

Witchford Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs S M Monteith, 174 Main Street, Witchford Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 2HT
Telephone 01353 665707
witchfordparishcouncil@eastcamb.gov.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1st April 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 I Brand, Mrs D Field

Apologies: Mr N Holdsworth, Mr B Colling, Mr N Cooper, Mrs P Wilson

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

Two members of the public addressed the Council prior to the start of the meeting regarding possible discussions being held between East Cambridgeshire District Council and Sanctuary Hereward regarding the potential development of land to the east of Barton Close. The Chairman confirmed that no application regarding this has up to now been received by the Parish Council.

- 311 No declarations of interest were noted. The **minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th March 2009 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 312 Information was noted from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding arrangements for **grass cutting** for the year 2009/2010. They will pay a 5% increase giving £1046.43. The clerk will invoice them for this sum.
- 313 Information was noted from ACRE regarding the Calor **Village of the Year** competition.
- 314 Information was noted from the Cambridgeshire **Local Access Forum** regarding forthcoming meeting dates.
- 315 A request was noted from 1st Witchford **Guides** for a donation towards transport costs and for improvement to the Scout Hut. It was agreed that a donation of £300 would be made.
- 316 A request was noted from 1st Witchford **Brownies** for a contribution towards the charges they pay for the hire of their meeting hall. It was agreed that a donation of £250 would be made.
- 317 Information was noted from County Highways regarding **signs on the highways**. This information will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting on 15th April 2009 and the clerk will also send to the Witchfordian.

Report from District Councillors:

- 318 Councillor Gareth Wilson explained that quite a lot of meetings of the District Council have recently been cancelled. He once again expressed his concern regarding the amount of **traffic** on local roads and said that he had recently attended a meeting between County Councillors, District Councillors and officers at which this was discussed. He is very concerned regarding the cumulative effect of development on local roads.
- 319 Councillor Allen explained that he had requested that the District Council should invite all its members to a presentation on **traffic** issues in Ely prior to further discussions on the **Ely Masterplan** so that the 80 page draft report could be available to all members. Councillor Allen was concerned that this meeting has been cancelled.

- 320 Councillor Allen and other Parish Councillors expressed the view that before further development takes place in the area, there should be improvements to the Lancaster Way and A10/A142 **roundabouts** – possibly by means of traffic control.

Report from County Councillor

- 321 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 progressing. He expressed his concern that a proposal has been made to extend the life of the Grunty Fen waste facility by 17 years. He reiterated his concerns regarding the Ely **Masterplan** and was concerned regarding the building of extra houses in Ely without the construction of a southern bypass. He expressed concern at the increase in local traffic that this and other proposals will generate. He expressed concern at proposed closures to **laybys** as discussed at a previous meeting of the parish council (min 269). He was concerned that some developers were putting pressure on East Cambridgeshire District Council to reduce **section 106** agreements for future planning applications.

Planning:

- 322 09/00148/FUL – two storey extension to front of detached existing property – 10 Church View – no objection
- 09/00143/FUL – new conservatory to rear garden – 5 Elm Close – no objection
- 323 An acknowledgement was noted from the County Council regarding Witchford Parish Council's comments regarding planning application E/03009/08/CC – (**local recycling centre** and associated works. It was agreed that the clerk would copy letters recently sent to the Development Control Department of the County Council to Mrs Barnes of the Environment and Transport Department. Information on further consultation on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan was noted.
- 324 Councillor Hunt had brought to the attention of the Parish Council planning application E/03002/09/CW to vary condition of 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 31st December 2026.." This relates to the continued use of the **Grunty Fen landfill site**. Parish Councillors were very concerned that Witchford Parish Council had not been consulted regarding this application and that they believed the County was considering redesignating the site for non-reactive hazardous waste although this does not seem to form part of this planning application which refers only to extending the life of the site. The clerk was instructed to contact the County Council regarding this.
- 325 The Parish Council has been informed by the Returning Officer that steps can be taken to co-opt for the **vacancy** on the Parish Council. This has been advertised with a closing date of 17th April 2009.
- 326 It was agreed that three replacement chutes be ordered for **dog bins** in the village at a cost of £25.15 each plus delivery charge.
- 327 A meeting at Witchford Village College to discuss the proposed **all weather pitch** will be attended by the Chairman and the clerk on 24th April 2009 at 9.30 a.m.
- 328 Councillor Jellicoe has carried out a first **grass cut** on the Grunty Fen permissive path and footpath 12.
- 329 Work has been carried out on the Victoria Green pond. The Open Spaces Group thanked the Parish Council for funding this restoration and for the support of individual councillors – particularly Councillor Brand in removing the spoil.

