

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 13 March 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

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

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
 Cllr L Duprè (CCC)
 Cllr A Bailey (ECDC)
 Cllr M Bradley (ECDC)

No members of public present

19/043 **Apologies for Absence** were accepted from L Holdaway (work) and J Lucas (ill) Action

19/044 **Declaration of Interest:**
 The following declarations of interests were made:
 Pecuniary interests - none
 Personal interests - none
 Prejudicial interests – M Housden 19/050 Kings of Witcham (consulted neighbour)

19/045 **Dispensations:**
 To note Dispensations: Nil

19/046 **Public Participation:**
 There were no members of the public present

19/047 **Minutes of the meeting** of 13 February 2019 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 Chairman, seconded J Bibby and resolved. Noted K Mackender - not present for all of meeting.

19/048 **Matters Arising**
19/026, 19/011 Drovers CCC had confirmed they had been and closed all the gates under the closure provisions. J Bibby reported that the gate at Stumps Drove had not been repaired and created a problem for access by landowners.
19/037 Defibrillator running costs – figures had been requested and response awaited.

Noted Clerk would collect dog fouling signs from ECDC on Friday and Chairman would put up around village.

19/049 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

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

County Councillor L Dupré urged all local Councils in East Cambridgeshire to respond to the Greater Cambridge Partnership consultation on Better Journey Choices. The Partnership covered Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire but not East Cambridgeshire and, of course, did affect commuters from much further afield. www.greatercambridge.org.uk/choices-for-better-journeys She had attended a site meeting with CCC officers regarding options to deter antisocial racer activities at the Elean Business Park; proposals were now being considered by the County Council and landowners. Further information on the Bikeability initiative, noted.

District Councillor Bradley said the Combined Authority was looking at the bus review and sought comments from residents on their needs and expectations. District Councillor Bailey said the Zipper service was doing very well and was now the third lowest subsidised service in the County, which demonstrated the support of users and was very pleasing. District

19/049 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES** (cont)
Councillor Bradley said he would start Speedwatch sessions again soon. He was following up the parish's request for grants from ECDC for lychgate and flashing signs etc and suggested a meeting of Parish Council representatives with the District Council officer in the new financial year.

District Councillor Bailey commented on the withdrawal of the Local Plan following the Independent Inspector's modifications, which included an extra 1500 houses, notably increasing numbers on allocated sites, including the airfield at Sutton to 700, and removal of protection on green spaces. The District Council would continue with the 2015 Local Plan and would try to include some of the proposals of the new Plan by incorporating them as Supplementary Planning Developments within the 2015 Local Plan. Parish Councils would need to focus on considering planning applications for existing material considerations, including protecting the open countryside. Developers were still banking land with consents and failing to start building works.

District Councillor Bailey advised that the roundabouts at Lancaster Way and the BP garage on the outskirts of Ely were being reviewed in the light of congestion and additional expected building/employment developments. The District Council Committees were being restructured and at the next election the number of Councillors would reduce from 39 to 28. The Kings Lynn to Cambridge rail service would be improved by introducing 8 car trains to ease congestion. Soham railway station noted.

The County and District Councillors were thanked and they left the meeting at 8.05pm

19/050 **PLANNING**

M Housden had declared an interest and K Mackender took the Chair for the following item:

19/00125/VAR Kings of Witcham, The Slade Vary condition 1 (approved plans of 7.6.18 for demolition of existing motor vehicle garage and construct 6No 4-bed dwellings, 2No 3-bed dwellings, garaging, access road and assoc works - Amendment: increase floor levels of between 450 and 600mm on garages and homes to suit designed gravity drainage system.

Resolved that the Council did not find the amendment acceptable, based on residents' views living in the area. The proposals exacerbated previous concerns specifically regarding loss of sunlight, overshadowing, loss of outlook for neighbouring properties; not in-keeping with existing street scene in terms of visual appearance and, of course, as previously stated in responses, layout and density. Planning Authority's attention to be drawn to all the comments expressed at earlier stages of the application. There were no further details about mains drainage, including foul sewer, and water supply schemes; the existing systems already being inadequate. Proposed by K Mackender, seconded by J Bibby

Clerk

8.15pm M Housden returned to the Chair

19/00216/FUL Hill House, 1 Martins Lane Replacement of the existing conservatory with a new ground floor extension

1900217/LBC Hill House, 1 Martins Lane Replacement of the existing conservatory with a new ground floor extension. Plan area to remain the same as the previous conservatory

Resolved that the Council had no concerns. Proposed K Mackender, seconded M Housden.

Clerk

The following ECDC decisions were noted:

18/01698/OUT The Coach House Mepal Road Erection 2 family homes and associated works
Approved

18/01827/HEN The Bungalow, Hive Road Construction of single storey rear extension which extends beyond the rear wall by 5.3m, max height of 3.78m and eaves height of 2.25m
Approved

19/00097/FUL 10 The Orchards, single storey rear extension Approved

Noted that additional planning applications had been received after the date for inclusion on this agenda. **Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 7.30pm**

- 19/051 **RED TELEPHONE BOX** 12/.....
- Maintenance and re-painting of the adopted red telephone box in High Street was discussed and Clerk confirmed further quotes were being sought. Item to be included for Annual Parish Meeting for further discussion with people in the village.
- 19/052 **FINANCE**
- The March receipts and payments had been checked by K Mackender and confirmed as correct. Clerk advised that not all invoices had yet been received for inclusion in this year's accounts and requested that the meeting approve the payment of these invoices before the next meeting subject to being within budget, for example 30/40mph scheme, street lighting energy costs. Chairman and Clerk to liaise.
- Resolved** to approve the receipts and payments as listed at the end of these Minutes, including payment of outstanding invoices as above, which would be reported at the April meeting. *Clerk*
Proposed K Mackender, seconded J Bibby.
- Noted that the NJC 2018 and 2019 Payscales and Allowances (2-year deal circulated May 2018) gave a cost of living award from April 2019.
- Resolved** that the payscale effective from 1 April 2019 be implemented for the Clerk. *Clerk*
Proposed J Bibby, seconded Chairman
- 19/053 **CEMETERY MANAGEMENT**
- a) Lychgate repairs
Clerk and Chairman gave up-date on progress with advice from contractors and quotes. *Clerk/Chair*
Resolved to obtain quotes for total replacement of the lychgate with re-use of gate.
- b) Ditch
Chairman advised that the ditch adjacent the cemetery appeared to working well although it was noted there had not been as much rain as last year.
- 19/054 **RECREATION GROUND**
- Chairman reported that there was nothing to report on the weekly inspections of the play equipment and recreation ground. Clerk was contacting Tree Officer for advice on maintenance/replacement of some trees around recreation ground and children's play equipment as part of the assessment for refurbishment of the play area. *Clerk*
- 19/055 **ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 24 April 2019**
- Content of Annual Report discussed. Chairman to complete his report and Clerk to produce final draft for meeting on 20 March 2019, except accounts which would be inserted after completion of the year end accounts in the middle of April. *Clerk*
- Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting agreed including Neighbourhood Watch and ideas/suggestions for use of red telephone kiosk. List of village organisations confirmed and Clerk would issue invites. *JL/Clerk*
- 19/056 **SPRING LITTERPICK**
- Request from village litterpick volunteer to organise Spring Litterpick was received.
- Resolved** that the Council was pleased to support the litterpick. Proposed Chairman, seconded J Bibby. *Clerk*
- 19/057 **COMMUNITY POLICE** - No items reported
- 19/058 **STREET LIGHTING AND HIGHWAYS**
- Noted that repairs were to be made to Witcham Road, Mepal over the coming 2 weeks, and that the entrance to Back Lane at the junction with Martins Lane was still flooding despite some infill. Clerk advised that the County Council had advised that this would be reviewed in the new financial year. *Clerk*

19/059 **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

Cambridgeshire County Council Consultation on Review of Local Validation Guidance List and Local Validation Check List for planning applications for the County Council’s own development and for waste development, previously circulated. No comments made.

19/060 **REPORTS OF MEETINGS**

Councillors had not attended any meetings

19/061 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were received and noted:

- East Cambridgeshire Parish Conference 29th January 2019 - The Beeches, Isleham - notes
- Campaign to End Loneliness - Big Lunch/Great Get Together 26 March 2019
- IHMC Incident Report January 2019
- CCC Flood Risk and Biodiversity Newsletter
- NALC Bulletins February and 1 March 2019
- CCC Innovate & Cultivate Fund - New Funding Rounds
- CCC local initiatives that support older people to socialise with others
- Funding for Community Cohesion Projects (UK) (L Duprè)
- Roadworks & events report 1 - 15 March 2019 and 16 – 31 March 2019
- Pensions Regulator – auto-enrolment – Clerk to deal with
- ECDC Civic Reception 22 March 2019 – Chairman sent apologies
- Parish Council Election details
- ECDC Notice of Withdrawal of Local Plan and letter from Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council

Clerk
Clerk
All

19/062 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 17 April 2019 at 7.30 pm.
Additional meeting, Planning etc Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 7.30pm

ITEMS for April agenda: Approve Year-end Accounts

All 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*)

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.59pm

March Schedule of Receipts and Payments

		£	£	£
Receipts	Co-op Memorial inscription	84.00		84.00
Payments	001764 Truelink groundworks February	60.00	12.00	72.00
	001765/7 Admin costs	521.79		521.79
	001768 Reimbursement expenses to Clerk	114.77		114.77
	001769 Witcham Village Hall Hire 2018/19	236.00		236.00
	001770 Reimburse What’s on copying	12.00		12.00
	d/d Talk Talk (Dec&Jan)	4.91		4.91

Invoices awaited and settlement to be made in current financial year: CCC Speed signs as per budget, CCC street lighting, ICO (direct debit)

SignedDated