

Witchford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th June 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 B Colling
 Mr I Brand
 Mr N Holdsworth
 Mr A Shields

Apologies: Mr J Carter, District Councillor P Wilson

In Attendance: County Councillor W Hunt, and District Councillor G Wilson

- 37 Mr Mick Oliver of the Youth Team spoke prior to the meeting to inform the Parish Council that it is hoped that a grant application, made up of three bids totalling £3.2 million, will be made by the County Council on behalf of the Network For Community Youth Group towards opening a **youth participation centre** which they hope can be sited in the grounds of Witchford Village College. Mr Oliver is meeting with the Governors of Witchford Village College regarding this on 17th June.
- 38 The **minutes** of the Annual General Meeting and Parish Council meeting held on 7th May 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 39 No declarations of interest were recorded.
- 40 Sanctuary Hereward had written to residents of the garage site at **Manor Court** and **Manor Close** regarding the possibility of redeveloping the site with a view to submitting a planning application. It was agreed to ask a representative of Sanctuary Hereward to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council on 2nd July 2008.
- 41 A letter was noted from East Cambridgeshire **Neighbourhood Watch** Association requesting a donation. It was agreed to defer this item until Councillor Carter, who is the Parish Council's representative on the Neighbourhood Panel, was present.
- 42 **Anglian Water** had responded that their recent use of tankers to remove waste from the pumping station in The Broadway was a temporary measure. They will inspect the area which has been churned up by their contractors.
- 43 East Cambridgeshire District Council had responded to the letter sent by the Parish Council expressing concerns at the lack of consultation on the **Masterplan**. They confirm that the Masterplan has been suspended and will be discussed again on 3rd June 2008.
- 44 **Report from County Councillor** – Councillor Hunt explained the current position regarding the **Mereham** application. He explained that **parking** could be decriminalised within the next 18 months which would be a joint venture between the District and County Councils. The **guided bus** project was proceeding on time and should open some time in 2009. He reported a suggestion by the County Council public relations officer that a visit be made to the site proposed by the County for the **Household Waste Recycling Centre** to the east of the village which Councillor Hunt believes is the County's preferred site. It was agreed that Councillors Flack-Crane,

Jellicoe, Allen, Carter and Holdsworth would attend the meeting. Councillor Jellicoe explained that he would wish to see current correspondence between the County Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council regarding alternative sites. Councillor Hunt explained that he would not be likely to vote in favour of the proposed congestion charge in Cambridge and explained that the decision on **Post Office closures** in Cambridgeshire would be announced on 8th July 2008.

- 45 **Report from District Councillor** – Councillor Wilson explained the work Councillor Allen had carried out on the **Masterplan** which had been suspended. The matter is now in the hands of the District Auditor and Standards Board. A new official working party will re-examine the draft Masterplan. Councillor Wilson gave an update on the East Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee which met earlier in the day.
- 46 **Planning:** 08/00464/FUL – conservatory to side of property – 23 Granary End – no objection.
- 47 It was agreed that the bid for the 2009/2010 **jointly funded minor highways improvement** programme would be a repeat of the bid made last year: pavement from the junction with Main Street, down Grunty Fen Road for about 100 m on the western side with improvements to Grunty Fen Road/Main Street road junction. Any successful bid would involve a contribution of £1 per elector from the Parish Council.
- 48 Councillor Jellicoe had conducted some further research regarding **Mills Lane** at the Archive Office and this is continuing.
- 49 The occupier and landowner of Alderforth Farm had confirmed that they do not wish the Parish Council to continue in its efforts to stop the likely closure of the **Alderforth Access area** in October 2009.
- 50 Councillor Allen, representatives from East Cambridgeshire District Council and the clerk have visited the area in **Orton Drive** where concern has been raised at the layout of hardsurfacing. One resident has been spoken to and East Cambridgeshire District Council will write to others regarding proposals to improve the situation.
- 51 The notes of the Personnel Working Party dated 20th May 2008 had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record. It was agreed that with effect from 1st April 2009 Mrs Bland would be regarded to scale 7; this would be a personal regrading.

Councillor Reports

- 52 **Street lights:** invoice has now been received for the installation and connection of the last five new street lights
- 53 **Play equipment:** the order for repair of the Common Road playpark has been placed and the work should be carried out within the next month. Once this is complete, extra bark will be ordered. WREN meet on 17th June to discuss the grant application for the play equipment at Bedwell Hey Lane. Advice has now been received that planning permission is necessary for the new slide because of its height. The clerk was asked to check if this was necessary in view of the height of the slide previously on the site.
- 54 **Grass Cutting:** Nothing to report.
- 55 **Open spaces:** Councillor Jellicoe gave an update on work which has been carried out on various paths within the village including grass cutting on Granny's End (which is now stile free), grass cutting on footpaths 6, 10, 12 and Wentworth 2 and 1. Work has been carried out on installing drains and gates and Councillor Brand was thanked for his assistance with work on drainage.

- 56 **Community matters:** A request was made for an additional waste **bin** near the bus stop near Bedwell Hey Lane. The clerk was asked to check with Mrs Bland how much the bin on the nearby green was used.
- 57 Councillors Flack-Crane, Jellicoe and the clerk had attended a meeting regarding the **Local Development Framework**. It was agreed that Councillor Jellicoe will study the papers and a meeting will be called before the next Parish Council meeting to discuss these matters and to formulate a response to be put before the Parish Council meeting on 2nd July.
- 58 St Andrew's Church are currently preparing a grant application to WREN to secure funding to renovate **St Andrew's Hall**. It was agreed that the Parish Council would provide a letter of support for this application.
- 58 A letter was noted from a local resident regarding **rubbish** collection in the village. The clerk had spoken to the District Council and telephoned the resident to say that the District Council had undertaken to contact him directly.
- 59 It was reported that the pavement was breaking up in places in **Barton Close** – this will be reported to Highways.
- 60 The matter of ownership of the hedge in **Elm Close** was again raised. It was agreed that although the Parish Council does not own this hedge, it will ask for a quotation from Truelink for the hedge to be trimmed. Ownership of the hedge has never been determined. Councillor Jellicoe will once again look into the possibility of the Parish Council claiming ownership of the hedge and the open space in Elm Close.
- 61 Some discussion took place regarding the **Witchfordian**. Some advertisers had complained to Parish Councillors regarding the cost of advertisements. It was agreed that this is a matter which they should take up with the editor. The clerk was asked to circulate to Members prior to the next Parish Council meeting the accounts produced at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 62 Some discussion took place as to whether work could be carried out in **Grunty Fen Road** towards making it safer for pedestrians prior to the determination of the bid to the County Council. It was agreed not to take this further at the present time.
- 63 **Wood** : nothing to report
- 64 **Youth:** it was agreed to support the proposals outlined by Mr Oliver prior to the meeting
- 65 **Neighbourhood Panel:** nothing to report
- 66 **Finance:** It was proposed by Councillor Holdsworth seconded by Councillor Field that the bank reconciliation and the cheques detailed on the cheque schedule be approved.
- 67 Date of next meeting: 2nd July 2008
24th July 2008 – briefing session on post office closures in East Cambridgeshire

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Signed: Chairman

Date: