

**MINUTES of a meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall,  
Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 14 October 2010 commencing at 7.00pm.**

**Councillors present:** Cllrs DA Adams-Payne, in the chair, DJ Badcock, CM Frankland, GF Frankland, CE Hall, EW Hall, RS Martin, MM Oldfield, BL Taylor, AJ White and KO Winters.

**In attendance:** Dist. Cllr AT Goodge, County Cllr P Read (7.15pm) and one parishioner.

**106/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Dist. Cllr A Bailey and PC K Humble.

**107/10 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None

**108/10 PARISH CRIME MATTERS**

1. **Police Crime Reports** – No report on this occasion.
2. **To report recent events** – Concern was expressed about 4x4 vehicles on the Drovers again. It was questioned why Lt Downham can't have signs on the droves like Witcham and Coveney?

**109/10 PUBLIC FORUM**

A parishioner from Hundred Foot Bank expressed concerns that the Environment Agency has recently installed gates along the haul road, which will restrict access to her home. Currently, the gates are not locked. The council took note of the comments and would consider them when they discussed the matter under item 116/10.4.

7.15pm County Cllr P Read arrived.

7.19pm One parishioner left.

**110/10 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** (Dist. Cllrs A Bailey & A Goodge)

1. Dist. Cllr Goodge informed that ECDC had applied for an Order to restrict the drinking of alcohol in the grounds around Ely Cathedral and the park, a new company is being sought to take on the Fenland River trips following the death of the owner, Oliver Cromwell House is in the top 10 for an award and spot checks are being carried out on businesses for Asbestos. He warned passengers to be wary of whether a taxi driver has a licence, which if not could mean that as a passenger they are not insured in the car. Cllr Goodge reported back on matters requested by Cllr Winters at 16/09/10 meeting.

**111/10 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** (County Cllr P Read)

1. County Cllr Read reported that Cambridgeshire County Council is facing cuts over the next three years and there's a need to be more efficient; services may be passed on to parishes. Lorries are to be re-routed away from villages and broadband may be upgraded at Littleport but not in Lt Downham (Pymoor Exchange).

7.40pm Dist. Cllr Goodge and County Cllr Read left.

**112/10 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

1. **Resolved** that the minutes of 22 July 2010 (Full Council) be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
2. **Resolved** that the minutes of 19 August 2010 (Full Council) be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **Resolved** that the minutes of 16 September 2010 (Full Council) be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**113/10 MATTERS TO REPORT**

1. **(Min.71/10.2) Lt Downham Pavilion - To consider relocation of stopcock for Cricket Table water** – the handyman had relocated the stopcock in the Pavilion and fitted a lid over the pipe on the cricket field.
2. **(Mins.88/10.2.3) Foxes Drove, off B1411 between A10 and Lt Downham** – This matter was reported to CCC Rights of Way Officer, Karen Whymark, and also City of Ely Council because it is situated in Ely Parish.
3. **(Min.90/10) Appointment of the Parish Council Handyman** – Mr Wardle accepted the position and began work week commencing 22/08/10. Mr Beeney has not accepted the relief position.
4. **(Min.101/10.2) Mr T Warren – request to reduce height of Silver Birch Tree on Church Way** – Waiting for CCC Highways and ECDC to reply.

## 114/10 PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning correspondence -

1.1 **10/00679/FUL** Mrs Tracey Paul, 17 Matthew Wren Close, Lt Downham – Plant a laurel hedge adjacent to the footpath then erect a 1.80 metre high wooden fence on the grass directly behind the laurel hedge a total distance of 34 metres.  
**Resolved** - Little Downham Parish Council has concerns regarding the application and suggest that conditions be applied to any permission.  
**Reason: Concerns were expressed regarding the height of the fence and that the roots of the laurel hedge in time may disturb the surface of the footpath.**

1.2 **10/00758/FUL** Mr G King-Hall, 15 Townsend, Lt Downham – Siting of container and static caravan on front garden during restoration of property – retrospective  
**Resolved** - Little Downham Parish Council has no concerns about the application.

1.3 **10/00804/FUL** Dr P Spofforth & DR R Armstrong, Springfields, Straight Furlong, Pymoor – Replacement ménage and adjacent winter pen (private use)  
**Resolved** - Little Downham Parish Council has no concerns about the application, however, it suggests that a time limit is applied.

1.4 **For information only:**

ECDC Applications approved: 10/00548/FUM, 10/00578/RMA, 10/00706/FUL, 10/00710/FUL, 10/00787/AGN (permitted development)

## 115/10 FINANCE

1. **Monthly Internal Audit** was carried out by Cllrs DA Adams-Payne and CE Hall.

2. **Ely & Soham Dial-A-Ride – To consider donation request** – It was agreed to donate. Last year's grant was £100. Cllr KO Winters proposed a grant of £500, but it was not seconded. It was proposed by Cllr KO Winters, seconded by Cllr BL Taylor, to provide a grant of £250. A vote result was: 4 in Favour and 6 Against.  
It was proposed by Cllr RS Martin, seconded by Cllr CE Hall, to provide a grant of £200. A vote result was: 8 in Favour and 2 Abstentions.  
**Resolved** to approve a grant of £200 to Ely & Soham Dial-a-Ride.

3. **To approve bills and other items for payment** – The general insurance block policy (Aviva) was due for renewal and an option of one year term @ £1225.18 or three-year term @ £1163.92 (5% discount) was considered. Proposed by Cllr DJ Badcock and seconded by Cllr KO Winters.  
**Resolved** to approve the three-year term option @ £1163.92 and the Chairman to sign the agreement.  
**Resolved** to approve list of payments for cheque numbers 000752 to 000763 for the total sum of £5440.77.

## 116/10 PARISH MATTERS

1. **Land Registry – To consider voluntary registration of council land** – It was unanimously agreed to consider registration of land. Proposed Cllr GF Frankland, seconded Cllr RS Martin.  
**Resolved** to consider registration of land but to obtain informal valuations to establish the cost of fees.

2. **CCC – Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Preliminary Flood risk Assessment and Flood Memories consultation – ends 31/10/10** – The last recalled flooding in the parish was over 15 years ago and a one-off event in 1987 when the Internal Drainage Board pump failed for a while and crops were flooded. Flooding was dispersed when the pumps were repaired. The Clerk was instructed to complete the survey with the information.

3. **Neighbourhood Panel Meeting (25/10/10, 7pm at Sutton) – To consider issues to report** – Cllr Winters was instructed to report two issues:

- A problem of 4x4 vehicles on the Drovers
- Speeding on Main Street, Little Downham.

4. **Installation by Environment Agency of gates at Hundred Foot Bank, Pymoor** – The local resident's concerns of restricted access and services to property were considered.  
**Resolved** to contact the Environment Agency to express concerns, state that the gates are not wide enough for farm vehicles and suggest a consultation with residents and farmers.

## 117/10 CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. **Lt Downham Cemetery – update from working group** – No report on this occasion.

2. **Lt Downham Village Hall – update from working group (Cllr Badcock site visit report) (Min.102/10.2)** – A site visit was held on 29/09/10 with ECDC Conservation Officer, Lorraine King. Cllr Badcock's report of the working group's recommended specifications for the rear terrace was considered. Proposed Cllr CM Frankland, seconded MM Oldfield.  
**Resolved** unanimously to accept the recommendations from the working group and obtain three quotes.

118/10 **RECREATION AREAS**

1. **BMX Track update** – The sign near the track continues to be removed and then replaced by the handyman. It was decided that more permanent signs should be installed. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Buffaload for involvement in producing the BMX track.  
**Resolved** to obtain three quotes for new BMX Track signs in metal and wood.
2. **Lt Downham Pavilion – to consider maintenance and an extension** – The Council considered a report of the site visit held 20/09/10. Proposed Cllr CE Hall, seconded Cllr BL Taylor.  
**Resolved** unanimously that:
- the Clerk obtains three quotes for a Periodic Inspection of the Pavilion electrics;
  - the handyman is given additional hours to complete projects, i.e. maintenance work;
  - maintenance on the pavilion should continue regardless of other matters at present;
  - the consideration of an extension is deferred to the next meeting.

Proposed Cllr D Badcock, seconded Cllr M Oldfield and agreed unanimously to replace heaters.  
**Resolved** unanimously to approve the quote from Holgate & French to replace the five electric bar heaters in the Pavilion with wall mounted convactor heaters.

3. **To consider review of Licence for Little Downham Recreation Area signed 1994 between the Parish Council and the Trustees of the Village Hall Committee (Min.103/10.4)** – Philip Peacock, Cambridgeshire ACRE, informed that he had a copy of the original document and was willing to assist the council at a fee. It was agreed that this matter needs more time on the agenda and was deferred to another meeting.
4. **Downham Parish Conservation Group – Request of funding for proposed projects** – The conservation Group requested funding from earmarked reserve for projects relating to the Local Nature Reserve. Proposed Cllr DJ Badcock, seconded Cllr KO Winters.  
**Resolved** to approve funding from the Countryside Account for the following projects:
- to replace the gate at the pond in The Holts (approximately £100);
  - to re-print the 'Pingle Wood & Associated Walks' Leaflets (approximately £100);
  - to purchase and erect more bat and bird boxes in and around the LNR (£50).

119/10 **HIGHWAYS**

1. **Replies re previous matters reported:**
- 1.1 **Second Drove, Lt Downham** - The road is subject to a yearly inspection regime as set out in the approved CCC policy. Arrangements have been made for uneven road signs to be erected to warn drivers of the bumpy road.
- 1.2 **Lawns Crescent, Lt Downham** – CCC apologised to the Parish Council for the failure of the sub-contractor to complete the surface dressing at the top of Lawns Crescent, despite repeated requests to do so. The main contractor informs that the time of year is no longer suitable for carrying out this type of work and it is now likely that the remainder of the road will have to wait until next season before completion.
- 1.3 **Lawns Crescent Footway** - There are one or two areas of deterioration that may require attention at sometime in the future. The condition will be monitored and considered when assessing the priorities for future footway works.
2. **To report current matters of concern:**
- 2.1 **B1411, Second Drove and Third Drove, Lt Downham** - More sandbags are needed to keep the bumpy road signs upright.
- 2.2 **Cowbridge Hall Road, Lt Downham** – Request for planings in the 'lay-by'.
- 2.3 **Straight Furlong to A Furlong, Pymoor** – The road is in a bad condition again.
- 2.4 **Pymoor Siding, Pymoor** – Two large holes need filling.

120/10 **CORRESPONDENCE - For information only**

1. **Cambridgeshire County Council Libraries re Little Downham Book Cafe** – Notice is given under clause 14.1 to terminate Service Level Agreement (SLA) on 20/12/10. A new SLA is to be completed incorporating the terms and conditions previously outlined at the public meeting on 02/08/10.

2. CPALC AGM 13/11/10 at 10am in Bluntisham Village Hall, Mill Lane, Bluntisham
3. CCC - Press release of new monthly walk routes facility on the website (enclosed)  
[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside)

**121/10 REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

1. Pavilion, Lt Downham – maintenance and/or extension
2. Cold Callers – signs for the village (Cllr D Badcock)
3. Lt Downham Play Area roundabout to play area & recreation committee

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.50pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman) Date .....

