

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 January 2018 at 7.32 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
Cllr L Duprè (CCC)
4 Members of the Public (Public Participation)

No members of public present during meeting

Action

18/001 **Apologies for Absence** were received from District Councillors M Bradley and A Bailey

18/002 **Declaration of Interest:**

The following declarations of interests were made:

Pecuniary interests - none

Personal interests - none

Prejudicial interests – M Housden Item 18/008 Kings of Witcham (neighbour consultee and he said he wanted to comment under public participation)

18/003 **Dispensations:**

To note Dispensations: Nil

7.34pm K Mackender arrived

18/004 **Public Participation:**

K Mackender took the Chair and opened the meeting

M Housden advised that he had written to ECDC Planning Department as a neighbour consultee to express concern that the amendments did not go far enough in addressing the issues raised previously. He was pleased plot 1 had been adjusted but felt it was still too close to the neighbouring existing property. Previous comments had included concerns about overlooking neighbouring properties, hedges, and inadequate surface water and foul sewerage provision. He also presented letters submitted to ECDC from the two other neighbours who had raised concerns, and these were examined by Councillors at the meeting.

K Mackender asked the members of the public if they had any comments to make and they confirmed that they were present regarding item 18/009 - 30 and 40mph speed signs only.

7.38pm M Housden took the Chair

The members of the public advised that they would donate £4000 to the Parish Council on condition that it would be used to support a 30mph and 40mph speed limit extension at The Slade and Mepal Road.

Members of the Parish Council thanked the members of the public for the information regarding volumes of traffic using the businesses on Mepal/Witcham Road. This had been forwarded to Cambridgeshire County Council in support of the Parish Council's application for extension of speed reduction measures from The Slade to Mepal Road.

Clerk confirmed that the estimate from the County Council to include 40mph buffer zone was nearly £6000 including VAT and admin fee. When asked about timescales, County Councillor L Duprè thought that the works would be completed and invoices issued post-April 2018.

- 18/004 K Mackender sought confirmation that all the consents to complete the work (eg County Council and Police, and any other parties, satisfied with proposals), were in place and the sums estimated were final.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for attending and supporting the proposals, and they left at 7.56pm

Chair opened the meeting

- 18/005 **Minutes of the meeting** of 13 December 2017 had been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, and agenda of same date signed by Chairman as confirmation of the business transacted at that meeting. Proposed K Mackender, seconded J Bibby and unanimously resolved.

- 18/006 **Matters Arising** There were none

- 18/007 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Reports from County and District Councillors, previously circulated, were noted.

County Councillor L Dupré advised that she had attended a site meeting with the District Council Tree Officer, the Open Spaces Officer and an officer from Sanctuary Housing, following a complaint to the Cambridge News about flooding on the green area, the car park and the footway at the bottom of Westway Place. Part of the problem was that the ditch was not draining properly due to tree roots. The District Council would clean out the ditch and ensure the grass was cut fortnightly during the summer, and Sanctuary would look at options to extend the carparking facilities at this area. The District Council would investigate food scraps being left on the grass. The footway was believed to be the responsibility of Sanctuary and the homeowners, not the County Council. She had carried out a letter drop to residents earlier in the evening. It was noted that the residents had not reported the incident to the Parish Council but appeared to have gone straight to the newspaper.

County Councillor reported on the A142 (Chatteris to Ely) survey presentation at Witchford in December, which had also been attended by J Lucas. Problem areas had been identified and with latest software in collecting and analysing video footage of this length of road, together with other data including accidents/fatalities etc, a prioritised list of works had been drawn up which could be done section by section as capital works. It had been included for the Transport Investment Programme which had a £1.3m budget. and other sources of funding would be looked at, eg Mayor/combined authority. She was hopeful that some of the identified works would get completed at some point in the future.

County Councillor Dupré was thanked and she left the meeting at 8.15pm

K Mackender took the Chair for the following item:

- 18/008 **PLANNING**

17/00689/FUL Kings of Witcham Amendment Demolition of existing motor vehicle garage and construction of 6No 4-bed dwellings, 2No 3-bed dwellings, garaging, access road and associated works

Councillors reviewed the amendments – change in layout and design, and submission of trees information.

