

Witchford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th November 2007 at 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Hall

Present

Mr M Flack-Crane (in the chair)
Mr G Jellicoe
Mr B Colling
Mr I Brand
Mr C D'Cunha

Apologies: Mr I Allen, Mr N Holdsworth, Mrs S Bromley-Allen, Mr N Cooper, Mrs D Field, Mr J Carter, County Councillor Hunt, District Councillors P and G Wilson

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr Alan James spoke about the Mereham planning appeal.

- 162 The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd October 2007 and of the Budget meeting held on 24th October 2007 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 163 An Occasional paper from the Standards Board – Predisposition, predetermination or bias and the **Code** was noted.
- 164 An invitation had been received from Sutton Parish Council to attend meetings of a joint committee set up with Sutton, Mepal and Haddenham Parish Councils and Earith Village Association to discuss **HCVs** using village roads. It was agreed that the clerk would again circulate parish councillors to ask for a volunteer to attend this.
- 165 The **Youth Club** had requested a judge for the Locality Showcase 2007 on 30th November 2007. Councillor D'Cunha agreed to attend this.
- 166 The meeting noted a letter from Karen Wymark, the Rights of Way Officer of Cambridgeshire County Council. She is hoping to arrange a meeting with local landowners to talk about the poor condition of many of the **droves**. She also stated that in the short term, byway 10 along the Catchwater drain has been temporarily closed and works to repair it will be undertaken by the Internal Drainage Board. Work is also to be carried out in Marroway Lane (byway 8) to have the ruts levelled and hedges flailed.
- 167 Information was noted from East Cambridgeshire District Council regarding the establishment of **Neighbourhood Panels**. East Cambridgeshire District Council will make a presentation on this at the Parish Forum on 19th November 2007 and there will also be a Information Evening on 3rd December 2007. The clerk was asked to circulate parish councillors to ask for volunteers to attend these meetings.
- 168 Little Downham Parish Council has arranged for the Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils to hold a **training** evening for councillors on 20th November and ask if any councillors from Witchford would wish to attend this. The clerk will circulate those councillors not at this meeting to ask if anyone would wish to attend.
- 169 **Planning**
- Councillor Jellicoe undertook to study the **Local Development Framework** core strategy amendment preferred options paper October 2007 and draft final sustainability appraisal to the core strategy amendment preferred options paper.

Comments need to be into the District Council by 30th November. Once Councillor Jellicoe has studied this, he will contact the clerk who will arrange a working party meeting to discuss the Parish Council's comments.

07/01152/FUL – revised application for increase in ridge and finished floor levels of previously approved application E/07/00566/FUL – land rear of **86 Main Street** - no objection.

07/01146/FUL – extension to side and front of house – **1A Sutton Road**. Ensure gable windows are for light and not for view over adjacent properties. Is application because of change of use of premises?

07/01151/PDR – construction of side conservatory – **77 Main Street** – no objection.

Councillor Jellicoe advised the meeting of his appearance at the **Mereham** Inquiry. It was agreed that the Parish Council would again write objecting to the Mereham application on the grounds of: roads; lack of initial provision for secondary education; loss of agricultural land; 14th out of 15 sites assessed by the County Council; spoiling nature of fenland; against views of elected representatives ie MP, County Council, District Council.

- 170 A report of the recent meeting of the **Victoria Green** advisory group was noted. This group was set up at the request of East Cambridgeshire District Council to assist them in planning their maintenance of the area. At the next meeting it is hoped that proposals can be agreed which could then be published in the *Witchfordian* with residents of the village being asked to comment. Following this, it is thought that a meeting only once a year would be necessary.
- 171 Some damage has occurred to the slide and roundabout at the **Bedwell Hey playpark**. Councillor Allen carried out some emergency repair work. The clerk has met on the site with Wickstead who, following Councillor Allen's repair work, did not issue a dangerous structure notice but they advise that the equipment is not used. Tape has been placed around the two items concerned with notices explaining that they should not be used. Wickstead have stated that the slide is beyond repair. The roundabout could be repaired but Councillors felt that in view of the fact that discussions are taking place towards replacement of the equipment, this would be a waste of money. Councillors Brand and Flack-Crane will meet on the site on 8th November 2007 to discuss removal of the damaged slide and roundabout and making good the surface following this. The next meeting of the steering group discussing replacement equipment is on 14th November 2007.
- 172 Completed parish plans are now being received and will shortly be analysed. It was suggested that the **Parish Plan** Steering Group might wish to respond to the article in the *Witchfordian* explaining, for example that all information regarding the plan has previously been in the *Witchfordian* (a grant of £1,500 was received from ACRE). The Parish Plan has not been produced by the Parish Council but by a team of volunteers.
- 173 The County Council had responded to the Parish Council stating that work on the adoption of **Manor Court Road** cannot go ahead until the road is brought up to Highways standards. They appear to state that despite discussions taking place on this matter for many years, no progress has been made. The clerk was instructed to write to them saying that the Parish Council and residents of the area are appalled at this lack of progress.

Councillor Reports

- 174 **Street lights:** nothing to report.
- 175 **Play equipment:** already discussed.
- 176 **Grass cutting:** nothing to report.

- 177 **Open spaces:** Marroway Lane (drove) is now levelled and seeded. Demonstrations of Allen scythes have been arranged by the Open Spaces Group.

- 178 **Community:** A report was received of a large number of rats in Sedgeway – past the Business Park. The clerk has spoken with the District Council regarding this and has been advised that a local farmer is currently putting down poison which it is hoped will deal with the problem.

- 179 **Wood :** Nothing to report

- 180 **Youth** – Already reported.

- 181 **Finance:** It was proposed by Councillor D’Cunha seconded by Councillor Jellicoe that the bank reconciliation and the cheques detailed on the cheque schedule be approved.

- 182 Date of next meeting 5th December 2007 in St Andrew’s Hall. The first meeting in the new year will be on 2nd January 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed: Chairman

Date: