

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 December 2017 at 7.30 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 M Bradley (ECDC)
Cllr L Duprè (CCC)
4 Members of the Public (Public Participation)

17/197 **Apologies for Absence** were received from District Councillors A Bailey Action

17/198 **Declaration of Interest:**
The following declarations of interests were made:
Pecuniary interests - none
Personal interests - none
Prejudicial interests - none

17/199 **Dispensations:**

To note Dispensations: Nil

17/200 **Public Participation:** Chairman opened the meeting to allow members of the public to speak. He welcomed 4 members of the public, representatives of the Witcham Equestrian Centre, who were attending regarding Cambridgeshire County Council 3rd party scheme for extension of 30mph speed signs. The proposals and costs (diagram and quote) were explained and the representatives from Witcham Equestrian Centre said they wished to fundraise to support the initiative. The Council had set aside £1250 as reserves in the 2018/19 budget and Precept. Total cost of the scheme as supported by the County Council Highways team and Police was £2622.53 plus admin fee £524.51 plus VAT £524.41, total £3671.54.

Other residents on Mepal Road had also pledged financial support and the Witcham Equestrian Centre representatives were confident that £2000 was an achievable target, and put forward various fundraising activities that they would employ. Members of the Council and the Witcham Equestrian Centre were not happy to dismiss the original proposals which had been put to the County Council for creating a 40mph zone prior to the beginning of the extended 30mph zone. Parish Council representatives who had attended the site meeting with the County Council earlier in the year confirmed that at that time the Highways representatives had not been keen on a 40mph zone due to problems regarding enforcement. Councillors and representatives from the Witcham Equestrian Centre cited a number of other villages where a 40mph zone had been set up in front of the 30mph zones and suggested Clerk should pursue this again with the County Council. Clerk advised that in July she had asked for costings to include 40mph zones. She had repeated requests but costings for the 40mph zones had not been received. Noted that the costings now presented were a reduced rate because there was an opportunity to share advertising costs with another village. Clerk

Witcham Equestrian Centre representatives undertook to provide the Clerk with traffic movement data in and out of the centre within the next week or so.

County Councillor Dupre asked to be included in copy correspondence so that she could support and assist the request.

7.58 The Chairman thanked the representatives of the Witcham Equestrian Centre and they left the meeting.

Chairman closed meeting to the public

17/201 **Minutes of the meeting** of 8 November 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 L Elbourne and unanimously resolved.

17/202 **Matters Arising** There were none

17/203 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

County Councillor L Dupré presented her report. Points of note

- County Council's financial position had worsened and budget preparations were underway with the Council needing to cut £37.9m from its budget next year, in addition to addressing current overspending.
- A working party was looking at proposals to move HQ from Shire Hall, possibly to Alconbury or Northstowe; however with the new Mayor's proposed review of local government arrangements in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough it was not clear that a County Council would continue.
- Road Safety Partnership had launched new road safety campaign highlighting 'Fatal Four' contributors in the majority of road traffic accidents – inappropriate speed, driver distractions, lack of seat belt and alcohol/drug impairment. In 2013/15 Cambridgeshire was the worst performing authority in the East of England for road deaths and serious injuries, and between 2015/16 and 2016/17 the number of people killed or seriously injured on Cambridgeshire roads had risen by one third from 293 to 384. Latest figures to June 2017 showed a rise to 408. Nationally the rise was 8%; however there had been a change in methodology for assessing serious injuries although possibly not reflecting proportionately to the level of increase now recorded.
- The Mayor and Combined Authority had agreed to spend up to £150k on bus provision review across the County. Rail services were improving to provide a service from Cambridge to Brighton from May 2018 and Peterborough to Horsham (both calling at Gatwick). From 2019 there would be a Cambridge to Maidstone service.
- A Public Inquiry into Networks Rail's proposed level crossing closures had commenced at Hallmark Hotel, Bar Hill. Some closures had been withdrawn, eg Little Thetford, Ely North junction. Ely Second Drove and March Middle Drove. County Council objected to 12 of the remaining 25 proposals, with a further 5 holding objections.
- Methodology for primary school places was being examined from 25-35 places per 100 homes to 30-40 places. She was meeting with officers regarding expansion of Rackham school.
- Mepal and Witcham school had achieved Good on a recent Ofsted inspection.

District Councillor M Bradley reported he was meeting with the Environment Agency regarding flood protection in the Ouse Washes. The District Council had now adopted the street light at Westway Place, bottom carpark, and repairs etc were in progress to make it safe and functional again. The Speedwatch group had carried out two sessions. Copies of the Great Ouse Tide River Baseline Report were circulated.

8.18pm The District and County Councillors left the meeting.

17/205 **PLANNING**

17/01902/FUL Paddock adj Witcham House Headleys Lane. Stable block, haystore, wash down area and riding area (menage) 40x20

Resolved that the Council had some concerns about the application and asked if there was any potential to move further away from the housing on Market Way. Proposed J Lucas, seconded K Mackender (4 for, 2 abstentions)

Clerk

17/02023/FUL 8 Silver Street Proposed single storey extension and first floor extension
Resolved that the Council had no concerns. Proposed J Lucas, seconded J Bibby

Clerk

17/01991/FUL 7 Martins Lane Demolition of dwelling and replace with 2 new dwellings (phased development) **Resubmission of previously approved 13/00522/FUL** (following expiry Nov17).

