

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

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

No members of public present during meeting

- Action
- 18/050 **Apologies for Absence** were accepted from J Bibby and District Councillors A Bailey and M Bradley
- 18/051 **Declaration of Interest:**
 The following declarations of interests were made:
 Pecuniary interests - none
 Personal interests - none
 Prejudicial interests –none
- 18/052 **Dispensations:**
 To note Dispensations: Nil
- 18/053 **Public Participation:** Chair welcomed members of the public and opened the meeting for them to speak. All were attending in respect of 18.065 - 30mph and 40mph speed signs.
- A member of the public said that she welcomed the Council's initiative to extend the 30mph speed limit through the village and the additional 40mph buffer at The Slade and Mepal Road. However, she felt this would not stop people speeding as she regularly saw vehicles speeding within the existing 30mph zone. She reported cars travelling through at about 50mph between 6 and 6.30am, and at around 7.30am and later in the evening vehicles travelling at 40mph or more. With additional housing at Chatteris and beyond, more commuters were coming through Witcham in order to avoid the hold-ups at the Sutton roundabout. A second member of the public asked if a joint venture could be undertaken with Mepal who had been wanting to extend the speed limits on the Witcham Road so that it was 40mph all along the back road. J Lucas advised that this had been raised with the County Council and a response had been received that they would not support as there was enforcement issues. Chair advised that this was an issue for Speedwatch. The first member of the public confirmed that she would be willing to assist as a volunteer for Speedwatch. Clerk to inform the co-ordinator, District Councillor M Bradley. The member of the public asked for checks to be carried out from 6am between the Village Hall drive on Martins Lane down through The Slade.
- Clerk
- 2 members of the public gave a report on their efforts to raise funds to donate to the Parish Council to help with funding the 30 and 40 mph speed signs. They had been approached by the media. It was noted that the Cambridge News had misquoted and this would be raised with them for a correction to be published. It was noted that a safety talk was to take place on 21 April 7-9pm. Chair, Vice-Chair or L Elbourne would attend to open the event. The members of the public asked if a statement could be prepared by the Council to hand out to people with questions.
- Chair
KM
LE
- All members of the public left the meeting at 8.05pm. Chairman closed the public participation section and re-opened the Council meeting.
- 18/054 **Minutes of the meeting** of 14 February 2018 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 Chair, seconded L Elbourne and unanimously resolved.

Minutes of the additional meeting of 26 February 2018, called to urgently consider planning application 17/0199/FUL 7 Martins Lane – amendment to access, recorded that the meeting was inquorate and therefore cancelled. (previously circulated). Chairman proposed acceptance but there was no one present tonight who was at that meeting to confirm as a true record. K Mackender gave his apologies for having been unable to attend the meeting as planned.

18/055 **Matters Arising** – There were none.

18/056 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

Reports from County and District Councillors, previously circulated, were noted. J Lucas thanked the County Councillor for her report which she found informative and easy to read. County Councillor Duprè advised that there would be no increase in adult care charges.

County Councillor Duprè left the meeting at 8.15pm

18/057 **PLANNING**

17/01902/FUL Paddock adj Witcham House – Amendment (cancelled).

Clerk reported that ECDC had advised the details in respect of the amendment had been cancelled and that further plans would be available shortly. In the event the said plans had arrived that morning and the Clerk sought dates from the Councillors so that she could arrange an additional Council meeting to consider the plans. The date for comments on the amendment was 27 March 2018. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for the meeting.

Clerk

The following ECDC decisions were noted:

17/02023/FUL 8 Silver Street, single storey extension and first floor extension – Approved
17/01991/FUL 7 Martins Lane, demolition of dwelling and replace with 2 new dwellings (phased development) Resubmission of previously approved 13/00522/FUL - Approved

18/058 **FINANCE**

The March 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 Chair.

Clerk

Year-End Accounts and Annual Return. Clerk advised that she would be preparing the year-end accounts and associated documents as soon as the bank statements to 31 March 2018 were available. A date for the internal audit was to be arranged.

Clerk

18/059 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – WEDNESDAY 16 MAY 2018**

The draft agenda was discussed and agreed. Meeting to start at 7pm. Clerk to make arrangements for speakers and reports from village organisations as usual.

Clerk

18/060 **2017/18 ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

Clerk had circulated previous year's report and asked for items to be included for this year. Items to be included discussed. Photos and items from Councillors to be forwarded shortly to enable Clerk to finalise draft.

Clerk

MH

JH

18/061 **SPRING NEWSLETTER**

Clerk had circulated draft which was discussed and amended. Clerk to finalise for distribution.

Clerk

18/062 **VOLUNTARY SPRING LITTERPICK**

Clerk reported that the litterpick co-ordinator was proposing to hold a village litterpick in April.

Resolved that the Council was very pleased to support this event and some would attend on the day. Proposed J Lucas, seconded Chair.

Clerk

18/063 **RECREATION GROUND**

Chairman reported that there was nothing to report on the weekly inspections of the play equipment and recreation ground. Clerk advised that Truelink had confirmed they had cleaned the safety surfacing in October and would be doing a Spring clean when it was drier. Annual Play Inspection would be due soon.

Clerk

L Elbourne reported that she had been contacted regarding conifer at The Slade/Silver Street junction obstructing visibility for roadusers. She would check to see whose land it was on.

LE

18/064 **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

Community Governance Review and Polling District Review. The Council had no comments to make.

Clerk

Submission of East Cambridgeshire Local Plan. The Council had no comments to make.

18/065 **30MPH AND 40MPH SPEED SIGNS**

Clerk reported that the County Council was progressing the Road Traffic Orders. Noted that the article in the Cambridge News on 9 March was factually incorrect. Correction to be requested. J Herbert to prepare statement for Clerk and Chairman for use in dealing with future enquiries.

Clerk

JH

18/066 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were received and noted:
 East Cambs Parish Conference 28 March 2018 12 noon, Burwell. No Councillor available
 NALC Chief Executive Bulletin - 2 March
 NALC Bulletin - Funding & Grants - March 2018
 Cambs & Northampton Pensions Notice of Employee Contributions 2018/19
 CCC Roadworks & Events Bulletin 1st - 15th March 2018
 CCC Changes to Local Bus Services
 CCC Apply for a Community Grant to Get Kids Moving
 Mepal Outdoor Centre Working Party agenda 12.3.18
 Comments from residents regarding Village Hall drive – Clerk had investigated and found that as it was a public road across the recreation ground it was available for anyone to use.
 Updates from ICO

18/067 **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**

No issues reported.

18/068 **COMMUNITY POLICE**

Following the issue raised by the member of the public under public participation there was discussion about Speedwatch sessions.

Resolved that the Clerk should contact District Councillor M Bradley to request that speedwatch sessions be set up soon and to focus on early sessions, eg 7.15am until 8.15am at different locations along The Slade and Martins Lane, either side of the crossroads. Proposed J Lucas, seconded J Herbert.

Clerk

18/069 **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

There were none

18/070 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Clerk requested that the April meeting be moved to Wednesday 18 April 2018 for personal reasons (hospital) and also it would enable her to complete the year end accounts for April meeting as bank statement was expected to arrive around 10/11 April. Meeting to commence at 7.30pm. Additional Council meeting for planning application to be confirmed.

Clerk

Clerk

ITEMS for next agenda: 2018 Best Kept Garden Competition (in the meantime Clerk to contact last year's judge and sort out judging dates with J Bibby and J Herbert (escorts)

Clerk

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 Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm

March Schedule of Receipts and Payments

		£	£	£
Receipts	UKPN substation lease payment (balance)	3.23		3.23
Payments				
	001693 J Wells	11.40		11.40
	001694 Clerk salary (Mar)	224.46)		
	Expenses reimbursement	93.13)		317.59
	001695 CCC LGSS (Mar)	115.44		115.44
	001696 HMRC (Lloyds)	168.20		168.20
	001698 Truelink	60.00	12.00	72.00
	001699 Village Hall hire fees	254.00		254.00
	d/d ICO fees	35.00		35.00
	d/d Talk Talk	1.04		1.04

Clerk to arrange for payment of invoices up to 31 March 2018 with Chair and signatories and these would be reported at the next Council meeting, eg Signs of the Times and CAPALC training

Signed

Dated