

**MINUTES of a meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall,
Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 12 March 2015 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, GH Taylor and KO Winters. Clerk: Mrs J Wardle

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

158/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllr CE Hall and County Cllr P Read.

159/14 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Cllr DA Adams-Payne** declared a personal interest in item 169/14.1 (Fete Committee and the Brownies and Guides storage container request) because she is on the Fete Committee (Declaration 005-2015).
2. **Cllr MM Oldfield** declared a personal interest in item 169/14.1 (Fete Committee and the Brownies and Guides storage container request) because she is on the Fete Committee (Declaration 006-2015).
3. **Cllr BL Taylor** declared a prejudicial interest in item 166/14.1.2 (Application 15/00132/FUL) because the applicant is his son (Declaration 007-2015).
4. **Cllr GH Taylor** declared a prejudicial interest in item 166/14.1.2 (Application 15/00132/FUL) because the applicant is her son (Declaration 008-2015).

160/14 PUBLIC FORUM

1. Mr Summersgill expressed his concerns regarding the proposed zebra crossing on Main Street, the extension of the zig-zag lines and the lack of consultation by the Highways Authority. He showed photographs of Main Street when gridlocked for up to 20 minutes because a large lorry could not get through due to inconsiderate parking by a parent and the school bus. He asked the Parish Council to arrange an early morning site meeting when the congestion could be witnessed and amendments can be made to the proposed works to avoid future congestion. It was suggested that the school Headteacher be invited too. The Clerk will contact the Highways officer dealing with the proposed works.

7.23pm Mr Summersgill and a parishioner left the meeting.

161/14 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Dist. Cllrs A Bailey & A Goodge)

Dist. Cllr Bailey informed that Ely Soham Dial-a-Ride will definitely close down. Although matters are still being sorted out, it is anticipated the funds and assets will be passed on to Fenland Association of Community Transport (FACT), who will take over. The local service will continue, although some routes might change. She continues to campaign for the change of some inappropriately located new streetlights on Lawn Lane, Church Green and outside St Leonard's Church. Some other new lights are considered in wrong locations, but it is not possible to protest against them all due to the set criteria that Balfour Beatty must adhere to in its contract.

162/14 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (County Cllr P Read) – No report on this occasion.

7.31pm The parishioner returned to the meeting.

163/14 PARISH CRIME REPORT – No report on this occasion.

164/14 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. **Resolved** that the minutes of 12 February 2015 were correct and to be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7.58pm A parishioner arrived.

165/14 MATTERS TO REPORT

1. **Grazing agreements (Min.159/147.2)** – Rent payments have been requested by the end of March and will be banked in April (new financial year). **(Min.116/14.4)** The Myles Meadow entitlement and land will be transferred from Messrs Martin to the council's list when the Rural Payment Agency preferred method of online transfer facility is available.

2. **Tree works on Church Way, Little Downham Recreation Area and Pymoor Lane (Min.156/14.3)** – The council's three applications have been validated at ECDC and permission is awaited before authorising Truelink Ltd to carry out the work.
3. **Lt Downham Youth Group (Min.158/14)** – Carol Hebbard was extremely grateful to the Council for the offer of grant funding each term during 2015/16 and will gladly provide the statistics and accounts, as requested. An agreement will be typed and sent to Mrs Hebbard for signing.
4. **Pingle Wood storage container** – A break-in occurred on 18/02/15. Although nothing was taken, the police classified it as a burglary because the strimmer was taken out of the container and left on the ground. Additional security has been installed by the conservation volunteers and photos taken for insurance purposes.

166/14 **PLANNING MATTERS**

1. **Planning correspondence -**

- 1.1 **15/00104/FUL** Mr A Mathias, 10 Fourth Drove, Lt Downham – Alteration and extension to existing dwelling and erection of new garage/workshop, along with demolition of existing outbuildings - **Resolved that the Parish Council had no concerns.**

8.10pm Cllrs BL & GH Taylor left the meeting before the next item was discussed.

- 1.2 **15/00132/FUL** Mr R Taylor, Willow Farm, Pymoor Common, Pymoor – To erect agricultural general purpose store connecting to the existing and previously approve 14/00911/AGN building in production – Ross Taylor was asked questions about his application - **Resolved that the Parish Council had no concerns.**

8.10pm Cllrs BL & GH Taylor were invited back in the meeting.
Dist. Cllrs A Bailey and T Goodge and two parishioners left the meeting.

- 1.3 **15/00144/FUL** Mr Jonathan Flude, 27 Cannon Street, Lt Downham – Proposed two storey side extension - **Resolved that the Parish Council had no concerns.**

For information only:

- 1.4 ECDC: Applications approved: 14/01406/FUL,

167/14 **FINANCE**

1. **Monthly Internal Audit** was carried out by Cllrs B Smith and G Taylor.

2. **Email - CCC Rights of Way - request funding of one gate on Byway 49 by Parish Council** – CCC had priced for 'Elephant' gates to be installed to protect the winter closure, as well as the temporary closure whilst the contractor carries out work on the Byway. Each set of gates cost £1,950. CCC asked the Parish Council if it would consider meeting the cost of one set of gates. It was reported that the Conservation Group was in support of this request and for funds to be used from the Countryside Account because they had been requesting gates on the Byway for many years. Following mixed views to the request, it was proposed by Cllr GF Frankland and seconded by Cllr DA Adams-Payne that the matter be deferred to the next meeting in order for the Clerk to request further information about the installation and funding of the gates. **A recorded vote result was as follows: In favour (9) - Cllrs DA Adams-Payne, CM Frankland, GF Frankland, LEA Joel, RS Martin, MM Oldfield, BGF Smith, BL Taylor and GH Taylor, Against (1) - Cllr KO Winters.**

Resolved to defer the CCC Rights of Way request for funding of one gate to the next meeting and for the Clerk to request further information.

3. **To consider change of use of old 'Pymoor 106' titled account** – The Clerk reported that the balance of the Barclays Pymoor 106 account, except for 1p, had been transferred to the Parish Council's Lloyds Current account in accordance with the resolution to fund the replacement of Pymoor Carousel (Min.162/13.2 13/03/14). The Clerk recommended amending the title of the Barclays *Pymoor 106 Account* to *Countryside Account* and to transfer the balance of the Lloyds Bank Countryside Account into the renamed Barclays Account because it has a higher interest rate than the Lloyds savings account.

Resolved unanimously to amend the title of the Barclays Bank Pymoor 106 Account to the Countryside Account, to instruct Lloyds Bank to close the Countryside Account and transfer the closing balance to the renamed Barclays Bank Countryside Account.

4. **To approve bills and other items for payment** - Items presented for payment were proposed by Cllr B Smith and Cllr G Taylor
Resolved unanimously to approve list of payments for cheque nos. 001055 and 001056, Direct Debit and BACS payments 290 to 300 for the total sum of £8306.16.

168/14 COUNCIL MATTERS

1. **Parish Conference – 2nd April at Burwell** – Cllrs MM Oldfield and KO Winters volunteered to attend. Cllr Oldfield chose the Burials Cemetery Capacity and Grant Funding for Parishes workshops and Cllr Winters chose the Crime Prevention and Protecting the Vulnerable and Burials Cemetery Capacity workshops. They will provide reports at the next meeting.

169/14 PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND ASSETS

1. **Fete Committee and Guides & Brownies proposed container at Lt Downham - Recreation Area (Min.153/14.1)** – Following consultation with ECDC Planning officer, the Clerk informed that it was acceptable for the council to site a new storage container in the recreation area as proposed. However, should objections be made it would be required to submit a planning application for permanent placement and formal permission.
2. **Play Area Annual Inspection summary** – Fenland Leisure Products carried out the inspections in November. All but one of the risks identified were of low or very low priorities and no high priorities were raised. The Clerk and handyman had reviewed the reports and taken action as recommended on all but the one medium priority; a risk with the See Saw at Pymoor. The Council reviewed the summary of actions and thanked the Clerk and handyman for their work. It was agreed to consider replacing the See Saw.
Resolved unanimously to accept the annual inspection reports, to approve the summary of actions and to authorise the Clerk to obtain quotes for a new See Saw.

170/14 HIGHWAYS, PARISH PATHS & BYWAYS

1. **Replies re matters reported from previous meetings:**
- 1.1 **Byway 49 Clayway Lane (Min.120/14.3.1)** – Funds from CCC for the maintenance project has been received. The Contractor was waiting for drier conditions.
- 1.2 **Downham Road, B1411, Ely (Min.154/14.1.1)** – The Grips have been done.
- 1.3 **Black Bank Road (Min.154/14.1.2)** – Some marker posts will be put in along the worst sections to highlight the road edge. CCC Highways Officer, Pam Joyce, later informed that some extra funding had become available that must be spent by the end of March. This will be for Black Bank Road. £20,000 will be spent on some of the dropped off side of the road.
- 1.4. **St Leonard's Church and The Rectory (Min.154/14.2.1)** - An order has been raised for the gullys to be checked and cleared.
- 1.5 **Potholes (Min.154/14.2.2)** – The pothole at the corner of Pymoor Lane and Dunkirk, has been filled to make safe and a permanent repair been ordered. The pothole on the B1411 near Willow Farm Corkers entrance is a trench line that has failed. CCC believes this is down to BT to repair and has notified them.
- 1.6 **Cowbridge Hall road (Min.154/14.2.4)** - The location of the raised slab is not a Highway responsibility, as it is set in the drove entrance that belongs to the landowner.
- 1.7 **Pymoor Lane and Main Street junction, Pymoor (Min.91/14.1.2)**– the fence has been reduced.
2. **To report current matters of concern:**
- 2.1 **Potholes** – Outside the telephone box on Lawn Lane and outside Beald House on California.
- 2.2 **Leaford Drive entrance, Ely Road, Lt Downham** – The parked car on the pavement is causing visibility issues with oncoming traffic along Ely Road.
3. **Cambridgeshire Street Lighting Plans for Little Downham & Pymoor (Min.154/14.3)** – Four street light locations were identified by the Council for re-locating. Anna Bailey has approached a Senior officer at CCC to assist with the concerns. It was requested that the new light on the grass triangle at junction of Main Street and Townsend be re-located.

9.01pm The remaining parishioner left the meeting.

171/14 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It is hereby resolved in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted at Agenda Item 172/14, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded from this meeting and they are herewith instructed to withdraw.

172/14 PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND ASSETS

1. **Cemetery – update (Min.156/14.1)** – There was no update from the Church Council.

173/14 REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION - None

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

Signed (Chairman) Date

