

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 7.35 pm
This was a remote* meeting using the Zoom video conferencing platform system

*The Coronavirus Act 2020 s.78 and The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, and Zoom Policy Notice.

Present: M Housden (Chairman), K Mackender (Vice-Chairman), J Bibby, L Holdaway, J Lucas

In attendance Mrs S J Bell (Clerk)
Cllr L Duprè (CCC)
Cllr M Inskip (ECDC)

No members of public present

20/164 **Apologies** for absence - none

20/165 **To receive any 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:

M Housden (Agenda Item 20/169 Flooding The Slade)

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

20/166 **Dispensations:**

To note any new Dispensations granted: Nil

20/167 **Public Participation**

No members of the public present

20/168 **Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2020 were confirmed as a true record and would be signed by the Chair. The agenda of the meeting of 9 September 2020 would also be signed by the Chair as confirmation of the business transacted at the meeting. Proposed J Bibby, seconded L Holdaway and agreed.

20/169 **Matters arising from previous minutes**

20/150 Cemetery Management Clerk confirmed that in the event there had been no overcharge for the headstone because it was a new one on an existing grave. There had been not headstone in place previously so was not a replacement which would have just incurred the admin fee, so no refund was due.

20/156 Street Lights and Highways – Flooding at The Slade. Anglian Water had revealed their records showed issues on 16 August 2020 (excessive rainfall overwhelming systems) 24 August 2020 (blockage, root ingress, cleared), and 25 August 2012 (storm event).

Residents were to be encouraged to report more frequently as and when events occurred. She understood more events had been reported and on further searches AW had reported back to 2005 although their records currently go no further back. Some issues were fats, oils and greases (FOG) but not many flooding incidents due to storms. From their information, AW concluded that with the exception of blockages, the system coped relatively well in most rainfall events.

Resolved that the Clerk to write back expressing dissatisfaction through complaints system reiterating previous concerns and that they had not maintained records of all reported

- 20/169 **Matters arising from previous minutes (cont)**
incidents, problems were ongoing and were having serious impact for residents. Proposed Clerk
K Mackender, seconded J Lucas
- 20/170 **Reports from District and County Councillors**
The reports, previously circulated, were received and noted. L Dupre was thanked for her summary regarding the Planning Whitepaper. ECDC were due to consider and make submission at next meeting. J Lucas sought clarification regarding County Council Finance section relating to Covid. L Dupre advised she was trying to get further advice regarding holding events such as Halloween, Bonfire night and Remembrance Sunday regarding Covid-19.
7.58pm L Dupre was thanked and she left the meeting
M Inskip advised that all councils were able and were encouraged to respond regarding the Planning Whitepaper as some recommendations would have significant impact.
- 20/171 **Planning applications**
20/01134/FUL The Granary Whitegate Farm Construction of two detached single storey dwellings, previously part of application 19/01634/OUT
Resolved the Council had no comments. Proposed Chairman, seconded K Mackender Clerk

20/01243/TRE (The Hall) Play Area Recreation Ground Martins Lane T1 Ash tree, to remove to ground level – noted that this had now been approved
- 20/172 **Request from resident regarding installation of shelf at bus shelter for book exchange facility**
Request previously circulated and further request to use telephone kiosk instead was discussed.
Resolved that a shelf be erected at the bus shelter to hold books. Proposed J Lucas, Chairman
seconded S Wilkin. Clerk
(decided not to use kiosk as the bus shelter was more centrally located and seen by more people, also during the times of Covid-19 would be better to have books in open rather people having to handle opening and closing door).
- 20/173 **Recreation Ground and Play Equipment**
- a) Monthly report on weekly inspections: Chairman confirmed that there was no matters to report. He would speak to cricket club to remove netting hung between trees on Martins Lane side of village green during a recent cricket match. He would get pieces of wood to anchor nets on mobile goalposts. Safety surfacing at children's play area to be monitored. Clerk to check with Truelink if a clean was planned soon. Covid-19 restriction signs still in place. Chairman
Clerk
 - b) Trees – report from Tree Officer circulated and Clerk had circulated to tree surgeons for quotes. Two quotes received.
Noted under planning consent for Ash tree works had been granted by ECDC. In view of need to cut down this tree and two others as soon as possible it was decided that Chair would speak to resident to thank him for the very kind and generous offer to have the tree cut down but the Council would now undertake this work as part of 2020 tree programme. Chairman
Resolved that in view of need to get some tree works done as soon as possible two quotes would be considered. Further **Resolved** to accept the quotation from Truelink £780 plus VAT and £150 plus VAT. Proposed Chair, seconded L Holdaway.
 - c) Play Equipment Survey. Confirmed circulated to householders and 18 responses received. Analysis and pie charts presented

- 20/173 **Recreation Ground and Play Equipment** (cont)
Resolved that the results be published and L Holdaway arrange for site visits by play providers for plan and pricing based on results of survey (free service). Proposed J Lucas and J Bibby. Special thanks were extended to L Holdaway's daughter who had helped with the analysis and prepared pie charts. *Clerk*
- 20/174 **2020 Annual Parish Meeting**
 Sadly, no members of the electorate had joined the Annual Parish Meeting on 30 September on Zoom. The Minutes had been previously circulated and were accepted for approval at next year's Annual Parish Meeting.

 Resolution from the Annual Parish Meeting that it would be beneficial if the landowner, resident and horseriders could link up to move forward with setting up a voluntary group to carry out conservation/maintenance of the public rights of way within the parish. S Wilkin provided details of a horserider who would be interested and advised her details could be forwarded to the landowner.
- 20/175 **Finance**
 Receipts and payments for October 2020 had been circulated. Cheques and supporting documents had been checked by J Bibby and Chairman before the meeting (coronavirus protection measures were being complied with). They confirmed all was in order. **Resolved** to approve the receipts and payments for October. Proposed L Holdaway, seconded S Wilkin. *Clerk*
- 20/176 **Consultations**
 The following documents had been previously circulated.
 East Cambridgeshire District Council: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Consultation – noted, no comments to make.
 LGSS Consultation on Reforming Local Government exit pay – noted, no comments to make
 Ely Area Capacity Enhancement Programme Consultation (Rail) – noted, no comments to make.
- 20/177 **Witcham.org.uk – website**
 Zoom meeting of Councillors with website designer had unfortunately not materialised. Councillors discussed the future of the website and the pressing need to get the existing reviewed for new compliancy regulations. **Resolved** Clerk to forward details of providers to Councillors and letter to volunteer drafted. Proposed K Mackender, seconded M Housden. *All*
- 20/178 **Village Hall Car Park**
 Report of meeting with Village Hall Chair and Clerk, M Housden, J Bibby, and L Holdaway received. Clerk was getting title deeds etc from bank. *Clerk LH*
- 20/179 **Street Lights and Highways**
 J Lucas would check streetlight at Westway Place car parks.
 Residents had complained about maize tractors passing through village, at one point convoy of 8, and leaving mess on roads down Hive Road. It had been reported and the road had been swept promptly and carting off the field deferred.
- 20/180 **Correspondence**
 Tree Warden Scheme
 NALC Newsletters/bulletins incl Rebuilding Communities
 Cambridgeshire ACRE AGM
 CAPALC AGM
 ICO Newsletter
 IHMC September Incident Report
 Environment Agency- Temporary Traffic Management at Welney
 Environment Agency – Ouse Washes bank works newsletter September 2020

20/180 **Correspondence**

Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – Community Resource Information
 ECDC Housing Advice Guide
 CCC Roadworks and events bulletin
 CCC Surface dressing programme of works Westway Place, Silver Street, The Orchards deferred to later in October due to weather
 Request for use of recreation ground. Chair advised he had checked out the recreation ground in respect of Sutton football team for youngsters playing at Witcham for some of their matches. Unfortunately, there was insufficient space for required dimensions for football pitch, clerk to respond to enquirer accordingly.

Remembrance Sunday - **Resolved** to make donation of £30 as usual for wreath.
 Proposed Chair and agreed unanimously

Clerk

20/181 **Community Police**

There were no issues reported.

20/182 **Reports of Meetings from Councillors**

There were none

Request to move back to 20/179 Street Lights and Highways
 Developer was working on site at High Street/Headleys Lane and concerns regarding compliance with traffic management element of the planning consent. Footpath was getting in mess, no fencing, large lorries parked on footway, no on-site toilets,
Resolved that Planning Authority and CCC Highways should be notified of these issues which were causing concern. Proposed J Lucas, seconded
 Chair

Clerk

20/183 Items for the Next Agenda and to note date of next meeting: 11 November 2020
 Budgets, Precept, Play, Website
 J Lucas left the meeting at 9.46pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9.47pm

October Schedule of Receipts and Payments

		£	£	£
Receipts	ECDC Precept	7650.00		7650.00
Payment				
	001874 Truelink Aug and Sept	388.80	77.76	466.56
	001875 Cartridgesave	45.78	9.16	54.94
	001876 Clerks salary (Oct)	283.06		283.06
	001877 LGPS (Oct)	101.11		101.11
	001878 E-on	87.52	4.38	91.90
	001879 Cottenham Computers	64.99	13.00	77.99
	d/d IONOS (Sept)	15.00	3.00	18.00

Signed

Dated.....