17/205 **PLANNING (cont)**

Resolved that the Council had no concerns in respect of this application, a resubmission of a previously approved application. Proposed Chair, seconded J Bibby.

Clerk

Correspondence from ECDC regarding 9 High Street planning consent process was received and noted.

17/205 **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS****ECDC Proposed Submission Local Plan (Planned Growth for East Cambridgeshire to 2036)**

J Lucas advised that the Proposed Submission Local Plan contained statements which were now redundant for Witcham (para 7.46.3) ie improvements for changing room facilities at the Village Hall and completion of the A142 cycleway between Witcham Toll and Wentworth.

Resolved that the Clerk should send in submission Response Form H, as completed in the meeting, advising that the two statements relating to refurbishment of Village Hall/changing facilities and the completion of the cycleway link between Witcham Toll and Wentworth were redundant as the projects had now been completed. Proposed J Lucas, seconded J Herbert.

Clerk

17/206 **30 MPH SPEED SIGNS**

Following discussion under public participation in respect of financial support for 3rd party scheme for 30mph extension at Mepal Road and The Slade, it was **resolved** that the Clerk should contact CCC to ask for the 40mph speed limit to precede the 30mph zone, and to request costings to cover from the proposed new 30mph starting point back along Mepal Road as far as practically possible, to Whitegate Farm or at least the village boundary, and at part of The Slade. Noted that the Witcham Equestrian and nearby residents would fundraise for the balance (currently £2000). Proposed L Elbourne, seconded K Mackender

Clerk

17/207 **FINANCE**

- a) The December receipts and payments had been checked by J Bibby and L Elbourne, and confirmed as correct.

Clerk advised that the ACRE membership fees were due for renewal and there had been a small increase of £1.50 including VAT.

Resolved to approve renewal of ACRE membership. Proposed J Lucas, seconded M Housden.

Clerk

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

Clerk

- b) Clerk advised that MiJan Ltd had confirmed the appointment of Internal Auditor subject to acceptance of a slight increase in fees to £60.

Resolved that the increase in fee for internal audit of £60 be accepted. Proposed K Mackender, seconded J Bibby.

Clerk

17/208 **RECREATION GROUND AND CEMETERY MANAGEMENT**

- a) Chairman advised that there was nothing to report on the weekly inspections of the play equipment and recreation ground.
- b) Haddenham Football teams – request to use recreation ground for matches on Saturdays, received and considered. Concerns that the recreation ground was not large enough, needed to protect cricket facility and use by young children.

Resolved that the Council would not consent to use of the recreation ground by the Haddenham football teams as existing use precludes other use. Proposed by L Elbourne, seconded M Housden.

Clerk

17/208 **RECREATION GROUND AND CEMETERY MANAGEMENT**

Clerk

- c) Inscription on memorial. Application received from Hibbitt & Sons (Masonry) Ltd for additional inscription.

Resolved to approve the additional inscription on existing memorial by Hibbitt & Sons (Masonry) Ltd subject to usual conditions. Proposed Chairman and agreed by all.

Clerk advised that she had received an enquiry for interment of ashes in the Garden of Remembrance and was awaiting further details.

17/209 **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

J Lucas gave a report on the ACRE Annual Parish Conference held on 17 November 2017 and circulated leaflets. The event covered devolution and the options for parishes to raise the Precept to provide more services, including the CCC Innovate and Cultivate funding scheme. A workshop had covered promotion of parish councils at village events and surgeries, use of social media etc.

J Lucas gave a report on the A142 Road Safety Study Presentation held on 7 December 2017 and it was noted that there had been a 57% increase in accidents between Sutton and Ely.

17/210 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were received and noted.

Anglian Water – email giving further information about water pressure management which had been previously circulated

CCC Winter Health Packs (20 ordered for L Elbourne to distribute, including Church coffee morning group). LE

CCC Highway Roadworks and Events Diaries

ECDC Homeless Reduction Action

CAPALC AGM 7 December 2017 Histon. Apologies from Witcham had been sent.

CAPALC/SCDC Ending loneliness in Cambridgeshire

CAPALC Good Councillors Guide 2017

CAPALC General Data Protection Regulations (noted training to be made available)

NALC Newsletters, Bulletins (41) and Briefings

17/211 **COMMUNITY POLICE**

Noise issues noted.

17/212 **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

K Mackender to check light outage at Headley's Lane end of High Street and forward to Clerk for reporting to Balfour Beatty. KM

17/213 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 10 January 2017 at 7.30pm

ITEMS for next agenda: **Neighbourhood Watch** (JL advised that she had details of volunteers and would obtain more information for the Council to consider re-introducing a scheme). JL

Witcham Website (J Herbert said she would contact the resident who had offered to take on the village website. Clerk advised that consideration would need to be given to the requirements under the new General Data Protection Regulations as well as the Transparency Regulations for Parish Councils). JH

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 Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm

All

December Schedule of Receipts and Payments

		£	£	£
Receipts	R J Pepper Interment fees	79.00		79.00
	Hibbitt Memorial fees	25.00		25.00
Payments	d/d/ 1&1 Internet domain fees	32.97	6.59	39.56
	d/d Talk Talk Tel Aug-Oct	2.68		2.68
	001680 Clerks salary Dec	224.26		224.26
	001681 CCC LGSS (Dec)	115.44		115.44
	001682 HMRC	168.40		168.40
	001683 J Wells	11.10		11.10
	001684 Cambridgeshire ACRE membership fee	46.25	9.25	55.50

Signed Dated