

LITTLE DOWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street,
Little Downham, on Thursday, 28 May 2009 commencing at 7.00pm.

Councillors present: RC Stacey, in the chair, DA Adams-Payne, DJ Badcock, CM Frankland CE Hall, EW Hall, RS Martin (7.04pm), M Oldfield, BL Taylor, AJ White and KO Winters (7.06pm).

In attendance: PC K Humble, County Cllr P Read and 4 parishioners.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Received from Dist. Cllrs A Bailey and T Goodge and PCSO J Hall.

21/09 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Cllr RS Martin (7.20pm) declared a personal interest in item 29/09.2 because he is a trustee of the Village Hall Committee (Declaration no. 009-2009).

2. Cllr KO Winters (7.20pm) declared an interest in item 32/09 because he owns land on Black Bank Road, Little Downham (Declaration no. 010-2009).

22/09 TO ADJOURN MEETING FOR PUBLIC FORUM

7.03pm Meeting adjourned – no comments were made.

7.04pm Meeting reconvened. Cllr RS Martin arrived.

7.06pm Cllr KO Winters arrived.

7.10pm One parishioner arrived.

23/09 PARISH CRIME MATTERS –

1. Crime Report - Five crimes were reported in Little Downham and two in Pymoor between 23/04/09 – 26/05/09 and a total of 27 calls for services were made.

PC Humble raised the matter of anti-social behaviour in Little Downham being highlighted as an issue at the neighbourhood Panel Meeting in April and being given 'Priority' status. Although there is some anti-social behaviour it is not enough to be of priority status. He also referred to concerns expressed at the Annual Parish Meeting about delays by the police to response to incidents. The incident in question did not require attendance at the location and was subsequently forwarded to an officer that was on annual leave. PC Humble has now taken over the enquiry and has already been in contact with some people in relation to this matter.

2. To report recent events – PC Humble was informed that wire is being cut along the Hundred Foot Bank allowing cattle to get out, motorbikes/mini-motos are being driven in Cross Lane and Lawn Lane at specific times and another lack of police response complaint was made by Cllr Taylor whereby two months ago he reported he was following a suspected stolen tractor. PC Humble apologised for the lack of response on that occasion and will look into the other matters.

7.20pm PC Humble left the meeting.

Due to late attendance, the Chairman asked Cllrs Martin and Winters for any Declarations of Interests – details listed above.

24/09 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Dist. Cllrs A Bailey & A Goodge)

1. Nothing to report on this occasion.

25/09 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (County Cllr P Read)

1. Cllr Read informed of school placement figures that he had just emailed to the Clerk and of asking Kate Day if she is willing to attend a Council meeting, although it was thought that she was also being asked to attend a Neighbourhood Panel Meeting sometime.

7.30pm County Cllr Read left.

26/09 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. RESOLVED: The minutes of 23 April 2009 (Full Council) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. RESOLVED: The minutes of 14 May 2009 (AGM) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. RESOLVED: The minutes of 14 May 2009 (Extraordinary) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

27/09 MATTERS TO REPORT

1. (Min.216/08.2) Lt Downham Eagles FC – Request for the Parish Council to hold Club funds – New people are reported to be taking over the Committee so the Council will not be required to hold the funds.

28/09 PLANNING MATTERS

1. To consider planning applications received:

1.1 09/00275/FUL Ms M Ranken, Plot 1 Land to the rear of 45 Main Street, Lt Downham – Construction of 2 no. semi detached two bedroom ECO dwellings. A site visit held on 15/05/09.

RESOLVED: *The Parish Council had concerns and recommended amendments to the scheme. Recommendation:*

Based on outline permission being granted in the past for one dwelling, the Parish Council recommends that one dwelling with adequate parking provision on site be considered.

Reason:

It was considered that not enough adequate parking was provided on site for two dwellings. Holme Lane is a narrow lane with limited road width and footpath. Some existing dwellings abut the carriageway, which restricts the availability of on street parking. Refuse vehicles currently have difficulty manoeuvring in the Lane and concern in particular is considered for emergency services.

NB: *Little Downham Parish Council has recently written to the Local Planning Authority, Mr Archer (Executive Director - Planning Services), to express concern regarding inadequate parking provision for new developments. Oak Farm Drive was approved for the minimum requirement of parking spaces, but, because most households have at least two cars, vehicles are being parked on the road and causing disharmony within the Drive and on Cannon Street. The Parish Council wishes to avoid the detrimental affect this has on the village and its residents by ensuring that adequate parking is provided on site and not increase the amount of on street parking in restricted areas.*

7.43pm One parishioner left.

