

LITTLE DOWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 26 November 2009 commencing at 7.00pm.

Councillors present: RC Stacey, in the chair, DA Adams-Payne, CM Frankland, CE Hall, RS Martin, M Oldfield, BL Taylor, AJ White and KO Winters.

In attendance: Dist. Cllrs T Goodge (7.10pm), PC K Humble (7.06pm) and one parishioner.

Prior to the start of the Council meeting, Cllr Taylor placed something on the table that other members believed was a recording device. He was informed that he was not permitted to record the meeting. Cllr Taylor and the Chairman requested that this be looked into for future meetings. Cllr Taylor withdrew the device.

APOLOGIES - Received from Cllr DJ Badcock, Dist. Cllrs A Bailey and County Cllr P Read

129/09 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Cllr RS Martin declared a personal interest in item 136.09.1.2 (Application 09/00852/OUT) because he was a former tenant of part land and tenant of adjoining land (Declaration no. 021-2009).

2. Cllr RC Stacey declared a prejudicial interest in items 136.09.1.1 (Application 09/00372/FUL) and 137/09.5 (Donation Request) because he is on the board of School Governors (Declaration nos. 022-2009 and 023-2009).

130/09 TO ADJOURN MEETING FOR PUBLIC FORUM

7.04pm Meeting adjourned – No public comments

7.05pm Meeting reconvened.

At the Chairman's discretion, in the absence of PC Humble and Dist. Cllr Goodge, the following item was brought forward.

134/09 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. RESOLVED: The minutes of 15 October 2009 (Full Council) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. The minutes of 5 November were amended with the following:

- *Taylor* amended to *Winters* (item 122/09, paragraph 2, line 13,) that it was Cllr Winters that had requested it be minuted that Cllr Adams-Payne had slammed the door and not Cllr Taylor;
- *Cllr Oldfield had left to go after Cllr Adams Payne* (item 122/09, paragraph 2, line 14) to add the sentence at the end of Public Forum;
- *and Cllr Oldfield* (after item 123/09, paragraph 2, line 1) Cllr Oldfield had returned with Cllr Badcock.

Cllr Winters disagreed that the minutes were correct. The result of a vote to approve the minutes was: In favour – 7, Against – 2.

RESOLVED: The minutes of 5 November 2009 (Extraordinary) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record following the above amendments.

7.06pm PC Humble arrived.

131/09 PARISH CRIME MATTERS –

1. Police Crime Report – Seven crimes were recorded in Lt Downham and two in Pymoor between 16/10/09 and 24/11/09. There were also 37 calls for services to Lt Downham and five for Pymoor.

7.10pm Dist. Cllr Goodge arrived.

2. To report recent events – There were no matters to report. PC Humble emphasised that some recent burglaries have taken place at night and expressed concern that some residents are not locking their doors at night. He recommends that people remain vigilant about unknown vehicles or people in the area and to report anything they consider suspicious.

7.30pm PC Humble was thanked for his report and left.

132/09 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Dist. Cllrs A Bailey & A Goodge)

1. Dist. Cllr Goodge had nothing to report on ECDC matters. He read out his letter addressed to the Environment Agency in relation to the Gt Ouse Tidal River Strategy Consultation. Dist. Cllr Goodge was commended on his comments. Cllr Winters requested a copy of the letter.

7.43pm Dist. Cllr Goodge was thanked for attending and left.

133/09 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (County Cllr P Read)** – No report on this occasion.

135/09 **MATTERS TO REPORT**

1. (Min.86/09.1) 09/00695/VAR Mrs J Clifton, Whitegates, 18 Third Drove, Lt Downham – Variation of condition No.1 of 04/00750/FUL permitted 09/09/2004 for permanent use – The application was referred to the ECDC Planning Committee on 4 November. Due to the Planning Officer omitting the Council's comment from her report, the Chairman requested that the Vice Chairman attend in his absence to observe and confirm that the Council's comment was made known to the Committee. The Committee deferred the decision to the Executive Director for further enquiries with the Environment Agency (EA) had objected to the application in principle because the site was now located within flood risk zone 3 on the EA flood map. ECDC will keep the Council informed.

2. (Min. 110/09) Little Downham Sports & Leisure Committee – The Committee has been informed by the Downham Feoffees Charity that it will not agree to a wayleave for access to the proposed facility in the recreation area. The Committee has decided to withdraw its proposal.

3. (Min.112/09) To consider insurance renewal 2009/10 and options of 3-year or 5-year term offers – The proposed policy enquiries confirmed that the policy was at least equal if not better than Suffolk ACRE. It excludes matters that relate to existing policies for the Recreation Area and the Cartshed, which were renewed in April 2009 with Suffolk ACRE.

4. (Min.123/09) Environment Agency Great Ouse Tidal River Strategy - Draft Consultation – The Environment Agency confirmed receipt of the comments and will respond to the points raised.

136/09 **PLANNING MATTERS**

To consider planning applications received:

7.46pm Cllr Stacey left the room prior to the following item being discussed. Cllr D Adams-Payne (Vice Chairman) chaired the meeting in his absence.

1.1 09/000837FUL Downham Feoffees School, Main Street, Lt Downham – Removal of old fence and replace with new mesh security fencing.

RESOLVED: *The Parish Council had no concerns.*

7.48pm Cllr Stacey returned to chair the meeting. Cllr Martin left the room prior to the following item being discussed.

1.2 09/00852/OUT, Archer & Archer, 19 Cannon Street, Lt Downham – Outline application detached one and a half storey 3 bed chalet bungalow.

RESOLVED: *The Parish Council had concerns about this application and recommends outright refusal for the following reasons:*

1. **Cramped Development** – *It is considered that the proposed development will result in a cramped appearance of the site and an overdevelopment of the area.*

2. **Inadequate visibility splays and road safety** – *The visibility splays for the proposed site and that of No. 19 Cannon Street are considered inadequate to allow vehicles to exit safely, especially when reversing out. Contrary to Clause 4.3 of the Design and Access Statement, most existing dwellings on Cannon Street do have turning facilities on site. Those that don't have turning facilities, have adjacent parking spaces rather than tandem parking as proposed for these two dwellings. Traffic movements on Cannon Street are as much as on Main Street by drivers of general vehicles, buses and large farm machinery who want to avoid congestion near the school, narrow road sections and parked cars. Additional vehicles reversing out on to Cannon Street work can have unfortunate consequences.*

3. **Parking Concerns** - *The proposed tandem parking on the two sites will result in added vehicular movements and possible on street parking to avoid car shuffling, which could cause problems with traffic on Cannon Street turning into and out of Pond Lane. The Parish Council has expressed concerns to David Archer (Executive Director – Development Services) regarding the lack of adequate parking provision on new developments in Little Downham, which have resulted in causing disharmony with local residents and have a detrimental affect on the local area. Although two spaces are being proposed for both sites, tandem parking is considered an inadequate form of parking.*

2. Planning correspondence

For information only:

2.1 East Cambs District Council Local Development Framework – Core Strategy and Proposals Map Development Plan Documents – Adoption Statement (deadline 01/12/09) -

Cllr Winters expressed concern that water from future proposed developments in Ely and Sutton are to be filtered out to the sub regions (surrounding lowland and farm areas), which could increase flood risk and affect Little Downham.

It was proposed by Cllr Winters, seconded by Cllr Taylor, that the Council should write to the High Court to object to the adoption of the Core Strategy on the grounds that a procedural requirement has not been complied with. A recorded vote was requested of which the result was: In favour – Cllrs B Taylor, KO Winters. Against – Cllrs DA Adams-Payne, CM Frankland, CE Hall, RS Martin, M Oldfield, RC Stacey and A White.

RESOLVED: No action to be taken against the adoption of the Core Strategy.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to invite Katie Child (ECDC Forward Planning) and Sadia Moeed (Environment Agency) to a future meeting to answer the concerns.

For information only:

2.2 ECDC Applications approved: 09/00585/CLE, 09/00692/FUL, 09/00720/FUL

137/09 FINANCE

1. Monthly Internal Audit was carried out by Cllrs DA Adams-Payne and M Oldfield.

8.33pm One parishioner left.

2. To review current financial status 2009/10 & budget proposals 2010/11 – The budget was reviewed and proposals considered with minor amendments agreed. References were made to updating the parish website and to consider a new web designs. It was noted that Robin Pearl voluntarily updates the website and does not claim any expenses.

RESOLVED: To approve the budget proposals for 2010/2011 and to consider alternative web designs in consultation with Robin Pearl.

RESOLVED: To authorise a payment of £50 to Robin Pearl for out of pocket expenses in maintaining and updating the Parish Website, www.littledownham.net.