Resolved to respond stating that the Council was pleased to note the plans had been improved by the alignment of the house on plot 1 being brought into similar line to existing properties either side of the development, and windows and doors at Plot 1 not directly overlooking

6 The Slade. However, many of the issues raised in the Council's response to the application in May 2017 remain unresolved; namely too many houses/density out of keeping with street scene, houses on the front of the site too high (ref 13/0073/OUM Clause 4 ridge height max 7.5m), destruction of hedges, sewage and drainage problems, lack of footway. Clerk to include a copy of the original response when responding this time. Proposed J Lucas, seconded L Elbourne.

8.29pm M Housden returned to the Chair

18/009 **30MPH and 40MPH SPEED SIGNS**

Clerk had previously circulated latest information from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding estimated cost: £4200 plus £840 CCC admin fee, plus £840 VAT.

Resolved that the Clerk contact Cambridgeshire County Council for confirmation that

- a) the estimate provided would now be the final cost for the latest proposals
- b) all the necessary approvals with the various bodies were now in place

Proposed K Mackender, seconded L Elbourne

Clerk

18/010 **RESIDENT COMPLAINTS – STRAWBURNER LOW-LOADER LORRIES**

Complaint regarding lorries up and down The Slade and Martins Lane pre-Christmas had been received.

Resolved to inform complainant that it was understood it was a one off to clear an old straw stack and the only sensible route was through the village. Proposed J Lucas, seconded J Herbert.

Clerk

18/011 **FINANCE**

The January receipts and payments had been checked by K Mackender and confirmed as correct.

Resolved to approve the receipts and payments as listed at the end of these Minutes. Proposed K Mackender, seconded L Elbourne

Clerk

18/012 **RECREATION GROUND**

Weekly inspections of the play equipment and recreation ground – no report.

18/013 **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME**

J Lucas asked if the Council would be interested in supporting a new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for the village. She was prepared to lead setting it up. In principle the Council was in agreement to a village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and suggested J Lucas should contact the County Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator to arrange for a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting. Clerk to confirm date

*JL
Clerk*

18/014 **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

Clerk gave a report on the ‘awareness’ session she had attended in December and presented notes on overview of actions to be considered to ensure compliance by 25 May 2018. She recommended Councillors visit the ICO website where up-dates would be posted and advised that CAPALC was planning to offer training in March. CAPALC was also considering offering a county wide Data Protection Officer although another option might be available from District Councils.

*All
Cllrs*

18/015 **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

Policing Precept Consultation – 3 options: preferred option to increase of £12 pa (based on Band D) for additional 55 police officers, alternatively increase of £4 pa to keep same number of police officers or Nil increase which could result in loss of 23 police officers/cuts elsewhere. The Council had no preferred option and recommended that individuals complete the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/W3CD8P3> Clerk to arrange for note to go on website and What’s On.

*All
Cllrs*

Clerk

18/016 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were received and noted
 CAPALC Councillor and Chairman Training – No bookings required
 2017/18 External Auditor Update - training webinar on 23 January - Clerk
 Orchard East – Girton College 17 February 2018 10am to 3.30pm – No nominee
 NALC Newsletter
 NALC Prudential Framework Consultation response
 CCC Highway Roadworks and Events Diaries
 CCC Real Time Passenger information signs
 UK Power Networks Roadshows /Norwich 5 February 2018
 Cambs and Peterborough Fire Authority Annual Report and Statement of Assurance
 Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2018 – M Housden proposed A Bamforth, K Mackender
 seconded and agreed
 Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2016/17
 ECDC newsletter
 CCC Innovate and Cultivate Fund advice session 8 February 2018 – No nominee

18/017 **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

There were none

18/018 **COMMUNITY POLICE**

No issues received

18/019 **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

K Mackender reported that he had not found the unlit street light following the last meeting.

18/020 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 14 February 2017 at 7.30 pm.

ITEMS for next agenda: Witcham Website (It was noted that L Elbourne had seen the volunteer and he was building the website. She offered to upload agendas and minutes etc each month. Agreed that Councillors provide details about themselves to go on the website and a disclaimer was required).

Any business, including receipts and payments, to be considered at Parish Council meeting 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 meeting closed at 9.28pm

January Schedule of Receipts and Payments

| | | £ | £ | £ |
|----------|------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Receipts | UKPN Lease Recreation Ground | 63.89 | | 63.89 |
| Payments | 001685 Truelink | 60.00 | 12.00 | 72.00 |
| | 001686 Clerk salary (Jan) | 224.46 | | 224.46 |
| | 001687 CCC LGSS (Jan) | 115.44 | | 115.44 |

Signed Dated