarding the non issue of a Temporary Events Notice. This led to months of investigations culminating in a hearing which found no case to answer.

The Monitoring Officer has full power in all cases brought before the Standards Committee and the council has no control over the costs incurred in these lengthy procedures.

10. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Councillor Brown reported that full council had agreed on a new school for Littleport and support for this came from all parties. Now need to find a site through the Masterplan process.

He further reported that the Library is saved from any threat of closure.

11. ADIZONE BENCH – LITTER BINS:

Members agreed the purchase of one bench made from recycled materials to be installed near the new Adizone sports equipment based at the Leisure Centre. Funding for this is topped up from Chairman's expenses budget.

The Clerk reported that ECDC will provide two litter bins, one for the Adizone and the other to be located at the Skate Park.

12. PERSIMMON SITE PARSONS LANE – PLAY EQUIPMENT:

Persimmon Builders have submitted a scheme to provide play equipment on their site at Parsons Lane and sought Parish Council approval.

Councillor F J W Brown proposed approving the scheme subject to confirmation on the plans for ongoing maintenance of the site and equipment; spare parts for the equipment are readily available within 2 days. Seconded by Councillor Wright and carried.

Members liked the design and layout of the scheme.

13. CEMETERY:

Members approved Councillor Pyrah's request to purchase a tipping trailer for £1300. Councillor Mrs Kerridge abstained.

Councillor Mrs Ambrose Smith proposed for the transfer of funds from the capital budget to the maintenance budget to cover the costs of improvements to the cremation area. Seconded by Councillor Constable and carried. Councillor F J W Brown abstained.

Agreed there needs to be a review on cemetery charges.

Most of the tools and small equipment stolen in the recent cemetery break-in were workman's tools and the property of Tony Sindall. An insurance claim is being pursued, awaiting the bills for the essential repairs and copy invoices for items stolen.

14. ECDC SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY:

Project abandoned due to lack of funding.

15. TREES ADJACENT TO 1 ELY ROAD:

The Chairman left the meeting and the Vice Chairman Councillor Gardiner took over the chair.

Councillor Lee reported on a meeting with the Tree Officer regarding a complaint from a resident about the trees shedding and overhanging his property.

All the trees are subject to preservation orders. However the council can apply to do some pruning off the lower limbs.

Councillor Wright proposed a letter be sent to Mr Lambert telling him that the council will remove dead wood and advising him of his rights in law regarding the overhanging branches also reminding him he will require the consent of the tree officer and the parish council to carry out these works. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Ambrose Smith and carried.

In confirmation of the foregoing report

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE