

Witchford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5th November 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
Mr A Shields
Mr N Cooper
Mr N Holdsworth
Mr B Colling
Mr I Brand
Mrs D Field

Apologies: District Councillor P Wilson

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

- 182 No declarations of interest were made.
- 183 The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st October 2008 and of the budget meeting held on 22nd October 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman. It was resolved that Councillor Dianne Field be appointed as Parish Council representative on the committee of **Witchford Playing Fields Association**, in addition to Councillors Flack-Crane and Bromley-Allen.
- 184 Two candidates had come forward for **co-option** to replace Parish Councillor Jimmy Carter. One candidate was found not to be qualified to stand and Andrew Cardwell was duly co-opted and signed his declaration of acceptance of office.
- 185 A letter was noted from City of Ely Council expressing their concerns about the dangers in crossing the **A142/A10 roundabout** and asking for support from Witchford Parish Council in their efforts to achieve improvements. The clerk was instructed to let them know that Witchford Parish Council fully supports their efforts.
- 186 A letter was noted from East Cambridgeshire District Council in response to concerns the Parish Council had raised regarding **waste and recycling** collections, in particular that recyclables are sometimes mixed with refuse and that boxes are thrown around and not left outside the property they came from. The Head of Environmental Services accepts that problems exist with replacement bags and states that this is receiving attention. However, she asks that residents provide the registration number of recycling vehicles where the service does not appear to reach the required standard in other respects.
- 187 A response was noted from Anglian Water to the Parish Council's complaint of leakage in **Barton Close**. They state that there is no chlorine in the water which means that it is not mains water. Anglian Water believe that this is a leaking land drain which they say will leak when the water table is high.

- 188 Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department have now received the report from their jetting contractor regarding **flooding** at the junction of Bedwell Hey Lane and Main Street. They state that the outlet of the footway gully outside 57 Man Street was some years ago incorrectly connected to the foul system. They have placed an order to disconnect this immediately and they will investigate alternative options for disposing of the surface water.
- 189 A response was noted from East Cambridgeshire District Council regarding the Parish Council's concerns regarding the condition of **Manor Court Road**. They say that the situation with Manor Court Road is quite involved and may require the relaying of a significant length of drain. He says that he cannot give any indication of when the road will be up to standard as he is having to fund the repairs from savings within existing budgets.
- 190 Information from **Dial-a-Ride** on the services they offer was noted. It was resolved that a donation of £350 be made.
- 191 A letter was noted from a resident of **Bedwell Hey Lane** regarding speeding traffic in the lane and cars parking in the lane making access to and from their drive difficult. They asked why a speed limit of 10 mph could not be introduced in Bedwell Hey Lane as well as in Bedwell Park. It was pointed out that the roads in Bedwell Park are owned by the park. Parish Councillors do not believe that it is possible for such a speed limit to be introduced on a public road but will in any event copy their letter to the Highways Authority. If vehicles park blocking access to their property, then the matter should be reported to the Police at the time.
- 192 A letter was noted from The Executive Director Development Services of East Cambridgeshire District Council in response to the Parish Council's letter regarding its view that the proposed household waste recycling centre should be sited on **Angel Drove**. Parish Councillors believed that the letter was not accurate in some respects and it was agreed that Councillor Jellicoe and Councillor Allen would draft a response.

Report from County Councillor

- 193 County Councillor Hunt explained that it was possible that **Mereham** may again come forward following The East of England Regional Assembly inviting development proposals. He stated that he would continue to fight any such proposals. He expressed concern about **traffic** in Grunty Fen and is meeting with various officers regarding this. He explained that the Butt Lane **park and ride** is likely to open before Christmas and that work on the **guided bus** is proceeding well. He stated that he believed the proposed **household waste recycling centre** should be near to where most waste is generated but believed that if it were to be sited at the approach to Witchford, then the works should be done in consultation with the people of Witchford. He has been appointed as a County Council representative on the **Ely Masterplan** and said he had extreme concern about more housing being built without jobs to go with them as he believes this will cause chaos on the A10. He explained a committee had been set up to deal with the proposed Cambridge City **congestion charge** and that any introduction of this would be delayed for another year. In response to a question, Councillor Hunt stated that the Guided Bus will cost £119 million and less than 1% of this would be paid by the County Council.
- 194 Councillor Wilson reported on the latest **Neighbourhood Panel** meeting and stated that Councillor Pauline Wilson was concerned that the requested investigation into fly tipping had not taken place by East Cambridgeshire District Council. He is extremely concerned about the projected increase in **lorry traffic** through local villages. He advised that the Policy and Resources meeting had been given details of **cash savings** required by the Government. He confirmed that East Cambridgeshire District Council did not have any funds invested in Icelandic banks. The Auditors have told East Cambridgeshire District Council that improvements need to be made to the way they deal with **Section 106** monies. He explained that the **Maltings** should re-open well before Easter.

- 195 Councillor Allen was concerned regarding a planning application for extraction of gravel at **Block Fen**. (08/03008/CCA). It was agreed that the Parish Council would write expressing concern at the projected increased generation of traffic because of these plans taken together with the Lancaster Way extension and the possibility of the household waste recycling centre. Councillor Allen was concerned that **lorries** should be routed away from local villages and believed that this could best be achieved at the stage of the application for planning permission.
- 196 **Planning:**
- 08/00935/FUL – construction of 3 bed dwelling and garage – **3 Marroway Lane** – in principle no objection but should be change of use from agricultural land to garden land at rear of site.
- 08/00904/FUL – erection of dwelling and integral garage on land **adjacent to 3 Marroway Lane** - in principle no objection but should be change of use from agricultural land to garden land at rear of site.
- 08/00952/RMA – reserved matters application – demolition of existing garage and part of utility and construction of detached dwelling – **41 Manor Close** – no objection
- 08/00910/FUL – removal of redundant farm buildings and construction of 10 stables – Common Farm, Common Road – no objection – point out that plans do not show new house.
- 08/000930/FUL – windturbine on free standing mast 12 mtr high – **17 Barton Close** – concerns regarding noise, impact on neighbours, scale, location within site – if land is agricultural rather than garden land, than this is not a domestic installation but a commercial one which is out of character for the area
- 197 The notes of the **Woodland Group** meeting held on 26th September 2008 were received.
- 198 Concern was again expressed at **Village College school buses** travelling through the village which the Parish Council believes present dangers around the area of Rackham School. The County Council had responded that some buses need to go down Grunty Fen Road as they have pickups there and the County Council have asked that they be provided with details of buses travelling through the village. Councillor Field agreed to check on buses and pass details to the clerk. In the meantime the clerk will ask the County to provide a list of buses which have authorisation to travel through the village.
- 199 The draft questionnaire and letter regarding the housing survey to be carried by **ACRE** was approved with an amendment to be made to the letter.
- 200 The information available from Witchford Parish Council under the **model publication scheme** was adopted with the addition of the words "dog bins" under section 6.
- 201 The purchase of two new **dog bins** for Victoria Green was approved. The cost will be £449.62.
- 202 The new **play equipment** for Bedwell Hey Lane is now ordered. It is hoped that this will be installed by Christmas. The cost will be just over £60,000 and will be funded by a grant from WREN of £36,500, a grant from East Cambridgeshire District Council of £10,000 and the balance from the Parish Council.
- 203 It was noted that the **gym** at Witchford Village College has been reopened – to be run by an independent organisation on an appointment basis.
- 204 Three individuals have volunteered to help with the **Speedwatch** campaign and their details have been forwarded to the organisers.

- 205 It was agreed that Mr Alan Richardson be approached to concrete in the posts holding the gates to the **Millennium Wood** and also to put a trench across. This will cost in the region of £150 and will be carried out in liaison with Councillor Brand.
- 206 A new gate and posts will be purchased for the **Old Recreation Ground** and Councillor Brand agreed to deal with this.
- 207 Complaints have been received about the state of the **phone kiosk** at the corner of Grunty Fen Road and this will be reported.
- 208 Mr Terry King has started work to re-write the **guide to footpaths**. It is hoped that the first walk will be published in the Witchfordian shortly. The Parish Council is grateful to Mr King for his assistance on this project which has resulted from the Parish Plan.
- 209 Information had been received from local residents that a consultation is taking place at the moment regarding the rules that regulate **dispensing** doctors. It was agreed that the Parish Council would respond stating a preference for option 1 which is "leave things as they are".
- 210 Councillor Holdsworth reported on the last **Neighbourhood Panel** – shed crime had been decided upon by the Panel as a priority as well as lorries speeding through villages. He stressed that it is important that topics are fed into the Panel meetings which are open to the public.
- 211 **Antisocial behaviour** in the area of Victoria Green was reported and it was reiterated that any instances of this should be reported to the Police at the time and could also be reported at the next Neighbourhood Panel meeting.
- 212 **Finance:** It was proposed by Councillor Holdsworth, seconded by Councillor Colling that the bank reconciliation and the cheques detailed on the cheque schedule be approved.
- 213 Date of next meeting: 3rd December 2008
All Parish Council meetings are open to the public.

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

Signed: Chairman

Date: