

LITTLE DOWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
**MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street,  
Little Downham, on Thursday, 4 September 2008 commencing at 7.00pm.**

**Councillors present:** CM Frankland, in the chair, DJ Badcock, EW Hall, M Oldfield, RC Stacey, RS Martin, BL Taylor (7.15pm), AJ White and KO Winters.

**In attendance:** PC K Humble, Dist. Cllrs A Bailey and 1 parishioner.

Due to the Chairman, Cllr Adams-Payne, being unwell the following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED: to elect Cllr CM Frankland as Chairman for this meeting.** Cllr Frankland accepted.

As a mark of respect the Council held a moment of silence for ex-councillor Roger Parson who died yesterday.

**APOLOGIES** – Received from Cllrs DA Adams-Payne and CE Hall, Dist. Cllr T Goodge and PCSO J Hall.

**82/08 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. **Cllr RS Martin** declared a personal interest in Item 89/08.1.6 because he is tenant to adjacent land.
2. **Cllr M Oldfield** declared a personal interest in Item 89/08.1.6 because the applicant is her nephew.

**83/08 TO ADJOURN MEETING FOR PUBLIC FORUM**

**7.06pm** Mr Blythe expressed concern relating to item 91/08 and offered to provide statistics from his journeys on the 213 service when he next travels. The Council accepted his offer.

**7.12pm** The meeting was reconvened.

**84/08 PARISH CRIME MATTERS**

1. **Police Crime Reports** – Nine crimes reported between 22/07/08–03/09/08 and 27 calls for service.  
**7.15pm** Cllr CL Taylor arrived.
2. **To report recent events** – Hare Coursing is taking place in the area. Parishioners are requested to be vigilant and report anything that looks suspicious.  
**7.20pm** PC Humble left.

**85/08 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Dist. Cllrs A Bailey & A Goodge)**

1. Mereham has been turned down. A good response from the public regarding the post office closure. Post Office Network Change Group has responded based on the district as a whole and considers Lt Downham as 2<sup>nd</sup> on its list for non-closure.  
**7.29pm** Dist Cllr A Bailey left.

**86/08 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (County Cllr P Read)** – No report

**87/08 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

1. **RESOLVED:** The minutes of 22 July 2008 (Full Council) were approved and signed as a true record following the inclusion of EW Hall as an Abstention at item 65/08.1.
2. **RESOLVED:** The minutes of 29 July 2008 (Extraordinary) were approved and signed as a true record.

**88/08 MATTERS TO REPORT**

1. **(Min.69/08) Internal Auditor** – Caroline Wallace has accepted and signed the letter of engagement for 2008/09.
2. **(Min.70/08) Little Downham Proposed Post Office Closure** – Post Office Ltd reply to Council's letter. STRADA (Support group for Stroke Victims) expressed support against the Post Office closure.
3. **(Min.80/08.1) To consider purchase of metal bin for main street bus shelter** – Bin installed.

**89/08 PLANNING MATTERS**

**1. To consider planning applications received:**

- 1.1 **08/00757/FUL** Miss Lorraine Stevens, 84 Cannon Street, Lt Downham – Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of ground floor and first floor extensions - **RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no concerns.**
- 1.2 **08/00761/FUL** Mr Jeremy Jakes, 4 Oak Drive, Lt Downham – Form new door and access stairs to garden from internal stair landing - **RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no concerns.**
- 1.3 **08/00772/FUL** Mr David Noble, 24 Park Lane, Little Downham – Single-storey rear extension and additional windows to existing dwelling - **RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no concerns.**
- 1.4 **08/00798/FUL** Mr & Mrs Broker, The bungalow, Downham Common Lt Downham – Relocation of garage - **RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no concerns.**

1.5 08/00804/FUL Mr O'Keefe, 82 Cannon Street, Lt Downham – Rear catslide dormer & 3 no. pitch roof front dormers - **RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no concerns.**

1.6 08/00810/FUL Mr P Cornwell, 45 Ely Road, Lt Downham – Demolition of existing bungalow and proposed 2 bed semi-detached houses on part of site -- **RESOLVED: Little Downham Parish Council has concerns regarding the parking provision on this site and in order to avoid additional parking on the street suggests that a larger parking area is allocated at the rear of the proposed properties.**

## 2. Planning correspondence

For information only:

2.1 ECDC - Applications approved: 08/00576/FUL, 08/00695/FUL,

2.2 ECDC – Applications refused: 08/00641/FUL,

## 90/08 FINANCE

1. Monthly Internal Audit – was carried out by Cllrs CM Frankland and AJ White.

2. To approve bills and other items for payment -

**RESOLVED: To approve list of payments for cheque numbers 000420 to 000432 and direct debits for the total sum of £4393.10.**

## 91/08 PARISH MATTERS

1. CCC – Changes to Contracted Bus Services in Lt Downham Parish – CCC proposals to withdraw the 115, 116 and 213 services as of 04/01/09 – Public consultation deadline 26/09/08 – The Council opposed the proposals because based on local knowledge the figures CCC quoted did not tally and the bus service is not only essential for workers but has considerable social value for the elderly with free passes. The Clerk was instructed to request a breakdown of statistics for the journeys.

2. EERA – Review of East of England Plan – Consultation on draft project plan and statement of public participation – consultation deadline 15/09/08 – This document was considered too generalised for comment, contradictory to local planning policies and not specifically aimed at rural communities. As a large rural parish, Lt Downham is currently fighting to save its public transport and postal services at local level, which will have a detrimental affect on the sustainability of the parish.

3. FW Gilbert – Request to trim trees restricting visibility towards the Church from Cowbridge Hall Road and Lawn Lane junctions – This will be referred to the Handyman.

4. ECDC – Provision of Speedwatch equipment - To consider Parish Council's involvement:

4.1 To identify volunteers to be trained in using the equipment and running the scheme – Cllrs DJ Badcock and RC Stacey and Mr Blythe volunteered to be trained to use the equipment.

4.2 To consider contribution towards cost of purchasing the equipment – Unanimous.

**RESOLVED: To approve payment of £270 as a contribution towards purchase of Speed Watch equipment.**

9.07pm Mr Blythe left.

## 92/08 CONSERVATION MATTERS

1. Pingle Wood & Community Orchard – To consider management of areas to contain thistle creeping spread and appoint working group of two councillors and two conservation group members to discuss long term options – Cllrs DJ Badcock and RS Martin will meet with K Norton, G Frankland and Truelink Ltd to discuss options available.

## 93/08 HIGHWAYS

1. Reply re matters reported from previous meetings:

2. To report current matters of concern

2.1 Blocked Drain at 34/34A Main Street, Pymoor – At some time concrete has been poured down this drain and it gets blocked causing water to eventually run off the road into nearby gardens.

2.2 Puddle outside 28 Main Street, Pymoor - this has been reported before - during and after wet weather the build-up of excess water is splashed across the path and up the nearby wall.

2.3 Tyres dumped at Hundred Foot Bank railway bridge.

## 94/08 CORRESPONDENCE

1. ECDC – Ely Masterplan Select Committees – Sept 2008 – invitation to speak – No interest.

## 95/08 REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING - None

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.35pm.