

Witchford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th January 2009 at 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Church

Present

Mr M Flack-Crane (in the chair)
Mr G Jellicoe
Mr I Allen
Mrs S Bromley-Allen
Mr A Shields
Mr N Holdsworth
Mr B Colling
Mrs D Field
Mr A Cardwell
Mr N Cooper

Apology: Mr I Brand, Councillor Pauline Wilson

In Attendance: District Councillor G Wilson, County Councillor W Hunt, Mr A Howe (for item 242 only).

- 241 The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd December 2008 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman with the amendment of the amount of the precept to £42110 in minute 215.
- 242 Mr Andy Howe presented the **Parish Plan Actions Progress Log** dated November 2008. This document is intended to ensure that the actions detailed in the plan are put into place and the results communicated to the village. Mr Howe explained that an update will now be published in the Witchfordian and on the village website. A further meeting of the Parish Plan Actions Committee will take place in two weeks.
- 243 Information was noted from the County Council in response to the Parish Council's concerns regarding work recently carried out on **white lining** in the village. The County Council agreed that it is preferable in some areas not to have central white lines in roads as this has been proved to be an effective way of reducing vehicle speed.
- 244 A letter was noted from Sutton Parish Council stating that with effect from 1st April 2009 they intend to proceed with their own **Youth and Community Development Service** which will entail the employment of a Youth and Community Development Manager to oversee this provision in Sutton. The £11080.56 that Sutton Parish Council has pledged to Sutton Youth Groups for 2009/10 will now stay within their budget thus removing the responsibility from the County Council youth team to deliver the service in Sutton. They have written to adjacent parishes asking if they wish to attach themselves to this new provision. It was agreed to contact Sutton Parish Council to ask for any further information available on their proposals, to ask what benefits their proposals could offer to Witchford and to agree to attend a meeting with them and other parishes if one is arranged. It was further agreed that Jo Sollars, the County Council Locality Manager for Ely Littleport and Witchford (Office of Children and Young Peoples' Services) be asked to attend the next Parish Council meeting on 4th February 2009 to explain her proposals for the continuing provision of youth services by the County Council.

- 245 A letter was noted from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding public **bridleway 4** asking the owner of adjacent land where a spoil heap is deposited to remove mud from the bridleway and to prevent future flooding from this deposit. It was agreed to ask the Open Spaces Group to check waymarking in this area.
- 246 **Report from County Councillor:** Councillor Hunt explained that work on the **guided bus** project is ahead of schedule. He has requested that the County Council write to the Secretary of state with objections to the **Mereham** proposals. He has submitted a freedom of information request to the East of England Regional Assembly regarding information concerning Multiplex/Mereham. He stated that he thought the proposed **household waste recycling centre** will now be built at the entrance to Witchford and believed that Witchford Parish Council should now try to make sure it is of the best quality with the least damage to the area. He was asked to attend, as a member, the County Council planning committee at which the matter will be discussed. He stated that he had attended a Masterplan working party and was concerned that he did not want to see another "Mereham" north of Ely.
- 247 **Report from District Councillors:** Councillor Wilson reported on recent discussions of the District Council Masterplan working party which appears to be going ahead with the original "masterplan" proposals. Councillor Allen was concerned that they appear to be planning up to 5000 new homes to the north of Ely without receiving the result of the traffic survey which has been commissioned. Councillor Allen explained that he had requested that the **Masterplan** meetings should be open to the public. Information was given on proposed **leisure** provision with discussion taking place regarding whether facilities should be within the centre of Ely or on the proposed Downham Road site.
- Planning:**
- 248 Extension over existing single storey element to side of existing property – 37 **Common Road** – no objection.
- 249 A draft report was noted from Councillor Jellicoe giving the Parish Council's comments on the East Cambridgeshire Submission Core strategy and Proposals Map – **site allocation** and boundary change representations (reg 32) consultation. It was agreed that these comments be sent to the District Council.
- 250 **E/03009/08/CC** – East Cambridgeshire Local **Recycling Centre** (Witchford) and associated works. Land off Stirling Way, Witchford Road, Ely. The working group had met twice to discuss this matter and a draft response was presented to the Parish Council which was accepted and agreed. It was confirmed that at least two representatives from Witchford Parish Council would wish to attend the County Council Planning Meeting and to speak at this meeting. The clerk will contact the County Council regarding this. The Chairman thanked Councillor Jellicoe and the working group for the work they had carried out on this.

Councillor Allen left the meeting.

- 251 Perretts Amusements had written asking to hold a traditional **fair** on the **Common** (Common Road) on 21st, 22nd and 23rd August 2009. The fair is for families, aimed at younger children and finishes at a reasonably early hour. They have supplied references and copies of relevant safety tests and public liability insurances. The Parish Council asked residents, through an article in the Witchfordian in October 2008, for their comments regarding such a fair taking place and no comments were received. It was agreed that the fair can take place on the Common on the dates given. The Parish Council will reserve the right to refuse access to the common if the weather is or has been very wet.
- 252 Two **street lights** removed by EDF when the overhead cables were being replaced have now been replaced by them. It is thought that a further light has been removed west of the bus shelter near Bedwell Hey Lane. The clerk will contact the County Council regarding this.

- 253 The new play equipment has now been installed at the **Bedwell Hey Lane** playpark. Some remedial turfing work remains to be completed. It is hoped to arrange an "official" opening for the playpark at the beginning of February.
- 254 The **village walks** information has now been updated by Mr Terry King and the clerk was instructed to write to Mr King to thank him for this. It is intended that one of these walks will appear each month in the Witchfordian.
- 255 **Footpath 12** has been cut by Councillor Jellicoe.
- 256 It was reported that it was believed that somebody may have been firing a shotgun in Sandpit Lane. It was confirmed that if somebody was firing a gun in a public open space, then this was a matter for the Police and should be reported to them at the time.
- 257 It was reported that low branches are **overhanging** the pavement causing inconvenience and danger to pedestrians near 16 Main Street. The clerk was instructed to write to the resident asking that the foliage be cut back.
- 258 Complaints have been received regarding **dog fouling** at Victoria Green, despite two additional dog bins being provided. The clerk has submitted an article to the Witchfordian regarding this.
- 259 The **Police** Community Support Officer for Witchford is now Clare Todd. The clerk will invite her introduce herself at the next meeting of the Parish Council.
- 260 The next meeting of the **Neighbourhood Panel** is on 26th January at The Glebe Sutton. Councillor Holdsworth will put forward projected increased traffic on the A142 and the junction of Grunty Fen Road and Main Street. If anybody has any issues to raise, then they can do so personally at the meeting or via Councillor Holdsworth or the clerk.
- 261 **Finance:** It was proposed by Councillor Holdsworth, seconded by Councillor Colling that the bank reconciliation, budget review and the cheques detailed on the cheque schedule be approved.
- 262 Date of next meeting: 4th February 2009
All Parish Council meetings are open to the public.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed: Chairman

Date: