

Witchford Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs S M Monteith, 174 Main Street, Witchford Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 2HT
Telephone 01353 665707
witchfordparishcouncil@eastcamb.gov.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th March 2007, at 7.30 pm in St. Andrews Hall.

Present

Mr M Flack-Crane (in the chair)
Mr I Allen
Mr B Colling
Mr G Jellicoe
Mr G Barber
Mrs T Harding
Mrs S Bromley-Allen
Mr I Brand
Mr N Holdsworth

Apologies: Mr C D’Cunha, Mr J Carter, County Councillor Hunt

In attendance: District Councillors G Wilson and P Wilson

- 314 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th February 2007 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 315 A letter from Grovemere was noted with reference to the Parish Council’s proposed registration of Old Scenes stating that Grovemere own Old Scenes. This was followed by a telephone conversation and it is now confirmed that whilst Grovemere own a field referred to as Old Scenes, they have no objection to the proposed registration of the drove.
- 316 The Parish Council noted the consultation on amendments to the model code of conduct for Local Authority members.
- 317 The Audit Commission had confirmed that they are to extend the appointment of the external auditor, Moore Stephens, for the year 2006/2007.
- 387 The County Council had confirmed that there will be no percentage inflation increase over the last year’s figure for grass cutting. Their contribution for the 2007-08 season will be £972.30. The clerk will send an invoice for this amount.
- 319 The Vicar had requested that half of the new part of the churchyard should remain uncut prior to a meeting of the Diocesan Environment group in Witchford on 23rd June. The meeting was reminded that some members had proposed when the new Churchyard was purchased that the new land should not be cut regularly. The clerk will ask the contractor to leave this land uncut until after 23rd June and ask the Vicar to ensure that the views of the Diocesan Environment group be shared with the Parish Council. The clerk will ask that the contractor gives a credit for this work at the end of the season.
- 320 Information was noted regarding the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Life Awards 2007.
- 321 Information was noted from the County Council regarding consultation results following proposed changes to the contracted bus services. They confirm that the Sunday service between Cambridge and Wisbech will be withdrawn and will be replaced by a reduced level of service on a commercial basis. They state that details of this will be advised.
- 322 Information and the timetable for the forthcoming local and parish elections was noted.

- 323 Councillor Bromley-Allen will represent the Parish Council at the Annual General Meeting of Dial-a-Ride at 11.30 a.m. on 21st March 2007.
- 324 Information on Countyside Access issues from the County Council was noted and passed, through Councillor Jellicoe, to the Open Spaces Group.
- 325 The County Council had written regarding encroachment issues on byway 7. The County have investigated the hedge on the western side of the byway and the fence/gate and hard standing along the eastern side of the byway. The County believe that that the ditch on the western side of the byway would have at one time reached the main road and that it would have been filled in at about the time the house was built. The County states that they believe the current hedge that runs along the western boundary of the byway has been planted with the trunks along the eastern bank of the old ditch. Subsequent growth of the hedge has given the impression that the hedge has been planted on the byway. In addition the chain link fence has been erected on the outside of the hedge and they believe this has been erected on the byway itself. In their opinion the hedge is not in itself a problem for the byway provided it is cut back to the trunk line and maintained faced up so as not to grow over onto the byway. They consider that the chain link fence outside the hedge has been erected on the byway and they require its removal. They state that they may accept its re-erection abutting the trunks of the hedge. The County states that the evidence for the boundary on the eastern side of the byway does not make clear whether the ditch would have continued to the road and run adjacent to the property. They state that at this moment it is not possible to prove that the byway extends up to the wall of 243 Main Street and so they cannot enforce the removal of the gate and fence that has been erected. Any storage of materials or parking of vehicles on the remaining width of the byway would constitute an obstruction and they will look to the owners to ensure that the byway is not used in this matter. They also state that they would not countenance any further extension of the fence/gate onto the byway. The Parish Council noted the findings of the County Council.
- 326 **Reports by District Councillors** – Councillor P Wilson gave details of a discussion at East Cambridgeshire full Council meeting on Waste PFI and a public consultation meeting she and Councillor G Wilson had attended on recycling. Councillor G Wilson gave details of the District Council's budget and council tax. He explained that a joint committee had been set with Forest Heath, East Cambridgeshire and Breckland Councils to oversee revenue collection and benefits administration. Councillor Allen reported on a recent speech made by the retiring Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council expressing his concern at the possible introduction of a cabinet system within the District Council.
- 327 A report was noted from Councillor Jellicoe regarding a meeting held on 12th February with the Street Works Co-ordinator of the County Council regarding the proposed redesignation of byway 11 between the pond and the bypass. Information was presented that had not been available at the time of the earlier submission in 2004 including the byway stopping up order in November 1987, the re-designation of byway to footpath order, conservation area work in liaison with CAT and the updated Witchford proposal for redesignation. County Councillor Hunt strongly supported the Parish Council in this matter. The Street Works Co-ordinator acknowledged that the original evidence had not been correct and suggested that re-submission was looking positive.
- 328 Councillor Jellicoe reported on progress with the proposed registration of land with the land Registry. Dunham' s Lane and Granny's End are in Wentworth parish. A list of owners of land adjoining Mills Lane has been produced and the clerk will write to owners regarding the possibility of the Parish Council registering this land. The Millennium Wood is registered with the Land Registry in the Parish Council's name and documents are believed to be lodged with Archer and Archer, the clerk is checking on this.
- 329 **Planning**
- The planning notes already circulated were noted.

07/00146/FUL – single storey rear extension, 7 Main Street – no objection

Councillor Jellicoe left the meeting.

07/00164/FUL – proposed extension, 9 Main Street – no objection

07/00211/FUL – construction of single storey infill extension between garage and dwelling – no objection

07/00103/FUL – amendment – Rackham School – introduction of canopy to proposed new entrance lobby to enable compliance with building regulations – no objection

- 330 Information was noted from ACRE and East Cambridgeshire District Council regarding Parish Plans. This information has been passed to Andy Howe, the Chairman of the Steering Group.
- 331 It was agreed that separate poll cards for the forthcoming Parish Council election will not be required, poll cards can be combined with those produced for the District Council elections on the same day.
- 332 Notes of the Personnel working party meeting held on 28th February were circulated, confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman. The Parish Council resolved to accept the recommendations made therein.
- 333 The date of the Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed as 18th April at 7.30 p.m. in St Andrew's Hall. The clerk will write to village organisations inviting representatives to attend.
- 334 A report had been received from Allianz Cornhill following the annual inspection of the Common Road and Bedwell Park play equipment. Two items needed urgent rectification and these have been repaired by Councillor Allen. A list of necessary work on the play equipment was discussed. Members are concerned at the play equipment on the playing fields and the clerk was asked to obtain some prices for replacement equipment. The clerk is to invite Shirley Blake of East Cambridgeshire District Council to attend a Parish Council meeting to advise on Section 106 monies and other grant money available for possible replacement of play equipment on this site. Members felt that the swings could be kept as these are relatively new and some members hoped that the roundabout could also be retained.
- 335 Councillor Allen reported on a meeting recent held with Anglian Water to discuss flooding in Barton Close, near the Post Office and between 55 and 65 Main Street. The meeting was also attended by Councillors Carter and Jellicoe and the clerk. Anglian Water advised that they regularly comment as consultees on planning applications submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council but their comments often do not seem to be taken into account. Anglian Water said that they will contact Tingdene regarding trials to ascertain whether surface water is entering the sewers from Bedwell Park. Parish Councillors were concerned at the fact that drains in the village are not capable of handling the volumes necessary and believe that work is necessary to solve the problems. In one area it was reported that two six inch and one nine inch go into a nine inch drain. Any enforcement action which could be necessary would have to be taken by East Cambridgeshire District Council. Councillor Allen had visited the District Council regarding this issue and it was agreed to set up a meeting between the District Council, Environment Agency, Anglian Water and the Parish Council – represented by Councillors Carter and Jellicoe.
- 336 County Councillor Hunt had contacted the County Council asking for confirmation that the proposed site 37 would be a household waste recycling centre only – no response has been received to date. He had also expressed his disquiet regarding projected increases in HGV traffic.

Councillor Reports:

- 337 **Street Lighting** – nothing to report.
- 338 **Play equipment** – already reported.
- 339 **Grass cutting** – already reported.
- 340 **Open Spaces** –The hedge in Bedwell Hey Lane has been cut. It was agreed that the Open Spaces Group could arrange with the contractor that this hedge be cut each year in the late winter/early spring.
- 341 **Community** – Councillor Allen has cut down the dead tree in Bedwell Hey Lane. Concern was expressed at flytipping in the passageway from Main Street to Ward Way. This has already been reported to East Cambridgeshire District Council. Concern was also expressed regarding rubbish on private land in Mills Lane. The clerk will contact East Cambridgeshire District Council regarding this. Councillor Allen reported that he and a District Council colleague were collecting 4-pint milk containers with a view to arranging a demonstration of how much plastic waste is used in the District by bridging the river at Ely with such containers.
- 342 **Wood** – The hedge has been cut.
- 343 **Youth** – The Youth Club annual report and traveller youth group report were noted.
- 344 **Finance:** It was proposed by Barber, seconded by Councillor Bromley-Allen that the bank reconciliation and the cheques detailed on the cheque schedule be approved.
- 345 Date of next meeting. Wednesday 4th April 2007.
Annual parish meeting – 18th April 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed: Chairman

Date: