

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 5 January 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: M Housden (Chairman), K Mackender (Vice Chairman), J Bibby, J Herbert, J Lucas

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

No members of public present during meeting

16/001 **Apologies for Absence** were accepted from Mrs L Elbourne (prior engagement) Action
Apologies also received from District Councillor M Bradley

Clerk reported that sadly Mr P Read had passed away. Mr Read had served Witcham as County Councillor and supported the village for a great number of years. A card had been sent to his family.

16/002 **Declaration of Interest:**
The following declarations of interests were made:
Pecuniary interests - none
Personal interests – J Bibby (Item 16/008 15/01477/FUL)
Prejudicial interests - none

16/003 **Dispensations:**
To note Dispensations: Nil

16/004 **Public Participation:** There was none

16/005 **Minutes of the meeting** of 11 November 2015 had been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Chairman, seconded J Lucas and unanimously resolved.

16/006 Matters Arising

15/230&15/237: Dog Bin for Westway Place Clerk confirmed a letter had gone out to nearby residents and in the newsletter and she was progressing arrangements for installation of a new bin on the corner by the street sign/street light/water hydrant sign which ECDC had confirmed would be an acceptable location to them. Clerk

16/007 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

District Councillor A Bailey reported on County and District issues, namely the difficulties faced by the County Council in setting a budget and options being looked at for the future provisions of social care including setting up a pilot scheme for Little Downham village to devolve services to a more local base; village by village statistics were not available on use of the Zipper bus service and the Ely Standard would be doing an article about the service and taking a tour of the route on 14 January; new leisure centre facility in Ely should be ready by Autumn 2017; there would be a by-election for the County Council for the Sutton ward which included Mepal and Witcham; the new 6 screen Cineworld cinema for Ely should be ready for summer 2016; ECDC was setting up a business unit to trade in respect of some services; the front of Barton Road Ely carpark was to be turned over for housing development and although the coaches would have to be relocated there would be little impact on number of car parking spaces available due to re-configuration; Boundary Commission's Electoral review of East Cambs was very close to that requested by East Cambs District Council. She spoke about the

devolution agenda and possible options for working with other Councils, changing areas of administration and devolution of services such as adult and child social care.

8.10pm J Herbert temporarily left the meeting

16/008 **PLANNING**

15/00802/VAR Fenland Model Club Hive Road, Witcham To vary condition 1 (membership), 2 (noise), 5 (supervision), 11 (use of land) and 8 (operating times) of decision notice dated 27.2.13 for change of use of land for flying model aircraft – retrospective: A revised proposal in respect of the variation of **condition 8** to: Electric models are permitted to operate from the site during the following times: 10.00hrs to 20.30hrs on Monday to Fridays, 10.00hrs to 19.00hrs on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank holidays. This variation will be for a temporary period of one year.

Unanimously resolved that the Council objected to the proposal to amend hours and supports the concerns of nearby residents regarding noise and loss of amenity. Also the concerns of people using the nearby public rights of ways, including horseriders. The hours of operation should remain as originally agreed (2012/13) as this makes a reasonable compromise for people flying aircraft and residents/users of public rights of way. Proposed K Mackender, seconded J Bibby.

Clerk

15/01429/OUT Park Farm, Market Way, Witcham Re-submission of a withdrawn application for a replacement dwelling

Unanimously resolved that there was no objection. Proposed M Housden, seconded J Lucas

Clerk

15/01441/FUL Wilbey Hill Farm, Long Causeway, Coveney, Barn conversion to dwelling as previously approved (14/01064/ARN)

Unanimously resolved that there was no objection. Proposed J Lucas, seconded M Housden.

Clerk

15/01444/FUL Wilbey Hill Farm, Long Causeway, Coveney, Erection of replacement Malthouse outbuilding to provide open cart lodge, potting shed, store and associated works

Unanimously resolved that there was no objection. Proposed J Lucas, seconded M Housden.

Clerk

(J Bibby had declared a personal interest in the following application)

8.25pm J Herbert returned to the meeting

15/01477/FUL Rose Barn, Ely Road, Sutton Retrospective application for part change of use of existing offices/showrooms/garden area and ancillary parking to events venue.

Unanimously resolved that the Council objected to the proposal: Concerned about the impact of increased traffic on the A142 associated with this change of use; the impact on traffic to and from the site and the effect on the junction. Concerned that there was inadequate parking provision on site for a venue for 100 people plus staff servicing the event, including service vehicles, raising concerns about using the private road as an overflow carpark. Site provided for 25 vehicles. Parking on the private road would restrict access for others. Proposed M Housden, seconded J Lucas (J Bibby abstained)

Clerk

F/YR15/0985/F Mepal Motocross application – previous objections reiterated

16/009 **ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Public Right of Way (Back Lane) gates left permanently unlocked, padlock missing, and Public Right of Way (Back Lane) overgrown trees adj 14 Martins Lane. Clerk reported that these issues had been reported to CCC since November and that CCC would be making a site visit on 7 January 2016. Clerk to respond to resident.

Clerk

Village Hall Carpark, issues regarding location of silver container, bricks, poles and weeds were discussed. Response for Clerk to make to resident was agreed. Noted that the bricks and poles had been moved from the rear and placed by the side of the container away from fence but Clerk to ask Village Hall to remove completely from this site. The basketball board was scheduled to be removed by the contractor when the roadway was done. Complaints from Village Hall and resident that fallen apples were making a mess on the gravel and that the tree

Clerk

Clerk

16/009 **ITEMS RAISED BY RESIDENTS (cont)**

should be removed were considered. Complaints had not been received in other years. *Clerk*
 Resolved that the apple tree should remain a community resource for people to help themselves to the apples. Proposed M Housden, seconded K Mackender.

Reports were received that dogs were being exercised on the recreation ground. This is not permitted and will be monitored. *All*

A request from the Village Hall for a path across the new gravel car park to the play area and Village Hall for pushchairs was received. This could not be included in the contract for the new drive and in any case would be the responsibility of the Village Hall who had removed the old tarmac surface. There was good access to the play area via the tarmac path from High Street. *Clerk*

16/010 **CEMETERY AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

Clerk to continue with enquiries regarding new burial ground. Quotes for 2016 grasscutting and grounds maintenance were awaited. *Clerk*

16/011 **RECREATION GROUND**

Chairman reported that algae on the safety surfacing tiles had made them slippery and that he had hosed and swept it. He would monitor and it was noted that the grass was getting long again but it was too wet to cut. No problems to report on the play equipment itself. *MH*

16/012 **COMMUNITY POLICE**

No issues noted

16/013 **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

J Lucas had attended the Code of Conduct training at ECDC offices and would let Clerk have a copy of handouts for copying for other Councillors. *JL*

16/014 **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

Clerk reported that she had reported the outage of the street light at the junction of Headleys Lane and Bury Road.

Foliage was obstructing lights at beginning of The Slade, near Yew Tree House and near village sign and village hall drive. Clerk to report to CCC/Balfour Beatty. *Clerk*

16/015 **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

Local Government Boundary Commission: Draft Recommendations - New electoral arrangements for ECDC. Witcham together with Mepal, Sutton, Haddenham and Aldreth were to become the Haddenham and Sutton Ward with 3 members. Unanimously resolved that the Clerk should respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission to confirm the Council was happy with this proposal. Proposed J Lucas, seconded K Mackender *Clerk*

CAPALC Referendum Principles for the Parish Sector 2016/17
 The Council had no comments to make. *Clerk*

Integrated Advocacy Service
 The Council had no comments to make *Clerk*

ECDC Street Trading Policy
 The Council had no comments to make *Clerk*

16/016 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were received and noted

15/01468TRE Trees works Manor Farn House Birch and Spruce tree
 ECDC/Cambs ACRE Community Facilities Audit 2013 (Village/Community Halls)
 Wings for Life World Run 8 May 2016 (road closures Cambridge, Cottenham, Haddenham, Earith, Chatteris Somersham, Willingham and Longstanton)
 Cambridgeshire Police Rural Crime Newsletter <http://cambscountrysidewatch.co.uk/>
 Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter November
 Register of Electors
 Safeguarding Adults and Mental Capacity Act Newsletter - Winter/Christmas 2015
 CAPALC Training courses Jan-Mar 2016 for Councillors
 CCC Budget proposals
 CCC School Crossing Patrol Service budget cuts
 Environment Agency Ouse Washes works
 CCC Community Gritting Scheme
 EPR site visit Mepal, 17.2.16 (No one available to attend)
 ECDC Parish Council Conference 4.11.15 notes
 ECDC Community Transport Provision in East Cambs

16/017 **FINANCE**

J Lucas left the meeting at 9.15pm

Cheques 001541 – 001546 in respect of payments for invoices due payment before the end of December and salaries had been made between November and January meetings, and had been checked by J Bibby and Chairman.

		£	£	£
001541	Barcham Trees	95.00	19.00	114.00
001542	Clerks salary Dec	219.84		219.84
001543	CCC LGSS	106.16		106.16
001544	Post Office – HMRC Oct-Dec	164.80		164.80
001545	FJ Wells 1&1 website fees reimbursement 14.11.15-14.2.16	31.43		31.43
001546	JP Wells whats on reimbursement Nov & Dec/Jan	22.20		22.20

The following receipts and payments for January were checked by the Chairman and J Bibby.

		£	£	£
Receipts	Nil			
Payments	001547 CCC LGSS	106.16		106.16
	001548 Clerks salary Jan	219.84		219.84
	001549 Cambs ACRE membership fees	45.00	9.00	54.00
	001550 National Association of Local Councils	25.00	5.00	30.00

Resolved to approve the December and January payments as listed above. Proposed by Chairman and unanimously agreed.

Approval was given for the Clerk to attend a training session on 12 February £10

Clerk was progressing arrangements for auto-enrolment and would be informing the Pensions Regulator that the Council was in the LGPS scheme

16/018 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 10 February 2016 at 7.30 pm.

ITEMS for next agenda: Obstruction of footways by parked vehicles

Any business, including receipts and payments, to be considered at Parish Council meeting *All*
must be delivered to the Clerk at least 7 clear days prior to the meeting. (*Standing Orders 4 and 5*)

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

Signed Dated