

**MINUTES of a meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall,
Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 18 January 2018 commencing at 7.00 pm.**

Councillors present: JL Waters, in the chair, and JW Barker, CE Hall, GJ Hayter-Smith, MM Oldfield, MAC Seidler and KO Winters. **Clerk:** Mrs J Wardle

Other attendees: Dist. Cllr A Bailey and County Cllr L Dupre.

132/17 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Cllrs RS Martin, G Ord, GH Taylor and Dist. Cllr M Bradley.

Everyone stood for a minute silence as a mark of respect for Cllr BL Taylor, who passed away unexpectedly on 2nd January 2018.

133/17 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Cllr MM Oldfield** declared a personal interest in item 138/17.1.1 (Application 17/02150/FUL) because the applicants are friends and neighbours. (Declaration 001-2018).

134/17 PUBLIC FORUM – no comments

135/17 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

1. County Cllr Dupre's monthly report was received prior to the meeting and emailed to members for information. Paper copies were available at the meeting. In addition, Cllr Dupre informed that she had been approached by several farmers in Pymoor, who had expressed concerns at the public safety issues of increasingly aggressive hare coursing. The farmers had blocked various droves and byways (about 13 places) to deter it. A few days before Christmas, Cambridgeshire Constabulary had issued two wide-ranging dispersal orders across the county and made several arrests. Hare coursing activity in Pymoor had since died down. CCC Rights of Way and Enforcement officers recently approached the farmers to inform that they must remove blockages, as they are not only illegal but could risk farmers' Single Farm Payments. The officers assured Cllr Dupre that they would liaise with her before any enforcement action took place. A petition was being collected in Pymoor calling on the County Council to formally block certain byways with appropriate Traffic Regulation Orders, as like byways near Seven Sisters in Lt Downham, Coveney, Witcham, Wentworth, Witchford, Haddenham and parts of South Cambridgeshire. Currently there are no such orders on any roads or byways in Pymoor. The Chairman confirmed that the farmers had also contacted her to request support from the Parish Council. As it was not on the meeting's agenda, she planned to brief the Council under item 142/17 later in the meeting with a view to the matter being put on the 15/02/18 agenda.
2. Dist. Cllr Bailey's monthly report was received prior to the meeting and emailed to members for information. Paper copies were available at the meeting. The Council had no questions for Cllr Bailey.

7.08pm Dist. Cllr A Bailey and County Cllr L Dupre were thanked for their reports and left the meeting.

136/17 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. **Resolved** unanimously that the minutes of 14 December 2017 were correct and to be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

13717 MATTERS TO REPORT

1. **(Min.126/17.2) East Cambs Local Plan – Third Stage Public Consultation 08/11/17–19/12/17** – The Clerk related the Council's concerns regarding sustainability and surface water drainage to Policy LP25 and proposed that the following sentence be amended to include reference to surrounding areas:

New development must demonstrate that appropriate surface water drainage arrangements for dealing with surface water run-off can be accommodated within the site, does not have adverse effects on surrounding areas and that issues of ownership and maintenance are addressed.

ECDC acknowledged receipt of the comment and assigned it to reference PS639. ECDC intends to publish all comments received by late January via its website consultation portal.

2. **(Min.129/17.2) Speeding in the parish and proposed public meeting in the New Year** – The Clerk was waiting for a response from the Parish PCSO Jamie Cole for speed checks.

3. **Pymoor Telephone Box** – ECDC confirmed that planning permission was not required for the change of use of the phone kiosk, so long as it was not used for commercial use. A venue for information and book swaps was acceptable. The Clerk would submit the expression of interest to BT.

138/17 **PLANNING MATTERS**

1. Planning correspondence -
 - 1.1 **17/02150/FUL** Mr & Mrs A Barrow, 16 Eagles Lane, Little Downham – Single storey side extension and replace porch
Resolved - Little Downham Parish Council had no concerns regarding this application.
 - 1.2 **17/02198/RMA** Mr & Mrs Brian Easey, Land rear of Hythe House, The Hythe, Lt Downham – Approval of the details for reserved matters for appearance, landscaping & layout of planning application 17/00055/OUT
Resolved - Little Downham Parish Council had no concerns regarding this application.
 - 1.3 **17/02229/AGN** JO Jackson & Sons Ltd, Allotments Farm, Ely Road, Lt Downham – Two agricultural barns
Resolved - Little Downham Parish Council had no concerns regarding this application.
 - 1.4 **17/02187/FUL** Mrs Jacqui Phebey, Riverside Cottage, Hundred Foot Bank, Pymoor – Single storey front/side extension
Resolved - Little Downham Parish Council had no concerns regarding this application.
- For information only:**
 - 1.5 ECDC - Applications approved: 17/01553/FUL, 17/01751/FUL, 17/01787/FUL, 17/01794/FUL, 17/01841/FUL, 17/01941/FUL
 - 1.6 ECDC - Applications approved - Parish Council not consulted: 17/01987/CLP

139/17 **FINANCE**

1. **Monthly Internal Audit was carried out by Cllrs CE Hall and JL Waters.**
2. **To approve bills and other items for payment** – It was proposed by Cllr CE Hall and seconded by Cllr JL Waters.
Resolved unanimously to approve BACS payments 675 – 685 and direct debits for the total sum of £5649.64.
The Clerk reported that due to strong winds in the night, a tree from Pingle Wood had fallen by the Cartshed entrance and totally blocked Hurst Lane. For public health and safety, Stevenson Tree Services carried out emergency work to cut and remove the tree.

140/17 **PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND ASSETS**

1. **To approve funding for additional hedge trimming in The Orchard and Pingle Wood** – The east, south and part of the north boundary hedges in The Orchard and various areas in Pingle Wood needed trimming back by approximately 2-3 metres. The Conservation Group was trimming the west hedge with assistance from the Ely Leos to remove the brash.
Resolved unanimously to approve the quote from Truelink Ltd @ £190 + VAT for proposed hedge work in The Orchard and Pingle Wood and for it to be funded from the Countryside Account [Open Spaces Act 1906 ss. 9 & 10].
2. **Liam Badcock – request to use Lt Downham Recreation Area for a Sunday Football Team** – More information about the team was requested but not received. The matter was deferred. The Chairman informed that Witchford Colts FC had approached her and offered to support the Council with the Pavilion and the field. An informal meeting would be arranged in due course.

141/17 **PARISH MATTERS**

1. **Dog fouling in the Conservation Area and Little Downham Recreation Area (Min.129/17.1)**
Cllr Oldfield reported that the Conservation Group did not want to impose an immediate 'Dogs on Leads' Policy, but would if things did not dramatically improve. It would monitor the areas when the signs are in place and impose the Policy if no significant improvement. Enforcement action would be taken on those who do not pick up after their dogs. Sign wording yet to be agreed.
Resolved unanimously to approve the purchase of new dog fouling signs for The Orchard and Local Nature Reserve informing of the intention to impose a 'Dogs on Lead' Policy if dog fouling continued [Open Spaces Act 1906 ss. 9 & 10].

142/17 HIGHWAYS

1. Replies re matters reported from previous meetings:

1.1 (Min.70/17.3) CCC Local Highway Improvement Bid 2018-19 – CCC Highways informed the Clerk before Christmas that the proposed Scheme to reduce the speed limit in Pymoor would cost £11,120. The Parish Council was required to confirm its contribution of £3000 (27%) by 05/01/18. Under group delegated powers, Cllrs Waters, Taylor and Winters were consulted and unanimously agreed. The scheme would involve the reduction of speed to 30 mph in the core of the village with approaches being existing 40 mph, which would be compliant with Highways policy. A Mobile Vehicle Activation Sign (MVAS) would be sited on each road periodically. This was because drivers become familiar with static signs and in time do not take notice. The Council expressed a preference for an interactive signs that flashed up the speed of approaching vehicles. The Clerk would express the preference when presenting the proposal to the LHI Panel on 29/01/18.

1.2 Lawn Lane Grit bin request – Following a request from local residents, CCC installed a grit bin at the lower end of Lawn Lane because it had received complaints of excess water on the footpath and it being slippery in freezing conditions. Local residents agreed to scatter the grit. Anglian Water claimed the excess water did not contain chlorine and was therefore not their problem. Pam Joyce (CCC Highways officer) was allocated some extra funding for a scheme of which Lawn Lane was eligible. She intends to have the system flushed and mapped, investigate that suspected 'leak' area, raise kerbs if low so water stays on the road, install some footway gullies which will have to be piped to outfall that she believes is the ditch opposite, which will probably need clearing etc. to accommodate. Hopefully work will be done by end of March.

2. To report current matters of concern:

2.1 California, Lt Downham – Pothole near No. 15.

2.2 Orwell Pit Farm to Ely Tool Centre, B1411 – Grips needed to remove pooling from road edges.

2.3 Between Seven Sisters Bends, B1411 – Bent sign post or post needs reinstating.

2.4 Blocked Drovers and Byways in Pymoor – Following County Cllr Dupre and the Chairman's comments at item 135/17.1, the Council agreed to consider the matter as an item on the next meeting's agenda when more information about the droves and byways should be known.

143/17 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

8.25pm

It is hereby resolved in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted at Agenda Item 144/17 it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded from this meeting and they are herewith instructed to withdraw.

144/17 PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND ASSETS

1. To consider tenders for Pavilion Refurbishment (Min.110/17.5) – Three quotations were received by the requested deadline date and were fairly competitive. The Council decided not to award a contract at that time. The Clerk was instructed to seek grant/match funding for the project.

145/17 REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

1. Request by local residents for gates and TROs on Drovers and Byways in Pymoor

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date