

Witchford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th February 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, Mr I Brand

In Attendance: District Councillors G Wilson and P Wilson, County Councillor W Hunt. Mrs J Sollars for item 265 only.

- 263 The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2009 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 264 **Police Community Support Officers** Clare Todd and Ann Austin attended to introduce themselves to the Parish Council. The previous PCSO Sam Johnson has now left to take up training as a Police Officer.
- 265 Jo Sollars who is the County Council Locality Manager for Ely, Littleport and Witchford for the Office of Children and Young People's Services attended the meeting. Mrs Sollars explained her role within the County Council and how the **youth service** is set up. She further explained that Mick Oliver the present Youth Manager has resigned and steps are being taken to fill that role. The Chairman and clerk had previously attended a meeting with the County and other Parish Council representatives to discuss youth provision in view of the fact that Sutton Parish Council had decided to employ their own Youth Manager and had asked other local Parish Councils if they wished to attach themselves to the Sutton youth provision. Members expressed their concerns about the way the youth service has operated in Witchford in the past and questioned Mrs Sollars regarding opportunities for youth work in the village in the future. Mrs Sollars explained that she was arranging a further meeting with Parish Councils to discuss youth work provision in the patch to enable service level agreements to be drawn up as well as a job description for the Manager post. Mrs Sollars left the meeting. Councillor Brand left the meeting.
- 266 **Report from County Councillor:** Councillor Hunt explained that he continues to put his objections to the **Mereham** proposals to the East of England Regional Assembly. He stated that work on the **guided bus** is now behind schedule. He stated that the County Council is now discussing **budgets** for the coming year. He stated that although he thought that the proposed **household waste recycling centre** should be situated at Angel Drove he believed it will now be built at the entrance to Witchford and said that Witchford Parish Council should now try to make sure it is of the best quality with the least damage to the area. He stated that he will attend the County planning meeting scheduled for 23rd February and will question the location at that time. He stated that it had been agreed that no **lorries** carrying aggregate for A14 construction work will cross Grunty Fen nor use the A142. He stated that he had attended a **Masterplan** working party and was concerned regarding the building of extra houses in Ely without the construction of a southern bypass. He confirmed, following a question from Councillor Allen, that he will attend, as a County Council representative, the Special Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting at East Cambridgeshire District Council on 5th February at which the proposal has been put forward that the Masterplan decision is premature "as the number of houses should not be decided before information from the Ely Transport Study is available and the decision for 3,000 to 5,000 extra houses was not supported by any of the consultees other than URBED Consultants and 56% of people consulted wanted no extra growth". Mr Hunt left the meeting.

