

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 February 2008 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: D J Saberton (Vice Chairman), J Anderson, A Berry, K Mackender, C Watson

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
Cllr A Bailey (ECDC)
Cllr T Goodge (ECDC)

Public question time opened at 7.30 pm – 3 members of the public regarding planning application 07/01433.
3 members of public present during meeting.

Mr D Saberton took the Chair.

Full Council business commenced at 7.45 pm.

08/019 **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr D A Bamforth

Action

08/020 **Declaration of Interest:** There were none

08/021 **Minutes of the meeting** of 8 January 2008 had been circulated, and were approved and signed.
Proposed by Mr C Watson, seconded Mrs J Anderson and agreed unanimously.

08/022 **Matters Arising**

There were none

08/023 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Neighbourhood Panels: Councillor A Bailey gave an up-date and advised that common issues were speeding vehicles and anti-social behaviour but the panels were intended to cover a wide range of issues and not just police issues.

Ely Master Plan: In addition to the Local Development Framework process the Ely Master Plan, a strategic plan led by Members rather than officers, was intended to look at the surrounding villages, eg housing, economic development, employment etc. Separate plans for Littleport and Soham.

08/024 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

07/01433/FUL Land adj. The Chestnuts, Ely Road, erection of new offices and staff facilities plus staff and customer parking area. Council supported this single storey building with associated staff facilities as part of its policy of supporting local business and employment opportunities.
Proposed Mr K Mackender, seconded Mr D Saberton and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

08/025 **PROPOSED DATA CENTRE AND ECOVILLAGE AT ELEAN BUSINESS PARK SUTTON**

Clerk reported on proposals and presented Chairman's report following his visit to the open session at Sutton on Friday 25 January 2008. Unfortunately the developers had not engaged with Witcham at this preliminary stage. Agreed to arrange for developers to attend next Parish Council meeting. Proposed Mrs J Anderson, seconded Mr D Saberton and agreed unanimously. Clerk and Mrs J Anderson to make necessary arrangements. Noted stormwater issues to be addressed.

ECDC Councillors A Bailey and T Goodge left the meeting.

08/026 RECREATION GROUND AND VILLAGE HALL FACILITIES

Land to side and rear of 2 Martins Lane. Solicitors progressing.

Grasscutting and grounds maintenance 2008. Mr Diantara had resigned. Clerk awaiting letter.
Review replacement of mower for banks and cemetery carried forward to next meeting,

Clerk

Monthly inspections of play equipment – Mr D Saberton advised new sandbags installed and turf under gates completed at infant play area.

08/027 REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

Church requested help to purchase replacement ride-on mower for churchyard. Possibly consider sharing resource between Church and Parish Council. Clerk to contract Treasurer regarding funds for churchyard maintenance. Proposed Mr D Saberton and agreed unanimously.

Clerk

Mepal Stay n' Play requested funding for continued arts and crafts activities. Clerk had requested further information.

08/028 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Bury Drove Management – CCC Countryside Team letter dated 5 February received. Kate Day had advised that funds were available for work to be carried out in the current financial year on drove management and closure of droves, Byways 11 (Back Lane/Bury Road), 12 (Wardy Hill Road), and 13 (Market Way) and she was keen to establish contact with Councillors for views and plan future meeting.

CCC Temporary Prohibition of Use Order 2008 (Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by the Road Traffic (temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 from 14 January until byway repairs completed or on 13 July,

Byways:

- 8 (by catchwater drain (Gravel Drove-Coveney)
- 10 Dams Head Drove (off Jerusalem Drove)
- 11 Back Lane/Bury Road – catchwater drain towards Coveney
- 12 Wardy Hill Road
- 13 Market Way

Clerk to report flytipping at Hive Road (new CCC pad) to ECDC

*DS/
Clerk***08/029 COMMUNITY POLICE**

Complaint of vandalism and criminal damage at crossroads, incidents with vehicles and bus shelter to be reported to Police and inform Village Hall Committee as some incidents could be linked to Village Hall bookings. Proposed Mr D Saberton and agreed unanimously. Clerk reported that PCSO Julie Collins was planning to attend a Council meeting soon.

*Clerk***08/030 REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

Nil

08/031 STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS

Repairs to road surface at The Slade completed.

CCC 5 Silver Street not functioning

08/032 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

ECDC Consultation on Introduction of National Standard Planning Application – no further comments

Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England – no comments

08/033 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were received and noted

Appointment of External Auditors – Moore Stephens and fee table
 ECDC Off Street Parking – retain coach parking Barton Road, research likely number of residents in core area of Ely affected by change in regulatory regime, Season tickets for Angel Drove car park – review 6 months, Cresswells car park remain open under monthly by month review.
 CCC Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement Programme 2008/9. Noted Witcham applications unsuccessful
 Ely Dial A Ride – AGM 28 March 2008 at 11.30 am at Witchford Village Hall

08/034 **FINANCE**

The following Receipts and Payments were presented, checked and approved

			£	£	£
Receipts	Nil				
Payments	000879	Classic Blasting – balance		43.75	43.75
	000880	J Lucas (Jan newsletter delivery)	6.00		6.00
	000881	CCC Street Light maintenance/Energy 2007/8	187.72		187.72
	000882	Mepal Office Stores Whats On Jan, Feb LGA s.142 WPC Newsletter Jan	40.50		40.50
	000883	CCC Youth Team Oct07 – Mar 08	500.00		500.00
	d/d	Talk Talk	3.86	.67	4.53

08/035 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 11 March 2008 commencing at 7.30 pm for monthly check of payments and receipts and 'open to the public' time. Business to commence at 7.45 pm.

All business to be considered must be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda at least 6 clear days prior to the meeting.

All

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed Dated