

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 3rd September 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 D Field
Mr J Carter
Mrs S Bromley-Allen
Mr A Shields
Mr N Cooper

Apologies: Mr I Brand, Mr B Colling, Mr N Holdsworth, District Councillors P Wilson and G Wilson **In Attendance:** County Councillor W Hunt

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, local residents addressed the meeting regarding antisocial behaviour on Victoria Green and expressed their objection to the possibility of permission being granted for a traditional fair to take place on Victoria Green.

- 122 **Report from County Councillor:** Councillor Hunt explained that the County Council consultation meeting arranged for 6th September has been cancelled because of what he believed to be an increased possibility of the proposed household waste recycling centre being sited at Angel Drove Ely rather than the proposed site near the salt store to the east of Witchford. He also explained that The Secretary of State for Communities had announced that she had refused permission for **Mereham**. The Parish Council thanked County Councillor Hunt for his efforts in this matter. Councillor Hunt left the meeting.
- 123 No declarations of interest were made.
- 124 The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th August 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 125 Mr Andy Howe, Chairman of the Parish Plan Committee, attended for this item only and explained that an Action Plan has now been published following adoption of the **Parish Plan** by the Parish Council. It was agreed that a steering group be set up to ensure that work takes place to see that recommended actions are dealt with in a timely fashion. It was agreed that Mr Andy Howe, Mr Richard Braund, and Parish Councillors Flack-Crane, Cooper, Field and the clerk would form the steering group with meeting to be held every two months, if possible at the WPFA meeting room. Councillor Flack-Crane would chair the group.
- 126 A reply from East Cambridgeshire District Council was noted regarding boundary anomalies which exist in Witchford. They confirm that these anomalies need to be referred to the **Boundary Commission** for a full periodic electoral review. They confirm that it may be some years before the Commission next review Cambridgeshire but our concerns will be put before the Commission as soon as possible.
- 127 A letter from East Cambridgeshire District Council regarding **Speedwatch** was noted. This is a scheme set up in an attempt to address the issue of rural speeding. Parish Councils can contribute to the cost of purchasing equipment and take part in this scheme using local volunteers to monitor the speed of traffic. Any vehicles noted as exceeding the speed limit would then be written to by the Police. If Witchford were to join the scheme its contribution to the equipment would be £250. It was agreed that

- the clerk should confirm that Witchford is interested in principle in joining the scheme and money should be put in next year's budget for this. The clerk will ask for a note to be put in the Witchfordian asking for volunteers to come forward to be trained in the use of the equipment and in running the scheme in the village. Councillor Cooper volunteered to take part.
- 128 It was noted that **resurfacing** will take place on the A142 between Lancaster Way roundabout and the A10 Little Chef roundabout for six nights from 15th September 2008.
- 129 Information on reporting **antisocial behaviour** was noted from the East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership. Incidents should be reported every time they occur. They advise that if the problem continues and further incidents are not reported then the issue may be regarded as an isolated incident rather than an ongoing problem. The clerk was instructed to pass this information to the Witchfordian for publication if possible.
- 130 An e-mail was noted from a resident of Victoria Green regarding **antisocial behaviour**. It was stressed that any such incidents should be reported to the Police as they occur. Incidents can also be reported to the Neighbourhood Panel either in person or through the Parish Council and any information regarding this can be obtained from the clerk.
- 131 A letter had been received from Perrett's Amusements regarding the possibility of them bringing their **traditional fairground** to **the Common** in Witchford to open on 20th and 21st September 2008. The Parish Council agreed that there was not enough notice to allow for consultation on this matter and therefore for it to be considered. The Parish Council had noted the views expressed prior to the meeting by some residents of Victoria Green that they would not want any fair on Victoria Green at any time. It was confirmed that East Cambridgeshire District Council had adopted Victoria Green and that any decision regarding the location of a fair or other entertainment here was a matter for the District Council. The clerk will advise the District Council of the views of the residents who attended the meeting. The Parish Council asked the clerk to contact Mrs Perrett to request full details of the dates they would wish to put their fair on the **Common** next year together with details of equipment, references, insurance details, and any other relevant information. The clerk was instructed to consult with the Police regarding their view on this. If this information is received, then at that time the Parish Council will discuss the siting of a small fair on the Common for a weekend next year. In the meantime, the clerk will ask for a note to be put in the Witchfordian soliciting the views of residents of the village which would of course be taken into account when any discussion take place.
- 132 **Report from District Councillor:** Councillor Allen reported that the possible siting of the proposed household waste recycling centre at **Angel Drove** is being discussed by the County Council with the landowner. He had attended a seminar regarding the HWRC for District Council members at which he felt that one County Council officer had been less than enthusiastic about Angel Drove whereas the Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council was in favour of siting the facility at the Witchford site. Councillor Allen reported that planning consent had been given for a 30 hectare expansion of the Grovemere site despite County Highways recommending refusal of this application. He outlined projected increases in **traffic** due to this development, Mepal gravel extraction work, London waste and hazardous waste being taken to Grunty Fen and Parish Councillors shared his worries regarding this. Whilst the Parish Council is not against development on the Grovemere site and welcomes employment possibilities, it has serious concerns that the application was given consent against the advice of Highways, the Parish Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council's own development policy. Parish Councillors were concerned that sufficient negotiation regarding such matters as road improvements, does not appear to have taken place prior to consent being granted. It was agreed that Councillors Jellicoe, Carter and Allen will draft a letter to the District Council detailing the concerns of the Parish Council and it is hoped that this letter can be published in the Witchfordian. Councillor Allen reported on District Council consultations regarding the proposed country park in Ely and on the Strategic Development Committee.

- 133 District Councillor Pauline Wilson had reported by telephone that she is meeting with representatives of Witchford Village College this week regarding the closure of the **Fitness Suite**.

Planning:

- 134 08/00790//FUL – demolition of existing dwelling and new replacement dwelling and garage – Sunnycroft Grunty Fen Road (Parish of Wilburton) – no objection
- 08/00830/FUL – produce replacement changing rooms for outside swimming pool and a first aid room – Rackham School – no objection
- Ely masterplan – an invitation to speak before a select committee of the District Council was noted.
- 135 It was confirmed that the Parish Council will act as third party funders in respect of the Parish Council's award of £36500 from **WREN** towards the purchase of new play equipment for the Bedwell Hey Lane site. An amount of £4015 is required to release the grant obtained. A decision from East Cambridgeshire District Council is awaited regarding the grant application made to them in the Spring concerning this play equipment. Grant money from WREN cannot be released until this decision is received.
- 136 Various responses from the **Enforcement** Officer of East Cambridgeshire District Council were noted regarding issues raised by the Parish Council and it was agreed that he will attend the next Parish Council meeting to explain in general terms about enforcement matters. The clerk was asked to request that he explains at that time about fence heights in relation to boundaries and about gates and entrances to properties.
- 137 The meeting proposed by the County Council for 6th September 2008 to discuss the proposed **household waste** recycling centre has been cancelled. It was reported that they are holding a public consultation on 27th September in the Market Square Ely. Councillor Jellicoe said that although 1st September was the last date for consultation, he believed it was still worth while residents writing with their objections to the Waste Management Team.

Councillor Reports

- 138 One rope connector is missing from the **playpark** in Common Road. The clerk will contact Wicksteed to see if they can post a replacement to us.
- 139 The owner of the hedge 225 and 229 Main Street has asked that the Parish Council arrange for the hedge to be cut and bill sent to him. The clerk was instructed to ask for a price for the hedge and arrange for the quotation to be sent to him. It was reported that the hedge near 196 Main Street was **overgrown** and the owner will be contacted regarding this. It was also reported that nettles and brambles are causing difficulty for pedestrians at the edge of the field opposite 82 Main Street and the clerk will contact the owner regarding this. It was reiterated that it is responsibility of landowners/residents to ensure that their trees/bushes/foliage do not encroach onto pavements or roads.
- 140 A complaint had been received about vehicles **parking on pavements** and it was again stated that this was a matter for the Police and any incidents should be reported to them.
- 141 Councillor Jellicoe advised that Old Fen Balk Road and the Catchwater had been levelled. Some work remains to be done and planings from Highways may be used to fill in the worst parts.

- 142 It was agreed that Councillor Jellicoe be reimbursed £58.52 for parts and fuel purchased for the grass cutter. The Parish Council expressed its sincere thanks for the work Councillor Jellicoe does in maintaining open spaces/paths in the village – this is very much appreciated.
- 143 It was agreed to purchase parts at a cost of £72 for the grass cutter and the clerk will order these from Tracmaster.
- 144 Councillor and Mrs Flack-Crane will represent the Parish Council at the Licensing of the Rev'd Canon Fiona Brampton as **Priest-in-Charge** and the Rev'd Pamela Abraham as Assistant Priest in Parishes including Witchford on 24th September 2008 at 7.30 p.m.
- 145 The clerk was asked to contact the District Council regarding the repositioning of the **litter bin** on the "Village Sign Green" to nearer to the bus stop opposite Bedwell Hey Lane. If this is not possible then an additional bin should be purchased.
- 146 It was reported that a passageway from Manor Court Road to the **Common** has been blocked and the clerk was instructed to contact Sanctuary Hereward regarding this, especially as this could have a bearing on their re-development plans for the area.
- 147 **Finance:** It was proposed by Councillor Bromley-Allen seconded by Councillor Field that the bank reconciliation and the cheques detailed on the cheque schedule be approved.
- 148 Date of next meeting: 1st October 2008
Budget meeting: 22nd October 2008 – all meetings are open to the public.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

Signed: Chairman

Date: