

## Witchford Parish Council

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### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Hall**

#### **Present**

Mr M Flack-Crane (in the chair)

Mr G Jellicoe

Mrs S Bromley-Allen

Mrs D Field

Mr N Cooper

Mr I Allen

Mr J Carter

Apologies: Mr B Colling, Mr I Brand, Mr N Holdsworth, County Councillor W Hunt

In Attendance: District Councillor P Wilson and District Councillor G Wilson, Mr A Howe

- 281 The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008 and the planning committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 282 No declarations of interest were recorded.
- 283 Councillor D'Dunha has resigned. The Returning Officer has advised the Parish Council that it can **co-opt** a new member. A notice is up asking for anybody interested in serving as a Parish Councillor to contact the clerk by 21<sup>st</sup> March 2008.
- 284 Mr Andy Howe Chairman of the **Parish Plan** Committee attended for this item and gave a summary of the work involved in producing the Parish Plan to date. A draft action plan had been circulated prior to the meeting. Some discussion took place on whether or not the plan should be adopted by the Parish Council or whether the views expressed in the Plan should be encompassed by the Parish Council without actual adoption of the Plan. In general members felt that the Plan should be adopted as a tool to help the Parish Council in its plans and deliberations. Mr Howe envisaged that the lifespan of the plan would be around 5/7 years. Some discussion took place on the priorities given in the draft action plan and the Parish Plan Committee will revisit these. Mr Howe will circulate more information from the Plan to Parish Councillors and the matter will be deferred to the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008. A vote of thanks was expressed to Mr Howe for his work on this project.
- 285 Mrs S Bromley-Allen will represent the Parish Council at the **Dial-a-Ride** Annual General Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008.
- 286 A response was noted from the County Council regarding the STOP sign requested by the Parish Council at the junction of **Grunty Fen Road** and Pools Road. The response explained that special authorization by the Secretary of State is required before a STOP junction layout is approved. Regulations state that "all locations that fulfil the strict requirements of a STOP sign should have been previously recognized." However, the County agree that one or two still exist and assessment can take place based on available visibility, average speed and traffic usage of the location. Mr Hall explains that the County Council's financial position prevents their consideration of most requests for minor signage and lining improvements; he suggests that this could be presented as a Jointly Funded Minor Highways bid for 2009/2010. Their Accident Investigation Team state that this junction falls short of their intervention criteria. It was agreed to consider this request again when the next JFMH bid is presented.

- 287 The **Mobile Library** Service has responded to the Parish Council's request for the mobile library to call at Cathedral View Park. They state that the route has recently been changed but the success of the new route will be assessed in about six months time when they will send a representative to Cathedral View Park to see if re-routing would be possible.
- 288 A response from the District Council was noted regarding **Manor Court Road** repairs and adoption. They state that they are working on the adoption of the road and that a survey is being undertaken (which should be completed within the next few weeks) to ascertain the condition of the foul and storm water drains. They can then put any repairs in place and request that Anglian Water adopt the drains. Only after this can they hold further discussions with the County over the formal adoption of the road. Councillor Carter advised that he thought that new legislation was likely to be introduced in the near future which could mean that Anglian Water may not need to adopt these drains.
- 289 Information was noted from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding a review of **transport** services.
- 290 Information was noted from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding setting **speed limits**.
- 291 Information was noted from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding **countryside** access issues. This letter was passed to the Open Spaces Group.
- 292 The Chief Executive of East Cambridgeshire District Council had stated in response to the Parish Council's query regarding the future funding of the **Alderforth Access area** that their Economic Development Office was investigating the matter. Councillor Allen, who had raised the matter at a recent District Council council meeting, had also received a letter from the Chief Executive explaining various options for funding this area once the Countryside Stewardship Scheme comes to an end and the DEFRA payments cease. Mr Hill's letter explains that the Countryside Management Team at the County Council has the remit for advising on and protecting access to the countryside within the county. His advice is that the landowner of the site should contact the Head of Countryside Management at the County for advice on the options. The clerk was instructed to write to the County, asking them to consider this matter, and enclosing a copy of the District Council's letter. The clerk was also instructed to provide the landowner with copies of the correspondence.
- 293 The County Council have advised that the five new **street lights** will be connected on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2008. They will be discussing with EDF the delays in the connection of these lights.