1.2 09/00356/FUL Mrs C Scally, Land parcel adjacent to railway line N/W of Second Drove, Lt Downham – Shared entrance & stables to divide paddock area into two separate paddocks –

RESOLVED: *The Parish Council had concerns and recommended outright refusal.*

Reason: *Over development of the site.*

2. Planning correspondence

2.1 ECDC Street naming – Development on land north of 92a & 94 Main Street, Lt Downham – The street name *CHAMBERS WAY* was unanimously agreed as the Council's suggestion.

For information only:

2.2 ECDC - Applications approved: 09/00184/FUL, 09/00241/FUL,

2.3 ECDC - Information on new planning procedures

2.4 ECDC - Planning Enforcement information and Six Monthly Report on Cases and Caseload 01/07/08-31/12/08.

29/09 FINANCE

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

7.58pm One parishioner left.

2. Lt Downham Village Hall – request of contribution towards cost of new notice board – It was unanimously agreed that the notice board is available for anyone to use.

RESOLVED: *To pay Little Downham Village Hall Committee £275 towards the cost of the new notice board.*

3. To inform of cancellation of Youth Group Broadband – Following a request from Carol Hebbard to BT, the Broadband service is to be cancelled in May and the Broadband funds be reimbursed to the Council. Subsequently, relevant payments made by the Youth Group for the service will be reimbursed to them by the Council.

3. To approve bills and other items for payment

RESOLVED: *To approve list of payments for cheque numbers 000535 to 000545 for the total sum of £3337.42.*

30/09

PARISH MATTERS

1. Royal Mail – Relocation of post box outside Costcutters – Royal Mail proposed to relocate the large post box outside of No. 81 Main Street, Lt Downham. The Council suggested it would be more appropriate to site the large post box at Townsend, where it is opposite the new outreach service and less obtrusive to residents. In return, the small post box from Townsend could be relocated in front of the telegraph pole near No. 81 Main Street. A vote result was as follows: 6 - In favour, 4 Against, 1 Abstention.

2. L Martinali – Request of flowers around the village – The Council was unsure of Mr Martinali's suggestion and will invite him to attend a future meeting to discuss his thoughts.

3. To update on the Lt Downham & Pymoor Play Pathfinder Projects – Cllrs Badcock and Stacey attended a briefing session to obtain the application packs. Cllr Stacey has met with Mrs Burry to discuss arrangements for carrying out the consultations with the children. The first meeting of the working groups was arranged for 9 June at Cllr Adams-Payne's house.

4. To request ECDC install a litter bin near The Hot House on Main Street, Lt Downham – In order to avoid takeaway and drink cartons being left on pavements, in the road or dumped in nearby gardens, the Clerk was instructed to contact ECDC with the request to provide a new bin.

5. Neighbourhood Panel Meeting (27 April) – Report from Representative (Cllr KO Winters) – Anti-social behaviour was reported in Downham, as was dog fouling, and the issue of slow response time by the police was related to a report of a suspected stolen tractor by Cllr Taylor.

31/09

LITTLE DOWNHAM RECREATION AREA

1. To update on the Youth Shelter Project in Lt Downham Recreation Area – Cllr Badcock and the Clerk met with Michelle Burrell (ECDC) on 18/05/09 to look at locations and types of shelters that can be considered under the grant criteria. Prices are being looked at before carrying out a survey through the Youth Club.

2. To approve Pavilion maintenance – internal and external repairs and decorating – It was agreed that the pavilion should still be maintained during the consideration of the Sport & Leisure proposal. Any work that the handyman cannot do will be listed and put out to tender.

RESOLVED: The handyman is authorised to carry out maintenance and repairs to the Pavilion as required and obtain quotes for relevant work where necessary.

3. Kilo To Go – Flatout in the Fens Cycle Ride, 21 June – Request use of pavilion for water station (www.kilotogo.com) – The Council had no objection to the request. A donation towards the cost of extra cleaning and water consumption would be accepted if the event is not for charity.

4. To consider usage and condition of the All Weather Court Lt Downham – It was reported that children are riding bikes on the Astroturf because the gates are unlocked and left open, the fence is in a bad state of repair with 29 holes, the regulations sign is missing and needs replacing, new tennis nets, posts and new goal nets re desperately needed.

