

Witchford Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd June 2010 at 7.30 pm in St Andrew's Hall

Present: Mr G Jellicoe (in the chair), Mrs L Langley, Mrs S Bromley-Allen, Mr T King, Mr G Barber, Mr I Brand

Apologies: Mr A Shields, Mr G Matthias, Mrs D Field, Mr W Hunt

In attendance: Mr G Wilson, Mrs P Wilson, Mr A Howe

Not present: Mr I Allen, Mr H Palmer

- 34 Mrs L Langley declared a personal interest in item 43 and Mr G Barber and Mrs S Bromley-Allen declared personal interests in item 42.
- 35 The **minutes** of the Annual General Meeting and Parish Council meeting held on 4th May 2010 were taken as read, approved and were signed by the Chairman.
- 36 Health and safety and insurance Information was noted from **Perrett's Amusements** concerning their forthcoming visit to the village. It is intended that they will pull onto the common on 16th August, build up and then open on Friday, 20th, Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd August, leaving on 23rd August.
- 37 Discussion took place on a request from East Cambridgeshire District Council for a response to the consultation on their **decision making arrangements**. It was agreed that the Parish Council was in favour of Option 3 - the status quo.
- 38 A local resident had contacted the Parish Council regarding an incident regarding her son on the Common Road **playpark**. Her son had fallen and hit the railings and whilst she felt he was just unlucky she asked that the distance between the equipment and the railings be checked. An independent inspection engineer visited the site on 26th May and confirmed that the equipment was installed by reputable manufacturers and conforms to current standards. He found no defects. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the resident advising her of this information. The Parish Council was pleased to hear that the boy had recovered from his bruises and grazes.
- 39 A request had been received from the **Guides** via the Parish Tree Warden for permission to plant a tree on the common to mark their centenary. The Parish Council has no objection in principle to this but feels that perhaps Victoria Green near the pond might be a better location. The clerk will contact East Cambridgeshire District Council regarding this.
- 40 Information was noted from the County Council regarding their proposals to make **Prohibition of Diving Orders** relating to Byways Open to All Traffic No 3 Wentworth, No 4 Wentworth, No 5 Wentworth, No 6 Wentworth, No 8 Witchford, No 9 Witchford, No 19 Coveney, No 13 Haddenham and No 10 Witchford. They Parish Council welcomed this and agreed to request also that similar orders be made for Witchford Byway 7 (New Road) and Byway 11 (Sandpit Drove).
- 41 **Report from District Councillor** – Councillor Pauline Wilson reported that she had received a report of a swing being faulty on the East Cambridgeshire playpark in Victoria Green. This was now being attended to. She had attended the Community Services meeting and reported that it was now proposed to build an underpass beneath the A10 to provide access to the proposed leisure facility on the Downham Road site. She reported her attendance at a Personnel Committee meeting and stated that despite the redundancies which have been made, more savings are still needed. Councillor Gareth Wilson reported that he will attend a seminar looking at

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options for Ely market. He advised that the Soham masterplan was agreed at the annual Council meeting. He reported that he had been removed from the revenue partnership joint committee which he believed to be because of views he had recently expressed regarding waste collection in the District. He confirmed that the Sainsbury planning application had been approved by the Planning Committee of East Cambridgeshire District Council.

- 42 Mr Andy Howe, the Chairman of the **Village Hall** Steering Group, spoke regarding the public meeting which had taken place on 26th March. It had been agreed at this meeting that the preferred option was for the Witchford Playing Fields Association to continue running the hall under its charitable status with a revitalized management committee being formed which is committed to ensuring that the village hall is developed and maintained to a high standard in the years to come. An inaccurate article had appeared recently in the Ely Standard – without any facts being checked with any member of the steering group or WPFPA committee. It had been agreed by the WPFPA to respond to this by means of a press release following their annual general meeting on 14th June. They hope that representatives of as many village organisations as possible will attend this meeting. It was confirmed that the Parish Council has allocated the £50,000 section 106 money to this project.

Planning

- 43 Proposed two-storey side extension and single storey porch – **33 Victoria Green** – no objection.
- 44 It was agreed that no immediate action be taken on **street lights** in the village – this matter will be considered again when budgets are prepared for the year 2011/2012.
- 45 It was noted with regret that Mrs S Bowd had **resigned** as Responsible Financial Officer and the clerk also wished to resign. The personnel working party will discuss this matter at its meeting on 8th June 2010.
- 46 No response has been received from the owner of the preferred piece of land on which the Parish Council hoped to provide additional **allotments**. It was agreed that the Chairman would follow up this matter one more time and at the same time Councillor Brand would pursue enquiries regarding the second choice piece of land.
- 47 A request had been received from East Cambridgeshire District Council for the production of a draft **emergency plan**. It was agreed that the Chairman and Councillor Langley would meet to discuss this.
- 48 The Chairman and Clerk had attended a meeting with the District Council regarding the new project to create **permanent woodlands** across the district. It was confirmed that a meeting has been arranged for 14th June with a representative of the Woodland Trust on the site of the 0.4 ha land which is owned by Mrs D Field and is adjacent to Long Meadow.
- 49 Membership of the various Parish Council groups **and working parties** was agreed as well as representation on outside bodies.
- 50 The **audit** papers have been signed by the internal auditor and sent off to the external auditors.
- 51 The **Village Walks** leaflet has now been distributed with the Witchfordian. Additional copies are available, at no charge, from the clerk.
- 52 Councillor Jellicoe has now **cut**: FP1, both permissive paths, BW6, BW 11, FP12 and FP10.

- 53 Complaints had been received from local residents regarding buses being late or not turning up and stating that residents had been unable to contact **Stagecoach**. The clerk was instructed to write to Stagecoach passing on these concerns and enclosing a copy of the petition sent to the Parish Council.
- 54 It was noted that the “bus stand” for the downloading and collection of children at **Rackham School** should be in place before the start of the September term.
- 55 It was noted that the **Household Waste Liaison** group meeting has not met since January.
- 56 It was noted that **fly tipping** of garden rubbish has been taking place in the drove between the common and Manor Court Road. This has been reported by the Chairman to the Waste Enforcement Officer at East Cambridgeshire District Council.
- 57 It was noted that the County Council were due to start work on **Pools Road** on 1st June and that this work will continue for around three weeks. The work involves timber piling, placing backing boards to the piles, then backfilling behind in order to stabilize areas of the verge where there has been some movement/slippage of the banks.
- 58 It was noted that a report was received of a fox which had been trapped and had died in a **snare** in Bedwell Hey Lane. This has been reported to the Police and RSPCA.
- 59 The bank reconciliation and the cheques on the schedule of cheques were approved.
- 60 The next Parish Council meeting will be on – Wednesday 7th July 2010.
Neighbourhood Panel meeting: 26th July 2010

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

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public.

Signed: Chairman

Date: