

LITTLE DOWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street,
Little Downham, on Thursday, 19 March 2009 commencing at 7.00pm.

Councillors present: DA Adams-Payne, in the chair, DJ Badcock, CE Hall (7.06pm), EW Hall, M Oldfield, RS Martin, BL Taylor, AJ White and KO Winters.

In attendance: Dist. Cllr A Bailey (7.06pm), County Cllr P Read and 2 parishioners.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Received from Cllrs CM Frankland and RC Stacey, Dist. Cllr A Goodge, PC K Humble and PCSO J Hall. Apologies for lateness were received from Dist. Cllr A Bailey.

188/08 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Cllr **RS Martin** declared a prejudicial interest in item 202/08 (Tenders) because his brother had submitted an application (Declaration no. 004-2009).

189/08 TO ADJOURN MEETING FOR PUBLIC FORUM

7.05pm Meeting adjourned – Additional information was provided about the Fete and item 198/08.2.

7.10pm Meeting reconvened.

190/08 PARISH CRIME MATTERS – Nothing to report on this occasion.

191/08 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Dist. Cllrs A Bailey & A Goodge)

1. Cllr Bailey reported that matters are still being looked into regarding the Fish Company at Pymoor, the provision of a Leisure Centre on Downham Road/A10 looks set to go ahead but could take three years to be completed, despite the credit crunch ECDC has managed to invest well and has continued to provide grants and increase its donations to the Citizens Advice Bureaus at Ely and Newmarket, EERA has rejected plans for the southern bypass based on the grounds that it serves local needs and not regional needs, and alternative ways are being looked into regarding the free bus passes scheme because not enough services are provided.

192/08 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (County Cllr P Read)

1. County Cllr Read informed of a National Health Service Public Consultation Forum and a Transport Commission Forum re congestion charges that were being held in the next month.

7.20pm Parishioner left

7.24pm Dist. Cllr Bailey and County Cllr Read left.

193/08 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. **12/02/09** - Cllr Winters questioned the wording of the minutes and the suggestion of his letter to Karen Whymark being aggressive. It was proposed by Cllr KO Winters, seconded by Cllr BL Taylor, to remove the word aggressive out of the minutes. A recorded vote was taken in which the result was: For – Cllrs BL Taylor, KO Winters. Against – Cllrs DA Adams-Payne, DJ Badcock, CE Hall, M Oldfield, RS Martin. Abstentions: Cllrs EW Hall (absent from that meeting), AJ White. In conclusion, no amendment was made to the minutes.

RESOLVED: The minutes of 12 February 2009 (Full Council) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. **RESOLVED: The minutes of 5 March 2009 (Extraordinary) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

194/08 MATTERS TO REPORT

1. **(Min.67/08.1) Electricity Poles and Stays in School Lane, Lt Downham** – The Clerk is still waiting for an appointment from EDF to meet an engineer on site to discuss the problems with the electricity stays. As this is not classed as an emergency, an appointment can take up to eight weeks, which is up to the beginning of April. It was reported that during the weekend 14/15 Feb, a vehicle was reversed up the stay by the Village Hall carpark and was suspended with the wheels off the ground. The fire brigade was called to release it.

2. **(Min.162/08.2.4) Coffue Drove (Byway 44)** – The Clerk contacted Maureen Rosse, the Level Crossing Control Coordinator at Network Rail. She advised parishioners to write, detailing their problem and state the exact location in order that the matter could be looked into. Network Rail may consider putting the sleepers back, but there is no guarantee of any work taking place.

3. **(Min.171/08.4) Lt Downham Play Area Railings** – The railings have been installed but not the gates because they are not self-closing and currently open 360 degrees. The Clerk is making regular checks on the progress of getting the gates installed.

195/08 **PLANNING MATTERS**

1. Planning correspondence

For information only:

1.1 ECDC - Applications approved: 08/01013/FUL

196/08 **FINANCE**

1. Monthly Internal Audit was carried out by Cllrs EW Hall and BL Taylor.

2. To accept Highways Agency (CCC) Grass Cutting offer – A 5% increase on last year.

RESOLVED: To accept the offer of £2387.06 for the 2009 grass cutting season.

3. To consider purchase of new dog bin at Cannon Street/Townsend – ECDC removed the damaged bin and expects the Council replace it. It was decided to replace it with a larger one.

RESOLVED: To purchase a green 60ltr dog waste bin from Glasdon UK Ltd @ £246.99, which ECDC is willing to install on the same post at the corner of Cannon Street and Townsend.

4. To consider insurance renewals for Lt Downham Pavilion and Cartshed and 3-year term offer – The renewal premiums were considered and the 3-year term consisted of discounted fixed rates.

RESOLVED: To accept the renewal and 3-year term undertaking for the Pavilion and Cartshed policies due 01/04/09 through Suffolk ACRE Insurance Services (Zurich) at a premium of £387.33 and 137.57 respectively.

5. To consider purchase of woodland walk signs for Pingle Wood – The Conservation Group require two signs for the beginning and end of the walk set out through the trees in Pingle Wood. It was decided on this occasion to ask Mark Wardle to produce the signs.

