

## Witchford Parish Council

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### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2008 at 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Hall**

#### **Present**

Mr M Flack-Crane (in the chair)

Mr G Jellicoe

Mr I Allen

Mrs S Bromley-Allen

Mrs D Field

Mr I Brand

Mr N Holdsworth

Mr A Shields

Mr J Carter

Apologies: Mr B Colling, Mr N Cooper, District Councillors P Wilson and G Wilson

In Attendance: County Councillor W Hunt, County Council Officers: Simon Lacey (Waste Communications and Media Manager), Jan Taylor (Waste Infrastructure Manager), Sarah Clark (Business Support Officer for Waste Infrastructure, David Atkinson, Minerals and Waste Planning Manager)

Two local residents attended to express their concerns regarding the recent proposals by Sanctuary-Hereward for redevelopment of the garage site at **Manor Court**. Parish Councillors shared their concerns regarding parking and this will be discussed with a representative of Sanctuary-Hereward at the August meeting of the Parish Council.

- 68 County Council Officers circulated a draft plan of the proposed site of the **household waste recycling centre** – balancing ponds were not shown on the plan. They expressed their view that the site would be well designed and constructed, would be powered where possible by green energy and would be open to the public for longer hours than the facility at Grunty Fen. Parish Councillors once again expressed their fear that this was a fait accompli and, again, asked for assurances that other sites were still being investigated. The County stated that there seemed to be difficulties getting correct information from East Cambridgeshire District Council planners regarding the Angel Drove site. The planners appear to have agreed infrastructure and be negotiating on 106 agreements; the developer is not responding to the County. Parish Councillors insisted that Angel Drove was an obvious place for the site and the County undertook to continue their evaluation of this at the same time as progressing the site under discussion which is their preferred site. They are due to meet with East Cambridgeshire planners in September although the Parish Council felt that it was necessary that they met before then. It is likely that a planning application will be put in by the County in September. The other options: Lancaster Way and the original site described by the Planning Inspector in 2002 were also discussed. The County stated that the owners of Lancaster Way Business Park will not allow the waste site on their land. The Parish Council again expressed concerns regarding traffic problems, litter and fly tipping. The County stated that an additional traffic survey will be carried out at the entrance to the proposed site and that conditions regarding litter could be put into any contract with Dunarbon. They explained that they would not determine the application until the comments on Preferred Option Two of the Minerals and Waste Plan are received. Both will be discussed at the exhibition in Witchford on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The proposed site would have a capacity of 15000 tonnes against the 5/7000 tonnes taken to the current site. County Council representatives left the meeting.

- 69 **Report from County Councillor:** Councillor Hunt felt that any objections to the proposed household waste recycling centre should not focus on a “not in my backyard” principle. He explained that the County Council has appointed a Commission to revisit the proposed **congestion charge** for Cambridge although he did not believe that anything would happen as a result of this for a year or two. He stated that the **guided bus** project is on target. Councillor Hunt left the meeting.
- 70 The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 71 No declarations of interest were recorded.
- 72 East Cambridgeshire **Neighbourhood Watch** Association had written requesting a donation. It was agreed that on this occasion no donation would be made.
- Councillor Carter left the meeting.
- 73 It was noted that revised charges for **internal audit** had been adopted by the District Council – the revised charge being in the region of £221.22. It was agreed that East Cambridgeshire District Council should be appointed Internal Auditors for the Parish Council for the 2008/09 audit.
- 74 The County Council had confirmed that they would contribute £450 towards the **Parish Path Partnership** costs for the year 2008/2009. They state that the capital grant for byway restoration this year is for Witchford. The clerk was asked to request for work to be carried out on footpath 12, past the sewage treatment works and back to Common Farm including the cutting back of undergrowth and bushes.
- 75 A letter had been received from the resident of 143 Main Street regarding **Mills Lane**. He explained that he had decided to submit a planning application to East Cambridgeshire District Council for a one storey dwelling in Mills Lane at the rear of their property and detailed their personal reasons for this. The letter asked if this application would receive Parish Council support. Parish Councillors confirmed that all planning applications are discussed on purely planning grounds and on merit. They noted that a planning application on the same site was refused by East Cambridgeshire District Council in September 2007 and noted the reasons for this. Any application coming forward would be discussed at that time. The resident went on to ask the Parish Council for “a right of way for vehicles along the lane as far as the southern boundary of their property so as to allow a development to proceed in the garden”. The Parish Council agreed that if planning permission were to be granted by East Cambridgeshire District Council for a dwelling, the Parish Council would at that time discuss the question of rights of way.
- 76 Information was noted from the County Council regarding the announcement of **Post Office** closures for Cambridgeshire which is due to be made on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008. A meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 6.30 p.m. at the Grange to discuss the closures announced.
- 77 **Report from District Councillor** –Councillor Allan explained that he had been appointed to the **Ely Country Park** Working Party. He went on to explain that a long meeting had been held to discuss the **Masterplan** which he felt had been chaired in an open way. Councillor Allen stated that the recent complaint referred to the Standards Board for England is now being investigated by a Commissioner of the Board.
- 78 **Planning:**
- 08/00554/FUL – two storey extension to form an additional bedroom and a family room – **14 Field End**. Comments from a local resident regarding parking were read to the meeting. It was noted that the plan showed two off-road parking spaces. No objection.

08/00558/FUL – demolition of existing dwelling and garage and construction of replacement dwelling and garage – **Sunnycroft Grunty Fen Road** (Parish of Wilburton) – no objection.

08/00542/FUL – construction of stable block, 10 boxes, tack and feed room, office and hay barn (demolition of existing farm buildings) – **Sunnycroft Grunty Fen Road** (Parish of Wilburton) – no objection

08/00234/AND – retrospective – **sign** for Village Inn Witchford (Parish of Wentworth) – no objection

08/00596/FUL – replacement **slide** – Bedwell Hey Lane – no objection

08/00563/ESO – extension to **Lancaster Way Business Park** including infrastructure, roads services yards, drainage and landscape works. The Planning Inspector in December 2002 stated that this site could be used as the proposed household waste recycling centre. Parish Council asks that East Cambridgeshire District Council requires the location of the household waste recycling centre on this site by means of a Section 106 agreement in respect of community infrastructure and urgently liaises with the County Council on this matter. Members were concerned regarding the loss of beautiful views of the Cathedral from a footpath on the site (towards Little Thetford) and ask for confirmation that English Heritage has been asked to comment on this. The Parish Council requests that consideration be given to reinstatement and improvement of a footpath on the site extending from byway 39, (St John's Road track).

- 79 A request had been received from Perrett's Amusements to hold a small **family fair** either on Victoria Green or on the Common on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July. The fair attends Haddenham and other local villages. Both East Cambridgeshire District Council in respect of Victoria Green and the Parish Council in respect of the Common felt that there was not enough notice for this to be considered this year. The clerk was instructed to advise Mrs Perrett to contact both Councils early next year so that residents could be consulted if necessary.
- 80 Repair work has been completed by Wicksteed on the **Common Road Playpark**. Bark will be ordered loose rather than in bags as this is much cheaper. Councillor Brand and other volunteers will then put the bark into the playpark.
- 81 WREN have offered a grant of £36500 for the replacement of the **Bedwell Hey Lane playpark**. This is £10000 less than we applied for. The outcome is awaited of a grant application to East Cambridgeshire District Council. Information has been received that East Cambridgeshire District Council have been awarded a grant of £200000 to raise the profile of play and improve and enhance play provision in East Cambridgeshire District Council and a meeting to discuss this will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

### Councillor Reports

- 82 **Street lights:** nothing to report.
- 83 **Play equipment:** already reported.
- 84 **Grass Cutting:** A request had been received from the **WPFA** that the contractor be asked to cut nearer to the hedge in Bedwell Hey Lane. Also part of the grass where the container was has not been cut. The full width cut in Sandpit Lane will soon take place.
- 85 **Open spaces:** A quotation had been received for cutting the hedge in **Elm Close**. A further quotation will be sought for this. A local resident had expressed concern at this hedge being cut but had been assured that no work would take place without the approval of the District Trees Officer and work would not be done during the nesting season.

- 86 **Community matters:** A letter will be sent to Mr Andy Howe to thank him and his team for work carried out on the **Parish Plan** which was presented to the village at a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June.
- 87 A report of fly tipping near the **permissive path** at Orton Drive was received – this will be checked and if necessary reported to East Cambridgeshire District Council.
- 88 A report was noted of two vehicles thought to be used in supplying drugs in the village. This information will be passed to the **Police**.
- 89 Complaints had been received regarding the state of the front and rear gardens of a property at 20 **Manor Close** and these complaints will be passed on to Sanctuary-Hereward.
- 90 A complaint had been received regarding the recent building work around 38 Manor **Close** which does not appear to have been carried out in accordance with the planning consent and the enforcement officer will be consulted regarding this.
- 91 Councillors Jellicoe and Allen will meet to discuss the Parish Council's comments on the **Local Development Framework** and Councillor Jellicoe will advise other councillors of the time and place.
- 92 **Wood :** the recent meadow mow went very well with **Scouts** providing help and bacon rolls for which the Parish Council thanks them.
- 93 **Youth:** nothing to report
- 94 **Neighbourhood Panel:** nothing to report
- 95 **Finance:** It was proposed by Councillor Holdsworth seconded by Councillor Field that the bank reconciliation, budget review and the cheques detailed on the cheque schedule be approved.
- 96 Date of next meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> August 2008  
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: .....