

**MINUTES of a meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall,  
Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 16 June 2016 commencing at 7.00pm.**

**Councillors present:** JL Waters, in the chair, and RS Martin, MM Oldfield, G Ord, MAC Seidler, BL Taylor.

**Clerk:** Mrs J Wardle

**Other attendees:** One parishioner.

**31/16 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllrs JW Barker, CE Hall, LEA Joel and GH Taylor, County Cllr L Dupre, Dist. Cllrs A Bailey and M Bradley.

No apologies: KO Winters.

**32/16 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. **Cllr G Ord** declared a personal interest in item 34/16.1.1 (Application 16/00035/FUL) because the applicant is a golfing companion. (Declaration 020-2016).

**33/16 PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Nicholas explained that details of the new scheme were the preference of the planning officer. He was happy to answer questions when the application was discussed.

**34/16 PLANNING MATTERS**

1. **Planning correspondence -**

- 1.1 **16/00035/FUL** Norman & Nicholas Carpentry, land north of 20 Martins Lane, Lt Downham – Proposed dwelling – Amendment – The amendment involved the scheme (new layout, elevations and block plans). Three letters of objections were received from local residents. Despite some concerns by councillors regarding the size of the building and parking, it was noted that the height of the proposed dwelling had been reduced in line with the adjacent dwelling and the garage reduced to a single garage and the off-white render colour were at the request of the planning officer.

**Resolved - Little Downham Parish Council had no concerns regarding this application.**

- 1.2 **16/00478/FUL** Mr Tim Quinn, Women's Institute Hall, Main Street, Pymoor – Demolition of Women's Institute Hall and construction of 3 bedroom chalet bungalow.

**Resolved - Little Downham Parish Council had no concerns regarding this application.**

- 1.3 **16/00605/VARM** CN Seeds, 18 Main Street, Pymoor – To vary condition 1 (Approved plans) of previously approved 13/00651/FUM (and amended by 13/00651/NMAA) for erection of seed technology centre housing seed plant and equipment.

Conditions Removal: To make changes to the eaves and ridge height and to the profile of the building. To permit the revised plans to be associated with the condition

**Resolved - Little Downham Parish Council had no concerns regarding this application.**

- 1.4 **16/00620/FUL** Mr Les Smith, Isle Small Animal Veterinary Centre, West Fen Road, Ely – Change of use from storage to retail at first floor (associated pets store products) including external start and enclosed passenger lift.

**Resolved - Little Downham Parish Council had no concerns regarding this application.**

- 1.5 **16/00633/FUL** Mr Renegn Gaté, 7 Black Bank Road, Lt Downham – Erection of mobile log cabin as a single dwelling - **Little Downham Parish Council had concerns regarding this application and recommended outright refusal for the following reasons.**

**1. Environmental Factors - It was considered that the noise and smell of a new Piggery on the proposed site would have implications and be detrimental to nearby local residents and established businesses, such as WoodFen Lodge Spa and Treatment Centre and those currently in the business units at Black Bank Road Business Centre. It was noted that an application for more business units at the Black Bank Business Centre had been received from ECDC and will be considered by the Parish Council at its meeting on 30th June.**

**2. Business Plan - There was no Business Plan accompanying the application to confirm the size of the new Piggery on the proposed site in future years. There does not appear to be a Piggery at present in existence on the site.**

**35/16 FINANCE**

1. **To approve bills and payments** – It was proposed by Cllr JL Waters and seconded by Cllr MM Oldfield.  
**Resolved unanimously to approve the payments of BACS payments 454 to 465 and direct debits for the total sum of £5164.05.**

**36/15 PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND ASSETS**

**1. Zipwire Project – Update**

- 1.1 Installation was completed on 01/06/16. Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold the grand opening at the Fete on 4<sup>th</sup> June due to muddy and unsafe ground conditions. Sovereign was informed of concerns regarding the mud around the new equipment and the uneven ground under the grass guard mats. The RoSPA inspection carried out on 06/06/16 identified two low risks items; one being that the inspector was unable to view the chain with its cover on, and the second being that the grass mat surfacing needed repairing. Following several conversations with Sovereign and finally a re-visit by the sales rep on 14/06/16, it was agreed that the contractors would return in the coming week to rectify the concerns. The Heras fencing has remained around the equipment for health and safety reason. The Clerk was instructed to hold back on paying Sovereign the completion invoice until work has been completed.

- 1.2 The Council considered whether to set grass seed on the old concrete path area, although it would be soft and take a further month to become established or to cover with a membrane and play grade mulch, which would allow the children to use the Zipwire immediately.

**Resolved unanimously to approve a quote from Sid Bibby for the installation of timber edges, membrane and play grade mulch around the Zipwire equipment @ £1420 + VAT [Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19].**

Work will commence after Sovereign has completed its work.

**37/15 HIGHWAYS, PARISH PATHS & BYWAYS**

1. **Network Rail - Anglia Level Crossing Reduction Strategy – Proposed closure of crossings at Furlong Drove and Coffue Drove – Cllr Winters Report** – It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting on 30/06/16 for Cllr Winters to give his report. The deadline for comments was confirmed as 06/07/16.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.44 pm.

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