RESOLVED: To approve that Mark Wardle make two *Woodland Walk* engraved wooden signs on posts at a cost of up to £75 each.

6. To approve bills and other items for payment

RESOLVED: To approve list of payments for cheque numbers 000502 to 000515 and direct debits for the total sum of £9420.68.

197/08 **COUNCIL MATTERS**

1. To consider the Council applying for Power of Well-being – Following an enquiry by CPALC, It was decided unanimously not to apply at the foreseen time.

8.50pm A Parishioner left.

198/08 **PARISH MATTERS**

1. Julie Dell – Request support to reapply/retain the Kidz Den planning permission – The Council agreed that the Kidz Den is well used and a necessity for some working parents in the parish; it would consider supporting an application for renewal of planning permission.

2. Lt Downham Fete, 7 June 2009 – donation request – The Council considered the proposed details of the event. The Clerk informed that the event could not be insured under the Council's policy, but she was making enquiries about other policies on behalf of the Committee. It was agreed unanimously to support the event on this occasion with a donation of £500.

RESOLVED: To pledge a grant of £500 towards the Little Downham Fete to be held on 07/06/09.

199/08 **PARISH PATHS**

1. P3 Matters to discuss (Cllr Winters) – A report from John Cooper (Min.175/08.2) was read.

1.1 Footpath 27 - It was noted that Cllr Winters and Cllr Taylor had recorded the meeting held with Karen Whymark and John Cooper on 11/02/09 at Footpath No. 27. The Chairman requested a copy of the tape for the Council's records. Cllr Winters stated he would contact John Cooper to discuss Mr Parson cutting Footpath No. 27 and point out that the path is considered to be in the wrong place. Cllr Winters proposed that the Council sends John Cooper's report to Brian Smith (CCC Director of Environment & Transport) to get a final say on Footpath 27 regarding the concerns expressed by some councillors and parishioners regarding the culvert.

RESOLVED: To forward John Cooper's email to Brian Smith (CCC Director of Environment & Transport) to get a final say on Footpath 27.

1.2 Footpath 28 – Cllr Winters expressed concern of dog fouling on the allotments and a need for adequate signs on the footpath. A recorded vote was taken in which the result was: For – Cllrs BL Taylor, KO Winters, DJ Badcock, CE Hall, EW Hall, RS Martin AJ White. Against – Cllrs DA Adams-Payne, M Oldfield.

RESOLVED: The Clerk was instructed to request signs from CCC stating **PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEAD.**

1.3 P3 work assisted by the Clerk – Cllr Winters stated that he thought the Clerk should do more to help the P3 representative and can have a grant to cover her additional hours. The Clerk confirmed a grant could be claimed but it should have been considered before the P3 grant deadline at the end of February.

1.4 Footpath 18 – Mr Cooper confirmed there was no specific width recorded for this footpath so it should therefore be the standard 1.5 metres. In reply to a concern expressed by a parishioner 04/02/09, Cllr Winters confirmed he had looked at the footpath but suggested it be forwarded to Karen Whymark for consideration. The Clerk will inform the parishioner.

1.5 Footpath 51 – Following several concerns expressed by a parishioner regarding the overgrown hedge, Cllr Winters confirmed he had looked at this. He was asked to reply to the parishioner and explain his actions in this matter.

200/08 HIGHWAYS

1. Replies from CCC re matters reported at previous meetings – No replies

2. To report current matters of information

2.1 Street Lights – Lights at Cannon Street, Lawn Lane and Ely Road were reported.

2.2 Beild Drove, Lt Downham – A request for planings be spread on the drove.

2.3 Broadall Bridge, Lt Downham – Flytipping of more tyres.

2.4 Black Bank Road (Min.149/08.1.1) – The Clerk had emailed Steve Dighton about the delay of a reply from Amanda Mays, but still no reply.

201/08 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 202/08 & 203/08, 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.

202/08 TENDERS

1. To consider 2009 Grazing

9.07pm Cllr RS Martin left the meeting prior to the following item being discussed.

1.1 Myles Meadow – One tender was received. Proposed Cllr KO Winters, seconded Cllr DJ Badcock.

RESOLVED: To accept the tender of £410 from AW Martin for the grazing of Myles Meadow during the 2009 season.

9.09pm Cllr RS Martin was invited back to the meeting.

1.2 The Holts – No tenders were received.

203/08 HUMAN RESOURCES

1. To consider temporary cover of Handyman during planned absences – In preparation of Keith Norton having an operation on his hand in April and again in June or July, the Council decided to ask Mark Wardle to be a temporary handyman during the planned absences.

RESOLVED: To appoint Mark Wardle as temporary handyman during Keith Norton's planned absences and to remunerate him at the Handyman's current rate of pay and expenses.

204/08 REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Pymoor Play Area Spring Mobiles and Fence

2. To receive and consider an update on the Sports & Social Club proposal.

3. To consider projects for Lt Downham recreation area.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.25pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date