

Witchford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd September 2009 at 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Church

Present: Mr G Jellicoe (in the chair), Mr A Shields, Mr I Allen, Mr B Colling, Mrs D Field, Mrs L Langley, Mr H Palmer, Mrs S Bromley-Allen

Apology: Mr M Flack-Crane, Mr G Barber, Mr I Brand, Mrs P Wilson, Mr G Wilson, Mr W Hunt

- 119 There were declarations of personal interest in minute number 124 by the Chairman, Councillors Field and Allen and the clerk who are members of the Open Spaces Group.
- 120 Mr Mark Shelton of **Donarbon** attended the meeting for this item only and spoke of the work being carried out at Donarbon's premises at Waterbeach. The official opening of the facility will be 9th November 2009. He explained that it takes seven weeks for the process which results in the production of a compost like material. Mr Shelton spoke about recycling in the County. He stated that East Cambridgeshire District Council's recycling efforts fell below the other districts in the County and that if this were not the case, then Cambridgeshire would be the top county in the country for recycling
- 121 The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th August 2009 were taken as read, approved and were signed by the Chairman.
- 122 A letter from Cambridgeshire County Council was noted regarding the East Cambridgeshire **Local Recycling Centre** (Witchford). This letter responded to a query from the Parish Council and clarified the situation regarding the issue of Policy WLP14 within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Local plan not being "saved". The Parish Council once again expressed its disappointment about the way in which the matter of the recycling centre has been handled by the County Council.
- 123 **Report from District Councillors** – Councillor Allan spoke about a Strategic Development Meeting which he had attended. At this meeting the Local Development Framework had been agreed and has been sent to the full Council for approval. As part of this process, the **LDF** has been examined by a Planning Inspector. Councillor Allen stated that one of her binding points was that the presumption of a road building solution for a southern bypass should be set aside; the English Heritage view had weight and other methods of crossing the railway should be investigated. Councillor Allen stated that the Inspector found that the 1700 houses proposed under the LDF would work with the current road system. The Ely Masterplan will sit outside this as a supplementary document.
- 124 **Planning**
- E/03004/09/CC – Change of use of part of County Council **Highways** Depot to allow recycling of highway construction waste using mobile plant consisting of a crusher, screener and asphalt recycler. It was noted that Grovemere have objections to this application. Strong objection on the grounds of: noise, dust, damage to air quality, possible run-off contamination, negative impact on neighbouring business park, existing salt contamination, inadequate landscaping. Councillor Allen explained that he believed that this application under the Waste Local Plan had been planned to take place on a site in Sutton.

- 09/00557/FUL – Modification of approved application 08/00029/FUL (retrospective) – extension to existing bungalow to convert to house – **1 Main Street** – no objection.
- 09/00615/FUL – construction of two detached four bed dwellings – site between **97 and 107 Main Street**. A letter from the Witchford Village Society Open Spaces Group objecting to the proposals had been circulated with the agenda. Objection: the land is outside the development envelope; the land continues to be outside the development under the Local Development Framework; the site represents a gap between building along the Main Road and development would damage the overall character of the area; this site act as access corridor into the surrounding countryside via footpath 1 which leads to the Parish Council land at Old Scenes and the Old Recreation Ground which is currently undergoing a programme to improve its amenity value. Footpath 6 passes diagonally across the site. The County Council Rights of Way Officer would be unlikely to agree to a footpath being shortened. Under the recently published Parish Plan, 94% of respondents expressed the view that the preservation of this area is very important or fairly important; the view from the Main Street into the fen is of great importance and should be protected; granting permission on this site would set a precedent for other important open spaces which provide gaps in the continuous development along Main Street.
- 125 The external auditors had reported on the Parish Council's accounts to 31st March 2009 that "the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commissions' requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."
- 126 The Parish Council's meeting to discuss **budgets** for the year April 2010 to March 2011 will be held on 21st October 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in St Andrew's Hall.
- 127 The County Council Traffic Engineer has recently received a request for a dedicated **disabled parking bay** outside 22 Manor Close and sought the view of the Parish Council. It was felt that the site was already constrained for turning vehicles to adjacent properties. Members recalled problems with refuse vehicles being able to access the area some years ago when vehicles parked outside the designated areas. It was hoped that all possible alternatives could be examined, including parking in the designated ECDC parking area.
- 128 In view 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. Hazardous chemicals were recently tipped in the area. The Parish Council believes that the installation of this gate is urgent and it was agreed to order a heavy duty steel field gate from Wayman Fencing at a cost of £360, for installation as soon as possible. All those with an interest in the area have been consulted.
- 129 The grass cutting contractor has stated that there are only two cuts left in the schedule for the Churchyard because of the warm, wet weather this year. We are contracted to eleven cuts per year and it was agreed that up to three additional cuts could be carried out at an additional cost of up to £374.61.
- 130 It was noted with regret that the Alderforth Access Area will be closing at the end of October. This will mean that the permissive path on the land will cease to exist and the bridge will need to be removed.
- 131 Councillor Jellicoe has carried out grass cutting on various parts of the footway network and has contacted the County Council regarding encroachment by foliage on footpath 12. Councillor Jellicoe reported that the County Council have awarded a contract to level and put planings on byway 10.
- 132 A resident has stated that trees in Main Street obscure visibility when leaving Orton Drive. This will be reported to the Parish Tree Warden and Councillors Jellicoe and Allen also undertook to assess the matter.

- 133 Councillor Jellicoe has cut the footpath in the wood.
- 134 The village Youth café will be held on Friday nights from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. in St Andrew's Hall for 11 – 19 year olds. The Youth Club end of term report for the period April-July 2009 was noted. The final partnership agreement has not yet been received as this is still with the County Council's solicitors.
- 135 Thanks were given to Councillor Bromley-Allen for the planting of the village sign.
- 136 The survey being carried out as part of the facilities audit should be delivered to each house in the village with the Witchfordian.
- 137 It was proposed by Councillor Bromley-Allen, seconded by Councillor Field that the bank reconciliation and that the cheques on the schedule of cheques be approved.
- 138 The next Parish Council meeting will be on 7th October 2009.
Budget meeting: 21st October 2009.

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Signed: Chairman

Date: