

**MINUTES of a meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall,
Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 28 January 2016 commencing at 7.00pm.**

Councillors present: MM Oldfield, in the chair, and DA Adams-Payne, JW Barker, CE Hall, LEA Joel, RS Martin, MAC Seidler, BL Taylor, GH Taylor, JL Waters and KO Winters. Clerk: Mrs J Wardle

Other attendees: None

139/15 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None

140/15 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

141/15 PUBLIC FORUM – No comments

142/15 PLANNING MATTERS (7.12pm – 7.15pm)

1. Planning correspondence -

1.1 **15/01577/FUL** Mr & Mrs Shaun Brown, 11 Townsend, Little Downham – Single storey front extension – **Resolved** - Little Downham Parish Council had no concerns regarding this application.

143/15 FINANCE – NEW AUDIT REGIME

1. **To consider and approve the opt in of a Sector Led Body to procure audit services or to opt out and set up own Independent Audit Panel to procure external audits** – Members were given information that NALC, SLCC and ADA (Association of Drainage Authorities) have set up a company (Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited) to take over from the now abolished Audit Commission to appoint external auditors and set audit fees for smaller authorities (Parish & Town Councils and Drainage Authorities). If the Parish Council does not opt out, it will automatically be included in the sector led body procuring audit services on its behalf from 2017 for a period of five years. The Company's intention is that fee rates will not exceed those applicable to reviews of accounts for the 2014/15 financial year. Various criteria and regulations apply if the Council wishes to opt out and appoint its own external auditor, which was consider more expensive.

Resolved unanimously not to opt out and be automatically included in the arrangements of the Sector Led Body procuring audit services.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.13 pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date