

**MINUTES of a meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall,
Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 12 May 2011 commencing at 7.50pm.**

Councillors present: DA Adams-Payne, in the chair, and RS Martin, NK Missin, MM Oldfield, BGF Smith, BL Taylor, GH Taylor and KO Winters.

In attendance: One parishioner.

8/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies were received from CM Frankland, GF Frankland, CE Hall, Dist. Cllrs A Bailey and T Goodge and County Cllr P Read.

9/11 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

10/11 PUBLIC FORUM – No comments

11/11 PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning correspondence -

1.1 11/00327/VAR Norman & Nicholas, The Chestnuts, 2H Tower Road, Lt Downham – Variations of Conditions 9 and 10 to allow Velux windows and a single storey extension as per the submitted plans - **Resolved that the Parish Council had concerns about the application.**

Reason: The Parish Council does not have enough information and knowledge to know the reasons why the restrictions were made on the original permission and there was not a site location shown on submitted plans to establish affect on neighbouring properties.

12/11 FINANCE

1. To approve bills and other items for payment - Proposed Cllr RS Martin, seconded Cllr DA Adams-Payne and unanimously agreed.

Resolved to approve list of payments for cheque numbers 000839 to 000843 and Direct Debits for the total sum of £2794.69.

Non-agenda items that require consideration before next council meeting on 26th May.

2. Vandalised Picnic Table in Little Downham Play Area 20/04/11 – The Police requested a decision from the Council regarding the cost of repairs because they have a suspect who has admitted the crime and he may be asked to pay for the damage. The Council considered the cost of repairs in Teak (original wood) @ £450 + VAT, or, softwood @ £31.50 + VAT, plus labour = approximately £100 + VAT, or the purchase of a new picnic table @ £167.45 inc. VAT and ground fixings. **Resolved unanimously that the suspect should pay for a new picnic table because repairs to the existing one will be unsightly and vulnerable to future vandalism.**

3. Applications for consent to advertise on Parish Council land – Following adoption of the Council's new policy last month, two applications were received for advertising in May.

i. Fete Committee – 4th June – on Church Green and the green at Townsend/Main Street

ii. FW & E Gilbert (Fraser's Fresh Fruits) – Strawberries possibly ready for picking before 26th May - on Church Green and the green at Townsend/Main Street

Resolved unanimously to approve applications from Little Downham Fete Committee and FW & E Gilbert for signs on Parish land as per applications 11/12-001 and 11/12-002.

4. Myles Meadow Stock Fencing – Mr Runciman was erecting the stock fence and informed that the specifications did not reach to the kissing gate onto Clayway Lane. The hedge in that area was mainly brambles and would not secure cattle. A further 60m of stock fencing was required at a cost of around £6.00 per meter (total £360 + VAT). Mr Martin was waiting to put his cattle in the field. Cllr RS Martin declared an interest. A vote result was: 7 In favour and 1 Abstention.

Resolved to authorise Mr Runciman to erect the additional 60m of stock fencing in Myles Meadow @ £6.00 per metre + VAT.

5. REQUEST ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

1. To enquire of situation regarding Byways (Cllr KO Winters)

2. To consider writing letters of thanks (Cllr KO Winters)

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.27pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date