

## WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 11 October 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

*In attendance* Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)  
Cllr L Duprè (CCC)

**No members of public present during meeting**

- Action
- 17/165 **Apologies for Absence** were accepted from L Elbourne (other commitment)  
Clerk advised that County Councillor L Duprè had an earlier appointment and would join the meeting as soon as she could.
- 17/166 **Declaration of Interest:**  
The following declarations of interests were made:  
Pecuniary interests - none  
Personal interests – J Bibby Item 17/172 Amberlea Kennels  
Prejudicial interests - none
- 17/167 **Dispensations:**  
To note Dispensations: Nil
- 17/168 **Public Participation:** There was none
- 17/169 **Minutes of the meeting** of the additional meeting of 23 August 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 J Lucas, seconded J Bibby and unanimously resolved.
- Minutes of the meeting** of the meeting of 13 September 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 J Herbert, seconded M Housden and unanimously resolved.
- 17/170 **Matters Arising**  
There were none  
  
Chair proposed moving agenda item 17/171 to later in the meeting when the County Councillor arrived. There were no District Councillors present.
- 17/172 **PLANNING**
- 17/01602/FUL Amberlea Kennels hydro pool extension (09/00354/FUL) *Clerk*  
**Resolved** that the Council had no concerns. Proposed K Mackender, seconded J Lucas
- Clerk advised that 17/01404/OUT land southwest 1 Market Way proposed bungalow, garaging, parking turning and associated site works had been withdrawn.
- The following ECDC decisions were noted:
- 17/01361/FUL High Point Hive Road construction of 4-bed, 2storey detached dwelling - reduced scale of dwelling – approved  
17/01378/FUL Hillcrest Mepal Road – approved  
17/01547/OUT 9 High Street outline planning low energy sustainable home, northern boundary No 9 High Street – approved

17/01326/OUT adj 2 Market Way outline application for 2-storey dwelling, single carport, parking, access, turning and associated site works - refused

There was a great deal of discussion about the approval of 17/10547/OUT.

**Resolved** that the Council write to the Chief Executive of East Cambs District Council seeking an explanation as to how a decision in February 2017 could be reversed in October when there were no substantial changes apart from it being an outline planning application. The original [environmental] reasons, for refusal must still stand because they were unrelated to the building. Members questioned the purpose of commenting on planning applications (as a representative of the village). They felt there were two options, one of which was to decide not to comment on planning applications any more. Members requested that the Chief Executive be asked to attend a Council meeting to explain to the Council and parishioners the planning process, in particular in relation to this application. Members were disappointed that their District Council representatives had not attended recent meetings when this application had been discussed, and to hear the views of the members of the public who were present.

*Clerk*

Proposed K Mackender, seconded J Lucas.

**Resolved** that the Clerk forward a copy of the letter to Chief Executive of ECDC to District Councillors representing the parish and to ask why in particular the District Councillor, who is a resident in the village, did not represent the village for which he was elected but did represent Mepal, with success. Proposed K Mackender, seconded J Lucas.

*Clerk*

## 17/171 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Report from County Councillor had been previously circulated.

J Lucas asked about Littleport Community Primary School being chosen as a research school under the 'Opportunity Area' status for East Cambs and Fenland. A project Manager was yet to be appointed and projects identified.

It was noted that the moving of the County Archives to the old Strikes Bowling Alley building from Shire Hall was expected to be 2019 rather than 2018. There were proposals to move the Registry Office to the site too.

County Councillor L Duprè was thanked and she left the meeting at 8.30pm.

## 17/173 **FINANCE**

### Receipts and Payments

The October receipts and payments had been checked by J Bibby and confirmed as correct. Invoice for Haine Tree Services £402 had been received earlier in the day and was added to the list.

Clerk sought approval to pay invoice from Setons for dog signs, £38.30, which was expected any day

**Resolved** that the Clerk arrange for payment of Setons invoice on receipt, £38.30

*Clerk*

Clerk reported that HMRC would no longer be accepting cheques.

**Resolved** that arrangements be made for payments to be made by direct debit. Proposed K Mackender, seconded J Herbert

*Clerk*

**Resolved** to approve the receipts and payments as listed at the end of these Minutes. Proposed M Housden, seconded J Lucas.

Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday Service:

**Resolved** that approval be given for £25 from Chairman's allowance for wreath for Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday Service. Proposed J Bibby, seconded K Mackender

*Clerk*

### Quarterly Accounts and Reconciliations to 30 September 2017

Quarterly accounts and reconciliations to 30 September had been previously circulated and the budgets were reviewed. Accounts and bank statements checked by Chairman. Noted that all budget headings were on track.

**Resolved** that payment for the new village sign would be taken from general reserves. Proposed J Lucas, seconded M Housden.

*Clerk*

17/173 **FINANCE (cont)**

**Resolved** that the quarterly accounts and reconciliations to 30 September be accepted. Proposed J Lucas, seconded K Mackender.

Proposals for 2018 Budget and Precept

Clerk to include provision for cemetery, play equipment and speed reduction signs.

*Clerk*

Clerk to make enquiries for interest rates to transfer some of monies in deposit account to a higher paying investment account.

*Clerk*Adoption of Financial Regulations

The revised Financial Regulations, as discussed at the September meeting, had been previously circulated.

**Resolved** that the new Financial Regulations, as discussed at the previous meeting, be adopted with immediate effect. Proposed J Lucas, seconded K Mackender.

17/174 **RECREATION GROUND**

Chairman reported that there was nothing to report on the weekly inspections of the play equipment and recreation ground.

Grasscutting

There were no comments received regarding grasscutting

17/175 **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

Cambridgeshire Local Council Development Plan (ACRE). The Council had no comments to make and J Lucas agreed to attend the meeting on 17 November 2017.

*JL*17/176 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were received and noted

East Cambs Conference 10 October 2017 12pm onwards Littleport Leisure Centre

ECDC Reception for Chairman

Cambridgeshire Festival of Remembrance 29 October 2017

CCC Roadworks & Events Bulletin 1-15th October 2017

CCC Road Works & Events Bulletin 16th-30th September 2017

CCC Changes to Local Bus Services

Environment Agency Ouse Washes Section 10 works Stakeholder Briefing

Countryside Alliance Nominate now in the 'Rural Oscars' 2017

ECDC Planning Parish Council Autumn Newsletter

CCC Cambridgeshire Highways Depot Open Days 2017 - East Cambridgeshire 9 October 2017.

17/177 **COMMUNITY POLICE**

Councillors reported there had been noise from racing at the Elean Business Park on 6 October 2017 until 2.00am. Clerk confirmed she had sought an up-date from District Councillor A Bailey as this was something ECDC and the Police were dealing with. Clerk asked to contact District Councillor Bailey again to report concerns of residents and find out if anyone knew who owned and was responsible for the site.

*Clerk*17/178 **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

The board in the grass verge near village hall drive in front of the street lamp was loose. A 'roadworks' sign had not been removed following recent road re-surfacing near the 30mph sign in The Slade.

*Clerk*

Clerk reported that Anglian Water advised that they were putting in calming measures to control sudden bursts of high pressure and reduce number of mains water bursts. Clerk instructed to write to Anglian Water to say residents and the Council are still concerned about the number of bursts

*Clerk*

17/179 **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

There were none

17/180 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 8 November 2017 at 7.30 pm.

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*) All

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.18pm

**October Schedule of Receipts and Payments**

		£	£	£
Receipts	Precept	6550.00		6550.00
Payments	Confirmed following last meeting:			
	001662 Cancelled			
	001663 Brignell Bookbinders	79.50		79.50
	001665 PKF Littlejohn External Auditor	200.00	40.00	240.00
	New payments			
	001666 Truelink September groundwork	316.00	63.20	379.20
	001667 Cartridgesave Ltd	46.49	9.30	55.79
	001668 Clerks salary (Oct)	224.26		224.26
	001669 CCC LGSS (Oct)	115.44		115.44
	001670 Mijan Ltd Internal Auditor	50.00		50.00
	001671 J Wells reimburse What's On s.142	11.10		11.10
	001672 Haine Trees Ltd	335.00	67.00	402.00
	001673 Seton(dog signs)			38.30

Signed ..... Dated .....