

**MINUTES of a meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall,
Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 13 February 2014 commencing at 7.00pm.**

Councillors present: MM Oldfield, in the chair, and DA Adams-Payne, CM Frankland, GF Frankland CE Hall, LEA Joel, BGF Smith, BL Taylor, GH Taylor and KO Winters. **Clerk:** Mrs J Wardle

Other attendees: District Cllrs A Bailey, T Goodge and County Cllr P Read.

135/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr RS Martin

136/13 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

137/13 PUBLIC FORUM - None

138/13 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Dist. Cllrs A Bailey & A Goodge)

1. Cllr Bailey informed that ECDC is to undergo restructuring in a bid to cut its expenditure over the next three years due to central government cuts. Priorities such as the new southern bypass, leisure centre and cinema will go ahead. Following a root and branch review of statutory and non-statutory duties, there will be compulsory redundancies and new job profiles drawn up. Some departments will expect to be self-financing. There will be radical changes within the management team as well. It is not certain if the number of District Council members will change as the Boundary Commission reviews and dictates this. ECDC has agreed to freeze the 2014/15 council tax in order to qualify for the Government's Council Tax Freeze Grant. Wheelie bins have been a success and recycling in the first quarter is @ 54%.
2. Cllr Goodge added that there has to be changes but the way some District Council members had gone about it had upset many at ECDC. ECDC full council will discuss matters on 27/02/14.

139/13 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (County Cllr P Read)

1. Cllr Read informed that he was heavily involved with the North Stow project [of 10,000 houses north-west of Cambridge] and drainage problems.

8.43pm District Cllrs Bailey and Goodge and County Cllr Read left the meeting.

140/13 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Following an objection from Cllr Winters regarding the wording of item 133/13.1 second paragraph, it was proposed by Cllr CM Frankland and seconded by Cllr GF Frankland that the wording was correct and the minutes be approved. **A recorded vote result was as follows: In favour (9)** - Cllrs DA Adams-Payne, CM Frankland, GF Frankland, CE Hall, LEA Joel, MM Oldfield, BGF Smith, BL Taylor and GH Taylor, **Against (1)** - Cllr KO Winters. It was noted that Cllrs BL & GH Taylor's vote in favour of approving the minutes was with the exception of the items in which they were not present.
Resolved that the minutes of 16 January 2014 were correct and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

8.46pm Cllr Adams-Payne left the meeting. 8.48pm Cllr Adams-Payne returned.

141/13 MATTERS TO REPORT

1. **(Min.126/13.2) Lt Downham Recreation field seats** – The seats are in storage until weather conditions are suitable for installation.
2. **(Min.33/13.5) Friends of Downham Feoffees Primary School: Theatre school trip Dec 2013** – A letter of heartfelt thanks was received from FDFPS informing that everyone enjoyed the trip to Hunstanton.

142/13 PLANNING MATTERS

1. **Planning correspondence -**
For information only:
 - 1.1 **ECDC: Applications approved:** 13/00875/FUL, 13/00910/FUL, 13/01072/FUL,
 - 1.2 **ECDC: Applications refused:** 13/00976/FUL, 13/01020/FUL

143/13 FINANCE

1. **Monthly Internal Audit** was carried out by Cllrs GF Frankland and BL Taylor.

2. **To review E-on utility contract and direct debit for Lt Downham Recreation Area** – E-on wrote to inform that the contract is due for renewal 04/05/14 and provided revised rates. The Clerk reported that due to the increased rates she had withdrawn the Council from automatic renewal in order to give the Council more time to compare quotes from other suppliers. The Council approved the Clerk's actions and will consider quotes at the April meeting.
3. **To approve bills and other items for payment** - Items for payment were proposed by Cllr GF Frankland and seconded by Cllr BL Taylor.
Resolved unanimously to approve list of payments for BACS payments 150 to 157 and direct debits for the total sum of £4511.55.

144/13 PARISH MATTERS

1. **Neighbourhood Panel Meeting Report 20/01/14 (Min.130/13.1) – Cllr KO Winters** – Concern regarding Fen Roads was reported at the meeting. It was assumed that a reply to the enquiry about the funds for Black Bank Road would be published in the forthcoming Panel Newsletter. The Clerk was instructed to write to Inspector Ormerod to enquire what arrangements the Police now have in place to consult the public now that the Panel meetings have stopped. It was suggested that the Police visit local villages.

145/13 HIGHWAYS, PARISH PATHS & BYWAYS

1. **Replies re matters reported from previous meetings:**
 - 1.1 **Water ponding** – The areas of concern were inspected and the request for grips has been included on the contractor's list
 - 1.2 **Potholes and dips** - Arrangements have been made for the potholes to be filled.
 - 1.3 **New BT junction box, Church Way, Lt Downham** – A parishioner has contacted the Clerk about his concerns. The Clerk will forward the complaint to CCC Highways.
 - 1.4 **Block Drain outside no. 30 Main Street, Lt Downham** – This has been jetted through.
 - 1.5 **Litter bin adjacent to the seat Cannon Street and Pond Lane Green, Lt Downham** – The bin has never had a lid. The Clerk has requested that ECDC replace the old bin with a lidded bin.
2. **To report current matters of concern:**
 - 2.1 **Footpath No. 21** – It was agreed that the gate could be opened earlier and closed later now the days are getting longer. The notices do not need amending just yet.
 - 2.2 **Pothole outside Manor House on Main Street, Lt Downham** – The tarmac had come out. The Clerk was instructed to report this as poor quality workmanship and include County Cllr Read for information.
 - 2.3 **Potholes on North Fen Drove, Lt Downham** – The potholes were filled during lots of rain and some potholes were missed.
 - 2.4 **Full Dog Bins** – The bins at the top of Hurst Lane, West Fen Drove and Eagles Lane need to be larger or emptied more often. The Clerk was instructed to ask ECDC for larger bins.
Dog Bin required on Main Street, Pymoor – It was suggested that one of the small obsolete bins could be installed on Main Street because many dog walkers put dog waste bags in the litter bin outside Pymoor Methodist Chapel. Cllr G Taylor will look at where a bin could be installed.

146/13 CORRESPONDENCE

1. **Open Invite to Ely & District Community Transport Ltd (Dial-a-Ride) AGM, Witchford Village Hall 18/02/14 11am – 2pm** – Cllr Oldfield expressed an interest to attend. Following a recent newspaper article informing that grant funding for Dial-a-Ride might be withdrawn, the Clerk was instructed to write to the council to express continued support for Dial-a-Ride grant funding because it provides the parish 125 bus service.

147/13 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

8.50pm **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 148/13, 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.**

148/13 PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND ASSETS

1. **Tenders for 2014 Grass Cutting season** – Four contractors were invited to tender and three quotes were received. Due to a difference of £1200 on the annual total for grass cutting, it was felt that the Council would have to consider changing contractors.

Resolved to approve the tender from Country Grounds Maintenance (CGM) Ltd (West Dereham) and aware a one year contract as per the grass cutting Annual Parish Maintenance Specifications 2014.

The Clerk was instructed to monitor the cuts and write to express thanks to Truelink Ltd for their many years of service.

2. Tenders for 2014 Grazing season:

2.1 Myles Meadow - One tender was received for the grazing of Myles Meadow.

Resolved unanimously to accept the tender of £440 from RJ Yarrow for cattle grazing in Myles Meadow from 01/05/14 to 30/09/14 inclusive.

The Clerk was instructed to include in the acceptance letter that the cattle must be suitable for the public using the permissive path through the field. It was noted that there was no mention in the Grazing Agreement of a payment towards the cattle drinking water supply in Myles Meadow. The Council will review Grazing Agreements prior to going out to tender in 2015.

2.2 Holts Meadow - One tender was received for the grazing of Holts Meadow.

Resolved unanimously to accept the tender of £80 from L Smith for sheep grazing in Holts Meadow.

3. CCTV Automatic Number Plate Recognition – ANPR cameras can only pick up index numbers when a vehicle is facing directly at the camera. Crawford Associates informed that This is not practical with the layout of the recreation area. The Clerk will enquire about alternative methods with another provider.

4. Cemetery – update – The Chairman informed that there are three pieces of land to look at and the Cemetery Working Group will meet to discuss which one it recommends the Council to take forward.

149/13 REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

1. Pymoor Social Club Driveway
2. Barrier on Footpath No. 21 update
3. Little Downham War Memorial update

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.32 pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date