

LITTLE DOWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street,
Little Downham, on Thursday, 12 February 2009 commencing at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: PC K Humble, Dist. Cllr T Goodge and 2 parishioners.

Chairman's opening remarks: Cllr Adams-Payne thanked everyone for attending on this snowy, wintry night.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Received from Cllr CM Frankland, Dist. Cllr A Bailey and County Cllr P Read.

165/08 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – No declarations were made.

166/08 TO ADJOURN MEETING FOR PUBLIC FORUM
7.03pm Meeting adjourned – There were no public comments. The meeting was reconvened.

167/08 PARISH CRIME MATTERS

1. Police Crime Reports – Five crimes were reported in Lt Downham between 14/01/09 – 11/02/09 and a total of 24 calls for services were received.

2. To report recent events – More crimes have been reported for the removal of electric fences and batteries for the fences. Tyres have been dumped on the road at Hundred Foot Bank causing hazards. Based on the position of the tyres along the road, it is assumed they were thrown off a moving vehicle.

7.14pm PC Humble was thanked for attending and left.

168/08 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Dist. Cllrs A Bailey & A Goodge)

1. Cllr Goodge reported that Application 08/01030/FUL (Farm Buildings, First Drove - Change of use to residential for siting of mobile home) was to be considered by Delegated Review Panel on 16/02/09. He is unable to attend the review; however, he felt that the case officer's opinion to approve was valid.

169/08 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (County Cllr P Read) – No report on this occasion.

170/08 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

171/08 MATTERS TO REPORT

1. (Min.159/08.1) Pymoor Recreation Ground Drainage Proposals – To consider conditions 3 & 4 (Min.140/08.2) in light of comments from Littleport & Downham Internal Drainage Board – Following the Council's letter to Mr Ambrose (Cheffins) informing of the amendments to the conditions, Mr Ambrose replied informing he had noted the contents and agreed.

2. (Min.163/08) GO-East – East of England RSS Gypsy and Traveller Review: Panel Report – Three hard copies were obtained and passed to councillors.

3. (Min.164/08.3) Councillor Training – Details of training is awaited from CPALC.

4. (Min.154/08.8) Lt Downham Play Area Railings – Due to be installed week commencing 23/02/09.

172/08 PLANNING MATTERS

1. To consider planning applications received:

1.1 09/00024/AGN CN Seeds, Land southwest of 18 Main Street, Pymoor – Steel portal framed building requiring demolition and rebuilding where fire damaged –

RESOLVED: *The Parish Council had no concerns.*

1.2 09/00043/FUL Mr & Mrs Taylor, 1 Pymoor Lane, Pymoor – Construction of two storey side extension –

RESOLVED: *The Parish Council had no concerns.*

Non Agenda Item

In accordance with its Policy for Receipt of Planning Applications submitted under part 6 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 the Council considered the following application that required a comment by 02/03/09.

09/00063/AGN CN Seeds Limited, 18 Main Street, Pymoor – Hay & Straw Store –

Little Downham Parish Council observed this application and had no comment to make on this occasion.

Notification of the above application was posted on the Council notice boards following the meeting informing of the Council's actions, the decision and the contact details of EDCD planning officer.

7.30pm Dist. Cllr Goodge was thanked for attending as he left.

2. Planning correspondence

For information only:

2.1 EDCD - Applications refused: 08/01122/FUL,

173/08 FINANCE

1. Monthly Internal Audit was carried out by Cllrs DA Adams-Payne and RC Stacey.

2. To approve bills and other items for payment

RESOLVED: To approve list of payments for cheque numbers 000490 to 000201 and direct debits for the total sum of £3496.80.

174/08 PARISH MATTERS

1. Complaints of smell, light and water pollution at Straight Furlong, Pymoor – The Council decided to wait for a report from Dist Cllr Bailey before taking this matter any further.

2. Neighbourhood Panel Meeting – To receive Council representative's report - Cllr Winters confirmed that, as requested, he had mentioned about Cllrs Badcock and Stacey not receiving emails regarding the Speed Watch Voluntary Training. The Panel was asked to invite Kate Day (CCC Countryside Senior Officer) to the next meeting in April because of complaints about the gates that have been erected on the end of droves at Coveney and Wardy Hill. The meeting also asked to determine who is responsible for enforcing when mud is on the road.

3. Nadine Long – Request the use of Lt Downham Pavilion for a Village Fete on Sunday, 7 June – Nadine Long confirmed she had no objections to the date of the fete from other pavilion and recreation ground user groups. The Council unanimously agreed to the request.

RESOLVED: To approve use of the Pavilion and Recreation Area for a village fete on 07/06/09 and specified that adequate insurance cover is to be arranged for the event by the Fete Group.

4. E Runciman – Request permission to lay water pipes in Lt Downham Recreation Area for water supply to adjacent field for animal troughs – There were no concerns to the installation of a metered water supply along Footpath No. 21 to Mr Runciman's field, west of the recreation ground. Karen Whymark, (CCC P3 Officer) had informed the Clerk she had no objections, but requested that Mr Runciman contacts her to confirm his plans and reinstates the path to its original state.

Prior to the next item being discussed, Cllrs CE Hall, M Oldfield and R Martin duly completed forms to declare personal interests as they are members of the Village Hall Committee.

5. Lt Downham Village Hall Committee – Request letter of support for grant to repair rear terrace – It was unanimously agreed to write in support of the repairs to the Village Hall rear terrace and confirm that the Council had already given a grant towards the repairs and new curtains.

6. Year 5 Primary Pupils Careers Event at Ely Community College 26 March 2009 – Donation Request – As there is no power to contribute towards educational matters, the Clerk was instructed to reply and suggest contacting the Downham Feoffees Charity, who fund the school's educational trips.

175/08 PARISH PATHS

1. To receive P3 Application for 2009/10 and approve proposed works - Cllr Winters put forward last year's footpath proposals to be cut by the Conservation Group and County Contractor, with the addition of Footpath 27 to be cut by Dale Parson. He was informed that the Conservation Group will not be cutting footpaths this year due to a lack of members and it was questioned whether Mr Parson could be paid for his work. To avoid further discussions it was proposed not to cut any paths this year. **RESOLVED:** To refer proposed grass cutting to the County Council for 2009/10 and make enquiries about paying Mr Parson to cut Footpath 27 in 2010/11.

8.30pm Mr Runciman arrived

2. To receive P3 Representative's Report re Footpath 27 meeting with Karen Whymark - Cllr Winters reported that he, Cllr Taylor, Mrs Whymark and John Cooper (CCC Senior Paths Officer) met at Footpath 27 on 11/02/09. He felt that his and Cllr Taylor's concerns were of no value to CCC and proposed, seconded by Cllr Taylor, that the Parish Council should write to Brian Smith (CCC Director of Environment & Transport) to express that point. A vote result was: 2 For, 6 Against, 1 Abstention. Cllr Oldfield proposed, seconded by Cllr Badcock, that the Parish Council asks Mr Cooper for a report of the meeting held at Footpath 27 on 11/02/09. A vote result was: 8 For, 1 Against.

RESOLVED: To request a report from John Cooper of the meeting held at Footpath 27 on 11/02/09.

The Chairman concluded this item by informing of a letter that Cllr Winters had sent to Mrs Whymark. He had sent a copy to the Chairman and asked that it be read at this meeting as his P3 Report. Following the reading, Cllr Oldfield questioned Cllr Winters on his attitude of the letter. She felt the letter was aggressive and did not 'build bridges' between the P3 representative and P3 Officer. A dispute broke out. Other councillors seemed to agree that the tone of the letter was not in keeping with what the Parish Council would send. The Chairman had difficulty calling to order and had to remind Cllr Winters that she was unable to chair the meeting if he would not respond to her request.

3. CCC – Application for diversion of parts of Public Footpaths Nos. 22 and 23 (adjacent to Lt Downham Recreation Area), Highways Act 1980, Section 119 – The Council confirmed it had already agreed to this request when approached by Mr Runciman on 12/06/08 (Min.45/08.1).

RESOLVED: To support the diversions of FP 22 & 23 with one request, that the diversion of FP 23 to the west of Mr Runciman's field is a minimum 2.5 metres wide to ensure adequate walking area and allow access for vehicles to cut the footpath.

Mr Runciman confirmed it was his intention to allow 3 metres width.

176/08 **PRESERVATION AREA MATTERS**

1. Downham Parish Conservation Group – request for two signs to be purchased and installed in Pingle Wood for the new Woodland Walk – The Council agreed. The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotes from Branching Out.

177/08 **ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENTS**

1. To review further action taken – All further actions had been done except the play area fence that is due to be replaced by new railings and the holes in the all weather court fence, which will be patched with good sections of the old play area fence.

8.40pm 1 parishioner left

178/08 **HIGHWAYS**

1. Replies from CCC re matters reported at previous meetings

1.1 Corner at Seven Sisters, Ely Road, Lt Downham (B1411) – Kevin Hall (East Highways Area Traffic Engineer) replied informing that statistically there has only been one fatality, which occurred in 2004. Due to restricted funding it is proposed to extend the edge line to the footpath side by 15 – 20 metres if possible and position SLOW markings on the road before the severe bend. Mr Hall offered to meet a few members to discuss the Council's concerns. The Council accepted his proposals and felt it wasn't necessary to take up his offer at present.

1.2 Black Bank Road, Lt Downham – The Highways' contractor is to cost the work to replace the cracked area, which is where the road sits over a concrete slab on top of the culvert and is further exacerbated by the presence of conifer type trees adjacent to the carriageway.

1.3 Third Drove, Lt Downham – Again, it is conifer type trees adjacent to the carriageway that causes the problem. Hopefully it will be included in the patching program for the next financial year

1.4 (Min.149/08.2) Trees abutting the Highways – Following expert advice, the Highways Authority has concluded that it can only ask residents to keep the size and height of the trees down in order to help reduce the effect on the carriageway. Highways requests that any influence the Parish Council has on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

2. To report current matters of information

2.1 County Council Gritting Routes – Due to adverse weather conditions and reduced salt levels in the County, only major roads will be gritted during this bout of bad weather.

2.2 Badgers at Hundred Foot Bank – It was reported that badgers have burrowed into the bank and made four setts. As a protected species, they can't be moved until after the breeding season. The Environment Agency has the matter under control and is monitoring the situation daily.

179/08 **CORRESPONDENCE**

For information:

1. ECDC – approved tree work to reduce crown – 97 Main Street, Lt Downham (Leyland Cypress).

180/08 **REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

1. Post Office Outreach Service – to invite someone to the 05/03/09 extraordinary meeting to explain what is being negotiated for the outreach service.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.03pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date