#### **Report from County Councillor**

- 294 County Councillor Hunt had confirmed earlier that he was attending the meeting arranged for Councillors Jellicoe, Carter and Allen to discuss the possible **waste centre** at the County Council on 19<sup>th</sup> March. He had explained that the **guided bus** now has two miles of guideway constructed between Fenstanton and Oakington and looks to be on schedule for opening in Spring 2009.

#### **Report from District Councillors**

- 295 Councillor Allen reported on the recent **Grovemere exhibition** and advised that he believed it was likely that, despite the extra traffic which would be generated in the area, any section 106 money available would be spent on the Ely southern bypass. Members believed that a condition of any permission being granted by the District Council for this scheme, should be that the proposed household waste centre should be located on the Grovemere site and the clerk was instructed to write to the District Council putting forward this view.

- 296 District Councillor Pauline Wilson reported on a recent Haddenham meeting with the County Council regarding the possible installation of crash barriers in **Pools Road** following the recent fatal accident. The County had advised that barriers were not possible because of the composition of land in the area. Councillor Wilson explained about recent discussions within the District Council regarding the withdrawal of the grant to **ADeC** and the possible construction of a **leisure centre** near the rugby club in Downham Road.
- 297 District Councillor Gareth Wilson reported on recent decisions of the District Council **planning** committee. Parish Councillors were concerned that some recent planning applications and decisions by the District Council appear to be fuelled by commercial pressures to preempt the Local Development Framework.
- 298 **Planning**
- 08/00156/FUL – construction of cart shed, Briery Farm, 39 Sutton Road – no objection.
- 299 The County Council have advised that they have drafted a second Preferred Options stage of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and **Waste** Local Development Plan and gave details of the link to access this information. Unfortunately the document is no longer available on the web site and the clerk was instructed to report this to them. They state *that “further consideration has taken place regarding potential locations for a **recycling centre** to replace the existing facility at Grunty Fen, Wilburton. This has included the assessment of a number of alternative sites suggested during the last consultation. However the site at Witchford Road, Witchford is still preferred on the balance of site selection criteria”*. As reported earlier, Councillors Jellicoe, Carter and Allen will attend a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November to put forward the Parish Council’s continued objection to this. The clerk was instructed again to write to the County resending the Parish Council’s previous submission in case all parties at the meeting have not had an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the information in this and also to request that somebody attends the meeting who is able to present and comment on the Preferred Options 2 Feasibility Study. The County have also advised that they propose that an allocation be made at Grunty Fen landfill site for a contained cell for stable non-reactive hazardous waste. They state that such waste might include bonded asbestos (in sealed bags) and contaminated soils arising from the growth agenda. They say that the proposal has taken account of the fact that an engineered cell can be constructed within the existing site.
- 300 In the absence of Councillor Brand who was unwell, discussion of the Witchfordian was deferred.
- 301 Councillors Flack-Crane, Jellicoe, Holdsworth and Bromley-Allen were appointed to the Personnel working party and a date for staff **appraisals** will now be fixed.
- 302 Some quotations have been received for the new play equipment at Bedwell Hey Lane. Two quotes are still awaited and following receipt of these, a meeting will be arranged with the members of the working party.
- 303 A disk containing approximately half of the Parish Council **minutes** has now been received and has been handed to the Chairman for safe-keeping. The rest of the minutes have been sent for scanning and will then be returned to the Records Office.

### Councillor Reports

- 304 **Street lights:** already discussed.
- 305 **Play equipment:** already discussed.
- 306 **Grass cutting:** following discussion with Councillor Brand, grass cutting in the Churchyard and the playing fields has begun.

- 307 **Open spaces** – the safeway beside the A142, Common Road, Catchwater drain has been cleared.
- 308 **Community:** nothing to report.
- 309 **Wood :** nothing to report.
- 310 **Youth:** Councillor Carter advised that progress seems to be being made with the proposed youth facility.
- 311 **Finance:** It was proposed by Councillor Bromley-Allen seconded by Councillor Carter that the bank reconciliation, unspent revenue provision and the cheques detailed on the cheque schedule be approved.
- 312 Date of next meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 in St Andrew's Hall.  
Annual Parish Meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed: ..... Chairman

Date: .....