

**MINUTES of a meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall,
Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 15 January 2015 commencing at 7.00pm.**

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

Other attendees: Dist. Cllr A Bailey and Keeley Russell (Head of Client Liaison, Balfour Beatty)

125/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – County Cllr P Read.

126/14 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Cllr DA Adams-Payne** declared a personal interest in item 136/14.2 (Fete Committee and the Brownies and Guides storage container request) because she is on the Fete Committee (Declaration 001-2015).
2. **Cllr RS Martin** declared an interest in item 139/14 (Cemetery update) because he is a Superintendent of the Cemetery (Declaration 002-2015).
3. **Cllr MM Oldfield** declared a personal interest in item 136/14.2 (Fete Committee and the Brownies and Guides storage container request) because she is on the Fete Committee (Declaration 003-2015).
4. **Cllr BGF Smith** declared a personal interest in item 139/14 (Cemetery update) because he is a Committee Member (Declaration 004-2015).

127/14 LITTLE DOWNHAM & PYMOOR STREET LIGHTING

1. Keeley Russell (Head of Client Liaison, Balfour Beatty) gave a short presentation on the Cambridgeshire Street Lighting five-year installation review. Plans are yet to be produced for Little Downham and Pymoor, as columns are still being assessed. Central Government is providing £5 million towards the project and has stipulated that 10% of street light columns in residential areas must be removed. This will not affect the columns on main roads. The new stainless steel columns will be 6m high instead of 5m and have lower wattage white bulbs, which will produce a county saving of £900,000 per annum in energy and CO₂ alone. Some lights will be dimmed during the middle of the night. Parish Council owned lights will not be affected unless the Parish Council wishes to pay for them to be changed.

128/14 PUBLIC FORUM – No comments

129/14 LITTLE DOWNHAM & PYMOOR STREET LIGHTING

1. Members asked Keeley Russell about the review and the County Council's 25-year asset management period. The Council will await the street lighting plans in due course.

7.35pm Keeley Russell was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

130/14 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Dist. Cllrs A Bailey & A Goodge)

1. Dist. Cllr Bailey reported that ECDC had decided to give a one-off grant of £15,000 to Ely Soham Dial-a-Ride (ESDAR), as match funding to the £15,000 grant it receives from the County Council. ESDAR's bus service contract with CCC has been extended. ESDAR is also in contact with Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT) Dial A Ride to discuss a possibility of sharing services. The Parish Council agreed to write to both authorities to express support for ESDAR to receive funding and to emphasize the importance of funding distribution for Dial-a-Ride services that serve rural communities. ECDC Asset Committee is looking at funding and reassessing ECDC assets for the new Leisure Village on Downham Road, Ely. There is currently a consultation on uses for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) that has raised £388,000 so far from new developments. She suggested that Emma Grima (ECDC CIL officer) be invited to attend a council meeting to provide information about how the Council can use its own CIL funds.

8.01pm Cllr KO Winters left the meeting. 8.04pm Cllr Winters returned.

8.02pm Dist. Cllr Bailey was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

131/14 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (County Cllr P Read) – No report on this occasion.

132/14 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

133/14 MATTERS TO REPORT

1. **(Min.116/14.2) Dog Waste Bins** – ECDC is expected to install the bins in the next week or so.
2. **(Min.116/14.4) Rural Payments Agency Single Payment Scheme (SPS) 2015** – The Parish Council can claim for Myles Meadow. Mr Martin is required to transfer the land entitlement back to the Council using a RLE1 form. The Council can then include it in its Basic Payment Scheme application that must be submitted by 15 May 2015.
3. **(Min.116/14.6) All Weather Court, Lt Downham** – Artificial Grass Cambridge Ltd visited the court yesterday and sprayed a chemical on some persistent problem area, which should also help with drainage. It will take five days to see the effect. Overall, the court is much better. The court is not open for bookings yet. It will be reviewed next week.
4. **(Min.116/14.10) White container, Lt Downham Recreation area** – M Yardy Engineering Ltd has repaired door and football users are happy with it.

134/14 PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning correspondence -

- 1.1 **14/01200/ADI** ALS Autos, Downham Garage, 23A Main Street, Lt Downham – 1 x Internally illuminated Aluminium Fascia, 1 x Internally illuminated Entrance Statement, 1 x Internally illuminated Totem - **Amendment for information only** - reduction of height of Sign B and the amendment to the totem pole to return it to the original design – Parish Council noted.

Addendum item

- 1.3 **14/01367/OUT** Mr Kevin Daily, 11 Tower Road, Lt Downham – Proposed residential dwelling attached to 11 Tower Road, Lt Downham. **A vote to recommend outright refusal for the reasons shown below was recorded as follows: In favour of the refusal (10)** - Cllrs DA Adams-Payne, CM Frankland, GF Frankland, CE Hall, LEA Joel, RS Martin, MM Oldfield, BGF Smith, BL Taylor and GH Taylor, **Against the refusal (1)** - Cllr KO Winters.

