

**MINUTES of a meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall,
Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 9 October 2014 commencing at 7.00pm.**

Councillors present: MM Oldfield, in the chair, and DA Adams-Payne, CM Frankland, GF Frankland, LEA Joel, RS Martin, BGF Smith, BL Taylor (7.05pm) and GH Taylor. **Clerk:** Mrs J Wardle

Other attendees: Dist. Cllrs A Bailey and T Goodge.

81/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllrs CE Hall and KO Winters and County Cllr P Read.

82/14 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

83/14 PUBLIC FORUM - No comments

7.05pm Cllr BL Taylor arrived.

84/14 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Dist. Cllrs A Bailey & A Goodge)

1. Dist. Cllr Bailey updated on ECDC matters such as the restructuring of staff, committees and councillors under its new regime and 'can do' approach, the accumulated rent from the Post Office mobile taking up parking spaces in the Paradise car park will be used to promote Ely for Christmas, an update on the A142 Ely Southern bypass that has been approved by Government and is going ahead, that the County Archives Collection is coming to Ely and premises are currently being sought, a funding package is being put together for the new leisure centre, ECDC is assessing its land to see if there are any areas that can be maintained by parish councils or if not required can be sold, recycling figures are up and as a result the district has been mentioned in Parliament as being one of the best for recycling in the country.
2. Dist. Cllr Goodge commented on ECDC's proposed £1 Million funding towards the A14 expansion project, which some Parish Councils did not support the use of Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy on, and he expressed concerns of what the future maintenance costs of the A14 would be.

85/14 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (County Cllr P Read)

1. In County Cllr Read's absence, Cllr Bailey also informed that the County Council's funding is very worrying for the future because of its increase of the Social Care budget due to people living longer. Other fund headings such as Highways & Infrastructure and Recycling are suffering because the Social Care budget is taking up most of the County Council's funding.

7.37pm Dist. Cllrs A Bailey and T Goodge left the meeting.

86/14 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. **Resolved that the minutes of 11 September 2014 were correct and signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

87/14 MATTERS TO REPORT

1. **(Min.72/14.1) LD War Memorial** – The handyman was unable to dig the French drain, as recommended by Fairhurst Ward Abbots, without digging equipment. The Council decided a simple trench around the memorial filled with gravel would be sufficient to allow water to drain away from the memorial. Cllr Joel volunteered her husband, Julius, to do the work and Cllr Adams-Payne offered to assist him.
2. **(Min.72/14.3) Pavilion Working Group update** – The Clerk confirmed that the Stage One Application form had been submitted to BIG Lottery. A reply is expected within ten weeks.
3. **(Min.72/14.5) Little Downham Recreation Area Ditch** – Mr Freeman had removed the tree branches, levelled the spoils closer to the hedge and moved the damaged goal post from the east to the west side of the field. The seat plinth is yet to be repaired.
4. **(Min.72/14.5) Little Downham Recreation Field Goal Posts** – The Clerk reported that she had informed Mike Hampshire (Lt Downham United Manager) that he might repair the damaged goal post near the spectator shelter with parts from old obsolete goal posts. The Council requested that the posts be repaired or replaced as soon as possible.

5. **(Min.64/14.1) New Oak Seats** – The Clerk had discussed matters with Carole Hall but was still awaiting a decision from ALS Lock before placing an order for the new seats.
 6. **Dog Waste Bins** – The Clerk must discuss locations of where to install the new bins with ECDC, which will determine what post and fixing kits need to be ordered with the bins.
 7. **Community Orchard Kissing Gate** – Members of the Conservation Group recently widened the kissing gate for buggy and wheelchair access. The Council expressed thanks to the volunteers.
 8. **Ely Runners 10k Road Race New Years Eve 2014** – An email containing details of the road closures for the start of the race was received.
 9. **(Min.74/14.42) Little Downham Youth Group** – Carol Hebbard apologised that she was still involved in sorting out the finances of Community CARTS and requested that the Council give her some time on this. Once it was done, she would gladly provide all the information the council requested.
 10. **(Min.73/14.2) Little Downham Village Hall Committee Report** – Cllr DA Adams-Payne attended the meeting on 06/10/14 and gave a report of the matters discussed.
- 88/14 PLANNING MATTERS**
1. **Planning correspondence -**
For information only:
 - 1.1 **ECDC: Applications approved: 14/00762/FUL, 14/007792/FUL, 14/00541/ADN (not consulted)**
- 89/14 FINANCE**
1. **Monthly Internal Audit** was carried out by Cllrs BGF Smith and GH Taylor.
 2. **Annual Insurance Renewal (Min.82/13.2)** – This being the start of the second year of a three-year long-term agreement, the Council reviewed and agreed the cover and sums insured of the Aviva insurance policy due for renewal on 27th October.
Resolved unanimously to approve the Aviva renewal policy premium @ £1601.29 with Broker Network Ltd via Came & Co.
 3. **To approve quote from Fenland Leisure Products Ltd for Pymoor annual play inspection** – FLP offered to inspect the Little Downham Play Area free of charge because it installed new play equipment last year, but would charge £50 to carry out an inspection on Pymoor Play Area.
Resolved to appoint Fenland Leisure Products Ltd to carry out inspections on Little Downham and Pymoor Play Area and approve the £50 charge for the Pymoor inspection.
 4. **To consider additional cut of parish verges** – It was noted that CGM had carried out its last cut of the verges in August and that another was needed before winter.
Resolved to approve another cut of the parish verges in Little Downham and Pymoor by CGM Ltd @ £145 + VAT
 5. **To approve bills and other items for payment** - Items presented for payment were proposed by Cllr BGF Smith and seconded by Cllr GH Taylor.
Resolved unanimously to approve list of payments for cheque number 001053, BACS payments 233 to 242 and Direct Debits for the total sum of £8220.99.
- 90/14 PARISH MATTERS**
1. **ECDC: Potential free IT support for residents** – ECDC informed that grant funding was available for IT support and offered to assist the Parish Council with carrying out a survey in the parish for IT needs and support. The Council was not keen to carry out a survey but would support ECDC to advertise any service that was set up. Cllr Oldfield will discuss the grant with the ECDC officer.
- 91/14 HIGHWAYS, PARISH PATHS & BYWAYS**
1. **Replies from CCC re matters reported from previous meetings:**
 - 1.1 **Corner of Pymoor Lane, O Furlong and Dunkirk, Pymoor (Min.77/14.2.1)** – The shrubs were cut back on 05/09/14.

- 1.2 **Pymoor Lane and Main Street junction, Pymoor (Min.77/14.2.2)** – The proposed fence was approved by Susan Mills (CCC Highways Development Control Manager) because in her opinion the junction already has poor visibility to the left due to the contour of the bend in the road. She considered that a higher fence would not be a problem. However, she also stated that her opinion does not override any requirements by the local planning authority regarding permission to erect the fence etc.
 - 1.3 **Eagles Lane and Main Street junction, Little Downham (Min.77/14.2.3)** – The tree had been trimmed just prior to the Highways officer's visit. The homeowner agreed to keep an eye on trimming the tree and little hedge in future.
 - 1.4 **Footway between Oak Farm Drive and Chapel Lane, Lt Downham (Min.77/14.2.4)** – Arrangements have been made for 26m of the footway to be re-laid.
 - 1.5 **Chapel Lane, Lt Downham (Min.77/14.2.5)** – The local highways officer informed that the reflector posts are no closer to the road edge than the rocks were so I failed to see an issue. The Council would prefer to have nothing on the highway verge.
 - 1.6 **Adventurers Drove, Oxlode, Pymoor (Min.77/14.2.6)** – £22,000 has been allocated for this road in an attempt to make it better. The funds will not go that far but the worst areas will be targeted to improve passage.
 - 1.7 **Proposed Main Street Crossing, Lt Downham (Min.77/14.2.7)** – No formal papers had been received but it appears that the crossing might be located from the path build out to the corner of the school lay-by.
 - 1.8 **Parishioners' concerns regarding Marshalls Drove (Byway 44) & Pithouse Drove (Byway 45), Lt Downham (Min.77/14.3)** – The parishioners' concerns and the petition had been send to CCC Rights of Way. The Clerk was awaiting a response regarding the proposed work to level the drove.
- 2. **To report current matters of concern:**
 - 2.1 **Street lights** – The Clerk was given a list of street lights to report that were not working properly.
 - 2.2 **Second Drove, Lt Downham** – The road is uneven and requires attention.

92/14 **REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION** - None

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date