

LITTLE DOWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Extraordinary Meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 5 March 2009 commencing at 7.30pm.

Councillors present: DA Adams-Payne, in the chair, DJ Badcock, CE Hall, EW Hall, RS Martin, M Oldfield, RC Stacey, AJ White and KO Winters.

Attendees: Mr T Lake, Dist Cllr A Bailey and 8 Parishioners.

Chairman's Opening Remarks: The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and introduced Tim Lake (Postmaster of Soham High Street branch) who had been invited to update the Council on the Post Office Outreach Service for Little Downham and to speak at item 182/08.

APOLOGIES – Received from Cllrs CM Frankland and BL Taylor, Dist. Cllrs A Goodge and County Cllr P Read.

181/08 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – No declarations were made

182/08 POST OFFICE OUTREACH SERVICE

1. Mr Lake informed that the hours of the outreach service are mainly based on the availability of the Community Rooms and look likely to be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings and Friday lunchtime. The services, provided by him or his wife, will be the same as the current post office with the addition of car tax and euros on demand. He assured the Council that although his contract was a standard 12 months Post Office contract, he is local to the area and is looking at this as a long term service. Mr Lake answered various questions.

7.45pm Mr Lake was thanked for attending and left.

183/08 TO ADJOURN MEETING FOR PUBLIC FORUM

7.46pm Meeting adjourned – Disappointment was expressed that the Outreach Service isn't being held in Costcutters. Additional information was given in support of items 184/08.1.2 and 184/08.1.3.

8.00pm Meeting reconvened.

184/08 PLANNING MATTERS

1. To consider planning applications received:

1.1 09/00047/FUL RE & CF Parisi, Land Parcel south west of 7 Black Bank Road, Lt Downham – Installation of cesspool for use in conjunction with a camping and caravan club - Retrospective
RESOLVED: The Parish Council had concerns about this application and recommended outright refusal for the following reasons:

Concerns:

1. Land is not suitable for Caravans - Reason: The land is agricultural and the condition of the soil is considered unsuitable for the standing of caravans or vehicles used to empty the cesspool. The land level is lower than Black Bank Road, which could cause problems for vehicles exiting the site.

2. Agricultural Land - Reason: It is questioned if the site requires a change of use for this application, which in parts is considered contrary to (sections (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi) of Policy 110 of the East Cambs Local District Plan 2000.

3. Risk of Land Contamination - Reason: The site is prime agricultural land and could be contaminated following damage to the cesspool causing sewage to seep into the land.

4. Flood Plain Risk - Reason: The site is in a flood risk area.

5. Visual impact in the open countryside - Reason: The installation of a cesspool will not visually affect the open countryside; however, the camping and touring caravans sited in this flat area of the fens, away from Little Downham and outside the development area, would have a visual impact on the open countryside.

1.2 09/00091/FUL Taylor Marketing, Mount Pleasant Farm, 66 - 68 Main Street, Pymoor – Change of use of existing farm office building to general office use class B1 –
RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no concerns.

1.3 09/00109/FUL Taylor Marketing (Ely) Limited (Mr R Taylor), Willow Farm, Pymoor Common, Pymoor – Proposed lean to extension to existing agricultural storage building –
RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no concerns.

1.4 09/00113/AGN Mr Wayne Murfitt, Land south east of Willow Farm, Pymoor Common, Pymoor – Agricultural shed –
RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no concerns.

2. Planning correspondence

For information only:

2.1 ECDC - Applications approved: 08/01030/FUL, 08/01150/FUL, 09/00024/AGN, 09/00063/AGN

185/08 FINANCE

1. To consider purchase of Pymoor See-Saw Skirt parts – The See-Saw has been monitored. Parts as recommended in the play area inspection 2008 are now required.

RESOLVED: To order new skirt assembly, clamping strips and screws from Wicksteed Leisure at a cost of £130.06 plus 8.5% carriage and 15% VAT.

2. To consider purchase of new fridge and cooker for Lt Downham Pavilion – The fridge and cooker were faulty and for public health and safety have been removed and taken to the recycling tip. It was agreed that they should be replaced because they are used by the Pavilion user groups.

RESOLVED: Cllr Stacey and the Clerk were given a £500 limit and authority to purchase a basic cooker and larder fridge to be installed in the Pavilion.

186/08 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. To consider subject/topic of meeting and invite a speaker – It was suggested that a representative of EEDA (East of England Development Agency) be invited to discuss the grants that are available for projects and parish organisations.

187/08 REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. P3 Matters to discuss (Cllr Winters)

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.37pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date

