

## **Witchford Parish Council**

Clerk: Mrs S M Monteith, 174 Main Street, Witchford Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 2HT  
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### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Church**

**Present:** Mr A Shields (in the chair), Mr I Allen, Mr B Colling, Mrs D Field, Mrs L Langley, Mr G Barber

**Apology:** Mr G Jellicoe, Mr M Flack-Crane, Mrs S Bromley-Allen, Mr H Palmer, Mr I Brand, Mrs P Wilson, Mr W Hunt

**In Attendance:** District Councillor G Wilson

Prior to the start of the meeting, a resident of the village spoke regarding problems with litter which he believed came from Witchford Village College.

- 96      There were no declarations of interest.
- 97      The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 were taken as read and approved with an amendment in minute 1066/68: in the eleventh line, delete the word "has" and insert the word "will". The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 98      A letter was noted from the Principal of Witchford Village College in response to the Parish Council's letter complaining about the amount of litter believed to be coming from the Village College. The Principal stated that the College will be working hard over the coming months to develop in its students an appropriate and responsible attitude towards litter. The Parish Council agreed to monitor the situation for a few months. On the last day of term some pupils had scattered a massive amount of litter through the village. On complaints from the Parish Council, Veolia were called in to clear this. It is believed that the at least some of the culprits have been identified and the Principal states that they will be dealt with at the beginning of the next term.
- 99      Information was noted from East Cambridgeshire District Council reminding Parish Councillors of their obligations under the Code of Contact regarding the register of interests, applications for dispensations and governance. The Monitoring Officer has written offering Parish Councils training in the Code of Conduct. It was agreed that all Parish Councillors and the clerk would participate in this training. The clerk will liaise with the Monitoring Officer regarding a convenient date and venue.
- 100     A letter was noted from the County Council regarding the staffing by volunteers of anti-viral centres to be used during the swine flu outbreak. If anybody is interested in volunteering, please contact either the County Council or the clerk.
- 101     A letter was noted from the Witchford Playing Fields Association asking for a donation towards refurbishment of their shower areas and resurfacing of the car park. It was agreed that £3000 would be donated by the Parish Council. It was also noted that a water leak is currently being investigated by Anglian Water which is costing £200 a month. A suggestion was made that perhaps insurance be sought to cover pipes from the road to the building.

- 102 **Report from District Councillors** – Councillor Wilson spoke regarding the various meetings of East Cambridgeshire District Council recently held concerning the Ely Masterplan. He is concerned as he believes that over 4000 extra houses are likely to be built and that these are said to be linked to the building of a southern bypass for Ely. He spoke of proposals made for three multi-story car parks in Ely whilst he and his colleagues considered that two park and ride sites would be more beneficial. He is extremely concerned regarding traffic growth in the area and believed that new cycle/foot bridges would be necessary across the A10, one near the garage roundabout and one near the proposed leisure centre near the Little Downham junction. He had recently attended a meeting of EERA and stated that EERA were going out to consultation on various projects, including Mereham, but as part of this consultation had stated that it did not support extra development in the region.
- 103 Councillor Allen spoke of Ely Masterplan meetings he had attended. He stated that Councillor Hunt had asked transport officers at the County Council to cost the traffic proposals and a figure of £45 million for road improvements had been quoted. He was doubtful of a claim made by the consultants involved that 5000 additional jobs would be provided in the area by 2031. He stated that public consultation would soon take place regarding the Ely Masterplan and was of the view that whilst the principles of the Masterplan seem reasonable, he believed it was essential that people read and comment on the detail of the proposals which will be contained in the appendices and background papers.
- 104 **Planning**
- 09/00478/FUL – 67 Orton Drive – proposed conversion of existing loft space into landing area and bedroom with velux roof windows – no objection.
- 09/00540/FUL – 1 Sutton Road – proposed single storey rear extension – no objection.
- 09/00512/FUL – Common Farm, Common Road – construction of ménage/riding area – no objection.
- E/03008/09/CC – retention of six bay modular classroom until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. Witchford Village College – no objection.
- 105 Decision notices from Cambridgeshire County Council were noted giving approval for the East Cambridgeshire Local Recycling Centre (Witchford) and associated works – land off Stirling Way, Witchford Road, Ely and Variation of Condition 3 of approved application E/01071/88/CW to state “the infilled area shall be reinstated to a condition suitable for the resumption of agriculture use by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026 unless otherwise agreed in writing by the County Planning Authority – Grunty Fen Recycling Centre, Grunty Fen Road.
- Parish Councillors Jellicoe, Allen, Langley and Bromley-Allen had attended the meeting together with Councillor Hunt and an Ely Councillor. Councillor Allen gave an update on the meeting. He and other Parish Councillors were of the opinion that the Planning Officer made inaccurate statements and it was agreed that a letter be sent from the Parish Council asking for clarification of the status of the preferred option MW44 which states that “development which would result in the permanent loss or degradation of best and most versatile agricultural land.....will only be permitted where it can be shown that there is a need for the development and absence of suitable sites using lower grade land has been demonstrated”. The Planning Officer had stated that the Waste Local Plan Policy WLP14 regarding agricultural land “is not saved” and the Parish Council is also asking for clarification on this matter.

- The Parish Council has grave concerns regarding approval to the recycling centre being given before road improvements around the access to the site have been agreed. The Parish Council also has concerns regarding the cost to Cambridgeshire taxpayers of the maintenance of Pools Road over the additional 17 years that the Grunty Fen landfill site will now be open. It is understood that the company who will operate the site have not been required to contribute to the cost of the upkeep of the road. The Chairman acknowledged with gratitude the amount of work that Parish Councillors and others have put into the Parish Council's long-running objections to the development of the recycling centre at the entrance to the village.
- 106 Information had been received from a local resident regarding drainage work and soil deposited on land at Granny's End. The clerk has now been informed that the Environment Agency have visited the site and are satisfied with the work so far. They have agreed to discuss the matter with East Cambridgeshire District Council and to visit the site to monitor the situation in due course.
- 107 A draft Partnership Agreement between Witchford Parish Council and Cambridgeshire County Council Youth Service was noted and agreed in principle. Proposals for funding from the Youth Club were also agreed in principle and will be deferred to the Parish Council's budget meeting in October. A meeting of the Parish Council's youth group and the youth officer had been held. The youth club intend to re-launch youth provision in the village from September. It was agreed that Councillor Langley would be the Parish Council's nominee to visit the youth club from time to time.
- 108 It was agreed that "no ball games" notices would be placed in the playpark at Common Road and Bedwell Hey Lane.
- 109 Councillor Field is progressing the matter of the picnic bench to be installed at Bedwell Hey Lane play park.
- 110 The new bench has now been installed on Victoria Green.
- 111 In view of the instances of fly tipping in Old Scenes and Long Meadow – Grovemere have agreed to pay 50% of the cost of a gate and installation of this in Old Scenes. (minute 1043/232). The clerk was asked to contact Mr Wayman to obtain an indication of the cost of this work.
- 112 Councillor Allen reported that he had been contacted by residents of Ward Way regarding a horse and horse shelter which is on agricultural land in the area. An application was submitted some time ago for a change of use to garden land but this was not permitted. The Enforcement Officer of East Cambridgeshire District Council has apparently visited the site and said that an application for change of use of the land must be submitted within six weeks or enforcement action will be started.
- 113 It had been reported to the clerk that people had been living in a tent in the Millennium Wood. The clerk contacted the Police who have visited the area on several occasions. The tent has now been removed.
- 114 Councillor Shields reported on his attendance at the latest Neighbourhood Panel. He stated that there appeared to be broad support for a cycle way between Wentworth and Witcham Toll. It was hoped that a Recycling Centre liaison group would be set up and it was important that Witchford Parish Council was represented on this. Fly tipping had been designated as a priority at the meeting. A resident mentioned their concern at the lack of street lighting at the turn-in to the village on the western side. Although this area is actually in Wentworth, the clerk will forward this concern to the Highways Department of the County Council.

- 115 A local resident had contacted the clerk and Councillor Allen regarding the provision of additional allotments in the village. The clerk will carry out some research into this matter and report back to a future meeting.
- 116 The Village College had contacted the clerk regarding a meeting to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September further to discuss their application for an artificial grass pitch. They have been informed that the Parish Council will be unable to send a representative to this meeting as it clashes with the next meeting of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has, however, already attended two meetings regarding this matter.
- 117 It was proposed by Councillor Barber, seconded by Councillor Field that the bank reconciliation and that the cheques on the schedule of cheques be approved.
- 118 The next Parish Council meeting will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009.  
Appraisals 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

***All Parish Council meetings are open to the public.***

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed: ..... Chairman

Date: .....