- 267 **Report from District Councillors:** Councillor Pauline Wilson reported that the local **Speedwatch** campaign is up and running. She stated that the **Maltings** will reopen on 23rd March 2009. She stated that **Neighbourhood Panels** have been extended to 2011 and hoped that more strategic issues would be taken to the Panels. She stated that from next year the Government will be paying for **free swimming** for under 16s and over 60s and the Paradise Pool will take part in this scheme.
- 268 Councillor Gareth Wilson reported on budget and financial discussions within the District Council. He stated that's that there was likely to be a **4.9 increase** East Cambridgeshire District Council's share of Council tax. Members of the Parish Council questioned the need for such a high increase. Councillor Wilson explained that **parking** on the Angel Drove car park will soon be free on Saturdays.
- 269 Councillor Allen explained that the County Council had advised the Area Joint Committee that they intend to shut a **layby** at Ely High Bridge because of traffic congestion and one near the turn to Barway because they considered that the surface was unsafe and that the cost of repair was prohibitive. District Councillors had objected to closure of the Barway layby. Councillor Allan gave further information regarding his objections to the process regarding the Ely **Masterplan** and the Overview and Scrutiny committee to be held on 5th February 2009. In reply to a question he stated that cuts in staff at East Cambridgeshire District Council had been discussed but currently under-employed planning officers were working on the Masterplan proposals; he explained that falls in the market for **recycled** product does not financially affect the District Council as the contract with Veolia means that the contractors have to dispose of the recycle.
- 270 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. The Chairman and clerk had attended a meeting with Sutton Parish Council and representatives of other local Parish Councillors to discuss this matter. The Chairman gave a verbal report on the meeting with Sutton Parish Council. Mr Mick Oliver has been appointed as their Youth and Community Manager and they intend taking on a Senior Lead Youth Worker and Admin Support Worker. They anticipated the cost of this would be around £75000 per annum. At the moment they have around £12000 and hope to fund the balance by grant monies. Following long discussion it was proposed by Councillor Holdsworth and seconded by Councillor Allen that Witchford Parish Council remains with Cambridgeshire County Council for youth work provision. It was agreed that the clerk would write to Sutton Parish Council advising them of this decision. It was further agreed that Councillor Alan Shields would join the Youth Committee – giving a membership of the Chairman, Councillors Cooper, Shields and Holdsworth. The Parish Council would await requested information from the County Council about their proposals and these could then be discussed by the Youth Committee.
- 271 It was noted that the Bedwell Hey **Playpark** will be opened by the Chairman on Saturday, 7th February at 10.30 p.m. Invitations have been sent to local children through Rackham school.
- 272 Information was noted from the County Council regarding the storage at their Witchford depot of additional plant for **highway maintenance**.
- 273 A letter was noted from **Ely Schools Partnership** asking for a contribution to funding of a careers event for year 5 primary pupils from local schools. It was agreed that the clerk would speak to the Head of Rackham School to ascertain his view before a decision is made on this.

Planning:

- 274 Further information was noted from East Cambridgeshire District Council regarding their Submission Core strategy and Proposals Map – **site allocation** and boundary change representations (reg 32) consultation
- 275 08/01140/FUL – repositioning of house, revise garage roof – **3 Marroway Lane** – no objection in principle. Parish Council asks for confirmation that gardens to adjacent houses in the road, have obtained permission for change of use for their extended gardens which appear to be outside the development envelope.
- 276 09/00036/FUL – construction of single storey extension to front of dwelling – **52 Ward Way**. Two letters of objection from neighbours were read to the meeting. No objection - provided windows in the east elevation are obscured glass.
- 277 09/00030/FUL – porch extension to front and en suite extension to rear of existing bungalow – **20 Sutton Road** (Wentworth Parish) – no objection
- 278 Information was noted relating to new sites put forward by stakeholders for mineral and waste development through the recent Cambridgeshire and Peterborough **Minerals and Waste** (Preferred Options 2) Plan consultation.
- 279 It was agreed that the Parish Council will pay up to £150 for a digger to work on the **pond in Victoria Green** – this work is being carried out in partnership with East Cambridgeshire District Council.
- 280 The Parish Council has been informed that a **street light** removed from Marroway Lane when EDF did work on the overhead cables is not suitable to be reconnected to their network because of its age and condition. It was agreed that a new pole bracket complete with a ZXU1 lantern with a 35w CDM-T lamp (white light source) be purchased at a cost of £528.31.
- 281 It was noted that some work has been carried out next to **The Plantation** by the new owners of The Bungalow. It was noted that the Plantation is part of the byway.
- 282 It was reported that the **dog bin** on Victoria Green near Briars End has not been emptied – this will be reported to East Cambridgeshire District Council.
- 283 The three **Speedwatch** volunteers are ready to start their work – an article will be put in the Witchfordian asking people to suggest on which part of the village they should concentrate their efforts.
- 284 Councillor Holdsworth reported on the latest **Neighbourhood Panel** meeting. He advised that East Cambridgeshire District Council are appointing a new officer to deal with flytipping. Thefts from sheds is the current Panel priority.
- 285 **Finance:** It was proposed by Councillor Holdsworth, seconded by Councillor Colling that the bank reconciliation, information on interest rates and the cheques detailed on the cheque schedule be approved.
- 286 Date of next meeting: 4th March 2009 – in The Church
All Parish Council meetings are open to the public.
- There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

Signed: Chairman

Date: