

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 13 October 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Witcham

Present: M Housden (Chairman), J Bibby, L Holdaway, S Wilkin

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
1 member of public present

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the member of the public. Those present were invited to wear mask/shield if they wished, the room would be kept ventilated whilst the meeting was in progress and hand sanitiser was available, to protect against Covid-19.

Action

21/169 **Apologies for absence:** J Lucas – on volunteer duties Covid vaccinations, K Mackender – work commitment
Cllr L Duprè (CCC & ECDC), Cllr M Inskip (ECDC) – alternative meeting commitment

21/170 **Declarations of Interest**
Councillors to declare any pecuniary interests in any items on the agenda - none
Councillors to declare any personal interests in any items on the agenda – none
Councillors to declare any prejudicial interests in any items on the agenda and to inform the Chairman if they wish to speak on the matter during public participation - none

21/171 **Dispensations:**
To note any new Dispensations granted: Nil

21/172 **Public Participation**
Ref item 21/174 Matters Arising - 21/157 Recreation Ground.
Further to letter following discussion at previous meeting, the member of public discussed with members options for consideration.
Councillors required further information, for review at future meeting.

7.45pm The member of public was thanked and left the meeting.

21/173 **Minutes**
Minutes of the meeting of 8 September 2021, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, and the agenda of the same date signed by the Chairman as confirmation of the business transacted at that meeting. Proposed L Holdaway, seconded M Housden.

21/174 **Matters Arising from previous minutes**
21/156 Recreation Ground accessibility (see 21/172 above)
21/156 Recreation Ground – trees. It was confirmed the two stumps had been ground out and that J Bibby would continue with arrangements for delivery of the new trees and planting arrangements - proposed morning of 6 November 2021. *JB*
21/158 Website and emails. Report from Clerk received and agreed investigate moving to Exchange to ensure Outlook fully functional for everyone and improve speed and syncing requirements. *Clerk*
21/164 Streetlights and Highways – reduce speed limit from 60mph for remainder Witcham-Mepal road. Clerk reported on response from

- 21/174 **Matters Arising from previous minutes (cont)**
 Mepal Parish Council and at present there had been no further response from resident.
 21/164 Streetlights and Highways – Broken light Westway Place carpark – Clerk had been to check prior to meeting and it was still not operational despite Sanctuary Hereward advising it had been in the system for replacement for many months. *Clerk LD/MI*
- 21/175 **Reports from District and County Councillors**
 The reports had been previously circulated. Any questions or further queries, Councillors were invited to contact the District and County Councillors direct by email.
 Clerk had contact District and County Councillors for update on flooding in September at Westway Place – reference ditch and tree roots; noise nuisance cars at Elean Business Park late at night most weekends; and drawn attention to hazard on Witchford bypass where muntjac were walking out in front of the traffic.
- 21/176 **Neighbourhood Plan**
 Details previously circulated to Councillors, including information from other local villages undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan.
Resolved that a note should go in next newsletter to engage with the residents and establish desire and support for the community to proceed with developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Witcham. Proposed Chairman, seconded L Holdaway. *Clerk*
- 21/177 **Planning Applications**
 The following from ECDC were noted:
- 21/01312/RMA The Granary Whitegate Farm - reserved matters - detailed design of the rear plots, known as plot 3 and plot 4. Plots 1 & 2 were amended in layout and scale under a separate approval (20/01134/FUL) of previously approved 19/01634/OUT for the demolition of existing structures and erection of up to four dwellings with parking and associated works
- 21/01273/TRE 30 High Street, T1 Conifer - remove due to proximity to wall, crown dieback with sparse crown coverage – approved
- 21/00533/VAR Pond Farm 21 High Street, to vary Condition 1 (Approved drawings) for plot 2 of previously approved 16/01567/FUL for residential development for three houses plus garages and change of use of existing agricultural barn along with new vehicular accesses to 21 High Street and plot 2 – approved
- 21/178 **Policies**
 Review and development of specific policies to support grant applications for play equipment. Some had been previously circulated, others to follow for Councillors to review prior to next meeting and feedback to L Holdaway so that final documents could be prepared and approved at November meeting. *All Councillors*
- 21/179 **Recreation Ground**
 a) Monthly report on weekly inspections. Chairman said there were no problems to report and that fallen apples on carpark beside Village Hall had been cleared up.

- 21/179 **Recreation Ground** (cont)
- b) Update on play refurbishment: L Holdaway to continue progressing getting third quote and further options as discussed, with plans for display. A note to go in next newsletter to engage with residents on next stages in consultation process, including an open morning at Village Hall (Saturday)
- Noted the cost of wooden equipment was twice as much as Wicksteed metal pieces and free guarantees less comprehensive, leading councillors to believe metal play equipment would be a more sound long-term investment for the village.
- c) Clerk reported on correspondence from a resident concerned about impact of removing diseased horsechestnut trees in infant play area as part of the refurbishment scheme. Clerk to advise resident that this was an opportune time for balancing environmental aspects against costs and keeping people safe. Planting trees would be considered as part of the play refurbishment project and the resident was to be invited to attend future meetings and participate in the ongoing consultation process with the community.
- 21/180 **Speedwatch**
Latest MVAS results had been circulated and were noted.
- 21/181 **Finance**
- a) **Receipts and Payments October**
The October 2021 schedule had been circulated. Cheques and supporting documents had been checked by J Bibby and confirmed correct.
Resolved to approve the receipts and payments for October and release cheques. Proposed J Bibby, seconded Chairman.
- b) **Remembrance Sunday Wreath – Royal British Legion**
Resolved to approve cheque for £65, being £30 cancelled cheque for 2020, £30 for 2021 and £5 cash donation received. Proposed J Bibby, seconded L Holdaway.
- c) **Clerk's Hours**
Resolved to pay 29 hours for additional hours worked for payment in November pay. Proposed L Holdaway, seconded S Wilkin.
- 21/182 **Cemetery**
Chairman reported that a family had contacted him direct regarding damaged kerbing around grave.
The Burial Board would undertake an inspection at the cemetery on 16 October 2021, 9.30am and discuss further at November meeting.
- 21/183 **Consultations**
Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan – noted, and no comment.
- 21/184 **Street Lights and Highways**
None, other than flooding Westway Place carpark under item 21/175. Noted people had been litterpicking and note to go in newsletter thanking them for their efforts. Also noted that street light on the Village Hall access road not working and Clerk would report to contractors.

21/185 **Correspondence**

ECDC Parish and Community Forum updates
 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority updates
 IHMC Incident Report
 NALC Bulletins, newsletters and notices of events including Points of Light, Future Communities (2.12.21)
 CCC Happy at Home promotion
 CAPALC Bulletins and 2021 Conference
 ECDC Event - Health and Happiness 16th October at Littleport Leisure Centre.
 ECDC Recycling A-Z info on ECDC website
 ACRE Queens Canopy project, Rural Affordable Housing Partnership and ACRE Trustees
 Ouse Washes Newsletter September 2021
 Councillors Code of Conduct – NALC template and guidance – further advice awaited from ECDC
 Covid-19 Vaccinations – drop-in Littleport – notice had been put on website.

Also noted that J Bibby had attended the Village Hall AGM. The management committee had been successful with grants during covid-19 lockdowns and the calendar was filling up with bookings although not all regular bookings had been re-established. Only a few people had attended the defibrillator training. The Village Hall annual inspection by ACRE had been completed earlier in the week.

21/186 **Community Police**

- a) Appointment of new Police Sergeant noted.
- b) No issues to report to Police.
- c) Elean Business Park late-night noise nuisance – note to go in newsletter to remind people that all incidents should be reported by members of the public direct at the time of the event, or the next morning, as Police were monitoring the situation.

21/187 **Date of next meeting:** 10 November 2021

All business, including receipts and payments, to be considered at this meeting must be delivered to the Clerk at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10pm

Schedules of Receipts and Payments

		£	£	£
Receipts	Donation for replacement trees at recreation ground	50.00		50.00
Payments	001943 E-on Energy street lights (5) Jul-Sept	91.78	4.59	96.37
	001944 Clerks salary Oct	997.64		997.64
	001945 LGPS	198.02		198.02
	001946 Cottenham Computers 365	109.99	22.00)	
	Cottenham Computers Renewal	17.46	3.49)	152.94
	001947 Truelink grounds maintenance (Sept)	184.80	36.96	221.76
	001948 Royal British Legion – poppy wreath 2years including a donation	65.00		65.00
	d/d IONOS (Sept)	22.03	4.41	26.44

Signed..... Dated