3. To consider estimate of Precept 2010/11 – It was agreed to consider maintaining the same level of Band D payment as the previous year.

RESOLVED: To inform ECDC that the Precept's estimate at this time is £72,342.

4. To consider donation request from Ely & District Citizens Advice Bureau – It was agreed to grant a donation of £275.

RESOLVED: To donate £275 to Ely & District Citizens Advice Bureau.

5. To consider donation request towards transport of Year 5 Primary Pupils to Careers Event at Ely Community College 11 March 2010 – The Council could not see the need for this event. It was unanimously agreed to decline the request.

RESOLVED: Not to donate on this occasion.

6. To approve bills and other items for payment

RESOLVED: To approve list of payments for cheque numbers 000613 to 000628 and direct debits for the total sum of £7722.71. An excessive Anglian Water bill was brought to the Council's attention. It was known to be caused by a leak and will be looked into.

138/09 LITTLE DOWNHAM BOOK CAFÉ

1. To approve signing of renewed 3-year Local Access Point (LAP) contract with Cambridgeshire Libraries for Little Downham Book Café 2009/12 – Approved.

RESOLVED: That the Agreement is signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council and Little Downham Book Café.

139/09 PARISH MATTERS

1. Neighbourhood Panel Meeting 26/10/09 – to receive representative's report (Cllr Winters) – Cllr Winters requested this item be deferred to next meeting as he had not prepared a report.

2. To discuss ways of encouraging use of local retail outlets and businesses (Cllr Taylor) – It was agreed that this was not a Council matter and is down to individual choice.

3. To consider writing to Local Planning Authority regarding potential refuse collection problems occurring at Chambers Way, Main Street Development (Buckingham & Sparrow site), similar to that of Oak Farm Drive on Cannon Street – The Clerk was instructed to write and express the Council's concerns and enquire what the situation is to alleviate the potential problem.

140/09 RECREATION AREA

1. J Roberts – Request for designated area to build small BMX dirt track – It was agreed to consider the request further and invite Mr Roberts to a future meeting to give a short presentation of what is required.

2. To update on Pymoor Play Pathfinder Project – It was agreed to meet County Council representatives at Pymoor Play Area to review the application in the hope of securing the funding. The Clerk will circulate confirmation of the date and time – proposed 07/12/09 at 11am.

3. To consider removal and replacement of roundabout in Lt Downham Play Area – It was agreed to consider the replacement of the roundabout with funding from Section 106 via ECDC. The Clerk will obtain costs of roundabouts for the next meeting.

141/09 HIGHWAYS

1. Replies from CCC re matters reported at previous meetings (Min.71/09.2)–

1.1 Telegraph poles on Black Bank Road, Lt Downham – CCC Highways is to arrange a meeting with BT representatives to look at the poles that are giving concern.

1.2 Townsend – Anglian Water has finally admitted the water running down the road is a leak and is to carry out tests to establish from where.

1.3 Second and Third Drovers, Lt Downham – Some patching work will be done in November.

1.4 Main Drove, Little Downham – This work will be assessed with the contractor.

1.5 Overgrown Pyracantha hedge, Main Street, Lt Downham – The residents contacted the Clerk soon after receiving a letter and agreed to trim the hedge back the following weekend.

2. To report current matters of information

2.1 Overgrown hedge at Cannon Street, Lt Downham – The Clerk was instructed to write the owners to request it be trimmed back.

2.2 Parking on Pavements – Concern was expressed regarding cars parked on the pavements and blocking access for buggies and wheelchair/scooter users. The Clerk will notify the police.

2.3 Black Bank Road, Little Downham – The road requires attention between Downham Common and the railway crossing, and again near Black Bank Business Centre.

3. Safety of the B1411 at Seven Sisters, Lt Downham – It was noted that CCC Highways will be involved in a police investigation site visit of the recent accidents and road conditions. Funding for additional road markings has been submitted but was not successful in March 2009. The bid is in for March 2010. The Council will wait for results.

142/09 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Ely & Soham Dial-a-Ride AGM invitation 11.30am on 12/01/10 at Witchford Village Hall – No-one was able to attend.

For information only:

2. ECDC – Tree works – 97 Main Street, Lt Downham – Crown reduction of Willow and removal of stem on Eucalyptus & unknown species each

ECDC – Tree works – 9 Pond Lane, Lt Downham – removal of 3 Cypress & 1 Cherry tree

143/09 REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING - none

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.30pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date