RESOLVED: To enquire about grant funding for new fencing around the All Weather court.

RESOLVED: To replace the padlocks on the gates of the All Weather Court.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase a new sign within a maximum £250 spending limit.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of new tennis nets and posts and goal nets within a maximum £1000 spending limit.

5. Matters to report from closed meeting with Sports & Social Club Proposal Committee – The Committee provided draft plans for the Council to view and informed that they will be on show for public comment at the Lt Downham Village Fete on 07/06/09. It was suggested to appoint two Parish Council representatives on a working group as liaison between the Parish Council and the Little Downham Sports & Leisure Committee.

RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr DA Adams-Payne and Cllr D Badcock as Parish Council Representatives on the Sports & Leisure Proposal Working Group.

It was decided to hold a public viewing of the proposed draft plans at 6.30pm for half an hour prior to the start of the next Council meeting on 18/06/09. The Council will then consider the public comments and resolve to consider a lease of the land.

32/09

HIGHWAYS

1. Replies from CCC re matters reported at previous meetings –

1.1 Main Street, Lt Downham – Cllr Adams-Payne approached the resident about the parking problem but the car was not his, however, the problem has or is due to be resolved soon.

- 1.2 **Broadall Bridge, Lt Downham** – Cllr Martin will check on the exact location for ECDC.
- 1.3 **Hundred Foot Bank, Pymoor** – ECDC is aware of the flytipping and will remove it.
- 1.4 **Footpath 21** – The footpath CCC has been cut by CCC contractor.

2. To report current matters of information

- 2.1 **Beild Drove, Lt Downham** – Thanks were expressed for the initial load of planings on the drove, but more is required to fill the remaining potholes.
- 2.2 **Dexter’s Bridge & A Furlong, Pymoor** – Ruts have appeared and need levelling.
- 2.3 **Adventurers Drove, Oxloode, Pymoor** – Remedial patching is desperately required for rutting.
- 2.4 **Cowbridge Hall Road, Lt Downham** – It was requested that the Passing Place has a sign because it is used as a layby and being littered with rubbish.
- 2.5 **High Road/Mill Hill, Lt Downham** – The hedge on the east side corner at the top of Mill Hill opposite the road to Coveney needs trimming back to allow visibility.
- 2.6 **B1411 Ely Road, between end of footpath and the Rugby Club entrance** – It was reported that the School has an invitation for pupils to take part in activities at the Rugby/Football Club sports facilities but has to hire a coach because the footpath ends 100+m before the entrance and crosses over the road, which means the children cannot walk there safely. The request is on behalf of parishioners of Little Downham, although it was noted that this area is in Ely Parish.
- 2.7 **Red Road Strips, Lt Downham** – It was noticed that the red coloured surfacing near The Plough, Main Street, is worn and suggested could be resurfaced when Main Street Speed Measures (JFMHI) are implemented outside the school in the summer.
- 2.8 **Black Bank Road, Lt Downham** – It is reported that patching carried out near the Black Bank Business Centre and Wood Fen Lodge has made matters worse than before work was done.
- 2.9 **Main Drove, Lt Downham** - Conifer trees are growing out into the road and need trimming.
- 2.10 **The Drovers, Lt Downham** – It is requested that all the droves be looked at.
- 2.11 **Lawn Lane, Lt Downham** – Complaints have been received regarding litter in the overgrown hedge, which is also obstructing the layby and the interactive speed sign.

9.40pm Two parishioners left.

3. CCC - JFMHI proposals for speed measure on Main Street – Proposals from CCC were observed. It was suggested that the proposed Western Safety Zone sign would be better located away from the Busy Fingers entrance and near No. 38 and the proposed Eastern Safety Zone sign be located away from the church corner and nearer to the Old Rectory, opposite Bury House.

4. To consider bids for Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement Scheme 2010/11– The matter was deferred to the July meeting for a decision before the closing date 03/08/09.

33/09 **CORRESPONDENCE**
For information only:

- 1. **Cambridgeshire Horizons - Entec - Managing Water in East Cambs and Fenland: Stake holder workshop 10/06/09**
- 2. **CCC – P3 Grant confirmation 2009/10**

34/09 **REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING** – Reminder that the doors will open at 6.30pm for public viewing of the Proposed Sports & Leisure Facility Draft Plans presented by the Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.50pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date