Resolved Little Downham Parish Council had concerns regarding this application and recommended outright refusal for the following reasons:

1. Overdevelopment of the site – The existing property was originally built through planning permission for extensions and has recently been granted permission to be divided into two properties. The Parish Council considers that the site is not large enough for an attached third dwelling.

2. Off-street parking and highway concerns – The Council has concerns regarding the number of vehicles in and out of the property at the corner of Tower Road with Park Lane and the driveway to The Bishops Palace, Equi Centric and The Firs Residential Home. There could also be parking issues with three times the number of visitors to the site, which has a lack of on-street parking in the area.

For information only:

- 1.2 ECDC: Applications approved: 14/00773/FUL, 14/01184/PDR,

135/14 FINANCE

1. **Monthly Internal Audit** was carried out by Cllrs LEA Joel and BL Taylor.
2. **To set Parish Precept for 2015/16 (Min.101/14.2.2)** – It was proposed by Cllr DA Adams-Payne and seconded by Cllr GF Frankland that the current Precept be increased by 1.5% and be set as per the £76,414.00 estimated figure sent to ECDC at the end of November. **A recorded vote result was as follows: In favour (10)** - Cllrs DA Adams-Payne, CM Frankland, GF Frankland, CE Hall, LEA Joel, RS Martin, MM Oldfield, BGF Smith, BL Taylor and GH Taylor, **Against (1)** - Cllr KO Winters.
Resolved to set the Precept at £76,414.00 for 2015/16 financial year.
3. **To approve bills and other items for payment** - Items presented for payment were proposed by Cllr LEA Joel and seconded by Cllr BL Taylor.
Resolved unanimously to approve list of payments for Direct Debit and BACS payments 271 to 279 for the total sum of £4150.60.

136/14 PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND ASSETS

1. **Little Downham All Weather Court floodlights** – It was noted that the current floodlight bulbs are not produced anymore. The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotes for new LED floodlights.
2. **Fete Committee and Guides & Brownies proposed container at Little Downham Recreation Area (Min.116/14.2)**– ECDC not replied yet to say if planning permission is required.

137/14 HIGHWAYS, PARISH PATHS & BYWAYS

1. **Replies re matters reported from previous meetings:**
 - 1.1 **BT Phone Box, Main Street, Lt Downham (Min.120/14.2.1)** – Lawn Lane phone box is to be removed in the near future. Main Street phone box will remain. The Clerk will request that it is repainted.
 - 1.2 **Downham Road B1411 (Min.120/14.2.3)** – It does not appear that grips have been cut on this road, although Pymoor section has. The Clerk was instructed to request again that they be done.
 - 1.3 **Black Bank Road, Lt Downham (Min.120/14.2.4)** – CCC Highways has noted that patching is needed in some areas. Funding may become available when budgets are reassessed before the end of the financial year.
 - 1.4 **No. 1 Main Street, Pymoor (Min.120/14.2.5)** – ECDC Planning Enforcement is to look into the concerns. The Clerk has been sent a form to complete.
2. **To report current matters of concern**
 - 2.1 **B1411 Westmoor Common** – Thanks were expressed for a good job on resurfacing a section of the carriageway between Adventurers Drove and Mount Pleasant Farm.
 - 2.2 **Black Bank Road, Lt Downham** – Planings are needed to raise the highway verge adjacent to the carriageway that was resurfaced Downham side of the railway crossing.
 - 2.3 **Ely Road/Cannon Street Junction, Lt Downham** – The Clerk will notify Anglian Water that water was running across the road this evening.
 - 2.4 **Dog Fouling** – Complaints have been received about dog fouling on pavements. The Clerk will put a reminder in the parish magazine requesting dog walkers to clean up after their dogs.
 - 2.5 **Top of Hurst Lane, Lt Downham** – Report of raw sewage leaking down the road from an adjacent property. The Clerk will report to ECDC Environmental Services or Anglian Water.
 - 2.6 **Post Box on Lawn Lane, Lt Downham** – Request Royal Mail to cut back the hedge.

138/14 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

8.55pm 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 139/14 & 140/14, 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.

139/14 PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND ASSETS

- 1 **Cemetery – update (Min.122/14.2)** - Peter Hampson informed the Clerk that the Churchwardens had met recently but could not negotiate on the land as it must be referred to the Ely Diocese, which he will do in the next few days. He hopes to have a reply for the next council meeting.

140/14 PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND ASSETS

- 1 **Tenders for 2015 Grass Cutting season** – Five contractors were invited to tender and three quotes were received. One quote was high because the contractor did not have the machinery to cope with large flat areas. The overall annual figures of the remaining two quote differed by £394. It was noted that users of Little Downham recreation field had expressed a preference for the previous year’s cutting machine because it mulched and produced smaller cuttings. As an elections is being held in May, it was agreed to award a one year contract for the 2015 season.
Resolved unanimously to approve the tender from Truelink Ltd and to award a one year contract as per the Grass Cutting Specifications 2015.

141/14 REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION – None

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.12 pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date