

**MINUTES of an Extraordinary meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall,
Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 13 July 2017 commencing at 7.00 pm.**

Councillors present: JL Waters, in the chair, and JW Barker, CE Hall, G Hayter-Smith, RS Martin,
MM Oldfield, G Ord, BL Taylor, GH Taylor, and KO Winters. **Clerk:** Mrs J Wardle

Other attendees: None

42/17 **TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Cllr MAC Seidler, Dist. Cllrs A Bailey and M Bradley and County Cllr L Dupre.

43/17 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. **Cllr BL Taylor** declared interests in the following (Declaration 016-2017):

Cllr GH Taylor declared interests in the following (Declaration 017-2017):

1.1 item 45/17.1.1 (Application 17/00969/OUT) because they are Uncle and Aunt respectively to the applicants.

1.2 item 45/17.1.2 (Application 17/00970/OUT) because they are Uncle and Aunt respectively to the applicants.

44/17 **PUBLIC FORUM** - None

45/17 **PLANNING MATTERS**

1. **Planning correspondence -**

1.1 **17/00969/OUT** NJ & JK Taylor, Land north of 26 Straight Furlong, Pymoor – Outline proposal for 3 detached dwellings with garages **POTENTIAL DEPARTURE**
Resolved - Little Downham Parish Council had no comments regarding this application.

1.2 **17/00970/OUT** Mr & Mrs NJ & JK Taylor, Heathergay House, Straight Furlong Pymoor- Demolish two storey dwelling and construct 2no. two storey detached dwellings **POTENTIAL DEPARTURE**
Resolved - Little Downham Parish Council had no comments regarding this application.

1.3 **17/01005/VAR** Clients of MWS Architectural Ltd, Land To South Of 65 Main Street Pymoor - To vary Condition 1 (Approved Drawings) of Decision Notice dated 11/04/2017 for erection of 4no. dwellings and associated works including scale, layout, appearance, access and landscaping. **POTENTIAL DEPARTURE**
Resolved - Little Downham Parish Council had no comments regarding this application.

For information only:

1.4 **ECDC - Applications approved:** 17/00596/FUL, 17/00772/FUL

1.5 **ECDC – Applications refused:** 17/00110/FUL, 17/00667/FUL, 17/00814/CLP (PC not consulted)

46/17 **FINANCE**

1. **Monthly Internal Audit** – No audit. Audit to be carried out prior to 27/07/17 meeting.

2. **Lt Downham Cemetery Committee – grant request for cemetery expenses** – Mr Jenkins (Treasurer) provided a copy of St Leonard's Church accounts for the year ended December 2016, which included the accounts of the Cemetery Committee. He informed that the Committee still held £7478 in restricted funds that were to be used for cemetery expenses but anticipated £3000-£4000 expenditure this year to remove two trees and carry out repairs to the front wall either side of the gate. It was proposed by Cllr JL Waters and seconded by Cllr G Hayter-Smith not to approve the request on this occasion, as it was considered the Committee had sufficient funds for 2017. **A vote result was as follows: In favour - 9, Abstentions – 1.**
Resolved unanimously to reject the grant request from Lt Downham Cemetery Committee, as it was considered to have sufficient funds.

3. **Conservation Group – request of funding for conservation area general maintenance** – The Conservation Group reported that it had £60 left of the £500 grant given 16/04/15 for the maintenance of the Community Orchard and Local Nature Reserve. There are plans to install a small hand gate at the entrance of Pingle Wood to Hurst Lane in order to stop dogs from running straight out on to Hurst Lane. A small seat in Holts Spinney needs repairing. Provision of the funds enables the Group to get on with maintenance as and when required.
Resolved unanimously to approve a grant of £500 to the Downham Parish Conservation Group, who work for an on behalf of the Parish Council.

4. **To approve bills and other items for payment** – It was proposed by Cllr GT Taylor and seconded by Cllr CE Hall.
Resolved unanimously to approve cheque nos. 001081, 001082, BACS payments 604 - 613 and direct debits for the total sum of £7280.03.

47/17 PARISH LAND AND ASSETS

1. **Witchford Colts FC – request use of three pitches at Lt Downham Rec during 2017/18 season (Min.39/17.2)** – Michael Hampshire had informed the clerk that he had stepped down as Manager of Lt Downham United FC and the team would not be playing next season because he had not had support from the players to respond to texts confirming attendance at matches, the FA had implemented unreasonable requirements and costs relating to players being cautioned and non-local referees' fees. After 14 years, he had had enough. It was noted that Witchford Colts FC had replaced the goals for the middle pitch this week. The old ones would be stored against the fence but removed as soon as can be arranged. It was agreed that WCFC could use all three football pitches and suggested to increase the field rent from £80 to £100. The Clerk will notify them that Lt Downham Swifts occasionally use the adult pitch if Pymoor is waterlogged and was instructed to stipulate that WCFC could not sub-let the pitches at any time.
Resolved unanimously to grant permission for Witchford Colts FC to use all three football pitches at Lt Downham Recreation Area for the 2017/18 season and to charge a field rent of £100 for the season.

48/17 REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION - None

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date