

LITTLE DOWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street,
Little Downham, on Thursday, 15 January 2009 commencing at 7.00pm.

Councillors present: DA Adams-Payne, in the chair, DJ Badcock, CM Frankland, CE Hall, EW Hall, M Oldfield, RS Martin, RC Stacey (7.03pm), BL Taylor, AJ White and KO Winters (7.03pm)

In attendance: PC K Humble, PCSO J Hall, Dist. Cllr A Bailey, County Cllr P Read and 4 parishioners.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Received from Dist. Cllr T Goodge. Cllr RS Martin apologised that he would have to leave at 7.30pm for a prior engagement but expects to return later.

150/08 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Cllr M Oldfield** declared a prejudicial interest in item 157/08.1.4 because she is related to the applicants.
2. **Cllr RS Martin** declared a prejudicial interest in item 157/08.1.4 because he is a tenant and farms the adjacent land.

151/08 TO ADJOURN MEETING FOR PUBLIC FORUM

7.02pm Meeting adjourned – A parishioner expressed concerns regarding smell, light and water pollution at Straight Furlong, Pymoor. The Chairman informed that the matter would be put on the agenda of the next meeting. Dist Cllr Bailey offered to consult ECDC officers regarding this ongoing problem.

7.03pm Cllrs RC Stacey and KO Winters arrived.

7.13pm Meeting reconvened.

152/08 PARISH CRIME MATTERS

1. **Police Crime Reports** – Seven crimes were reported in Lt Downham between 27/11/08 - 13/01/09 and a total of 50 calls for services were received.

2. **To report recent events** – More frequent sightings of Mini motos were reported on pavements in Lt Downham and on the B1411 heading towards Ely. A large TNT vehicle was reported driving fast in the villages at specific times. The police will look into these matters when on patrol. The Clerk was asked to put a request in the parish magazine asking farmers to clean up the mud on the road regularly.

7.26pm PC Humble, PCSO Hall, 1 parishioner and Cllr Martin left.

153/08 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS (Dist. Cllrs A Bailey & A Goodge)

1. Cllr Bailey reported that information about the proposed Country Park in Ely was available at Ely Library, Section 106 funding is being considered available for Neighbourhood Panels – information is to be sent out in due course, the Maltings may re-open in March and ADeC plans to open the cinema for two days in February and hold other art events, the commuter park on Angel Drove is breaking even, the new recycling site looks set to be adjacent to CCC Highways depot at Stirling Way, Ely (outside Witchford) as Grunty Fen site is due for closure, and ECDC is strong on investments even though due to the recession it's receiving less income from planning applications and support grants. She was disappointed that she had no luck in persuading Post Office Ltd to reconsider its decision.

154/08 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (County Cllr P Read)

1. Cllr Read informed that the Recycling Centre application is to be considered by the County Council Planning Committee next week and the Guided Bus service has been delayed until September 2009.

155/08 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. **RESOLVED:** The minutes of 27 November 2008 (Full Council) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. **RESOLVED:** The minutes of 11 December 2008 (Extraordinary) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

156/08 MATTERS TO REPORT

1. **(Min.127/08.1) Post Office Closure Letter** – As instructed, following receipt of a copy of Dist. Cllr Bailey's letter to Laura Tarling on 11/12/08, the Clerk wrote to Post Office Limited to endorse Cllr Bailey's letter and request that the decision to close Lt Downham Post Office be reconsidered. An extensive reply from Post Office Limited was received and stipulated that the decision was final and there was no appeal procedure to revisit the decision taken. Negotiations are still in hand regarding the Outreach Service.

2. **(Min.136/08.1) Ely & Soham Dial-a-Ride Donation** – A letter of thanks from ESDAR was received.

3. **(Min.137/08) To consider sheep grazing in Holts Meadow during months December to February** – Apparently Mr Smith had already placed his sheep on other grazing land. He may come back to the Council prior to end of February 2009.

4. (Min.137/08) To appoint a Parish Council Representative on the Youth Group Committee – Cllr Badcock accepted the position and the Youth Group had been informed.

5. (Min.140/08.1) Mr & Mrs Jordan – California – Request of Council's support regarding sewage and highway problems – Martin Gowler (CCC Highways Area Supervisor) attended the site visit on 05/12/08 and agreed with the concerns. He confirmed he would speak to his Superior and to Traffic Management, then contact Anglian Water to discuss the problem of the frequent obstructions caused by the large pumping vehicles parked outside the pumping station. He could not give a timescale on this matter being resolved but has arranged for the ruts and holes to be filled with planings.

6. (Min.148/08) ECDC LDF Submission Core Strategy – Site Allocations and Boundary Change Representations (Regulation 32) (Nov. 2008) – Following clarification and advice from the ECDC Forward Planning Team on the submission of comments relating to this document, the Council's comments were submitted by the 12/01/09 deadline.

Information received 10/01/09 – ECDC issued an Errata document of additional site allocations. It was decided not to consider the new document as there are no additional sites situated in the parish.

Information received 15/01/09 - Notification was received from ECDC informing of a Pre Hearings Meeting to be held on 10/02/09 at 11.00am for the Examination Hearing that is due to be held in late April. As this is a public meeting, the Council is not required to appoint a representative to attend. The meeting will focus on the procedure for the Examination and assist in the preparation for the Core Strategy DPD Examination Hearing. The inspector will discuss the procedural administrative matters concerning the process but will not address any issues raised in the representations.

7. (Min.139/08.1) Footpath 28 – Downham Feoffees replied informing that the Trustees have inspected the footpath and agreed with Cllr Winters' suggestions to widen the path. Arrangements will be made for a contractor to do the necessary work, including re-aligning the path.

8. (Min.147/08) Unilateral Agreement Section 106 funding from Oak Farm Development – The purchase order from ECDC has been received. Orders of contracts have now been issued. The railings plan to be installed in February and the CCTV cameras in March.

157/08 **PLANNING MATTERS**

1. To consider planning applications received:

1.1 08/01030/FUL Mr Stephen Cole, Farm Buildings, First Drove, Lt Downham – Change of use to residential for siting of mobile home –

RESOLVED: Little Downham Parish Council had concerns about this application and recommended outright refusal for the following reasons:

1. The site is outside the development area and not in keeping with the countryside, which is considered contrary to policy 86 of the East Cambs Local Plan 2000.

2. It is requested that the concerns and objections expressed by parishioners are taken into consideration when deciding this applications.

7.55pm Dist. Cllr Bailey left.

1.2 08/01118/FUL Mr & Mrs S N Clarke – Thompson, 20 Park Lane, Lt Downham – full planning for detached 3 bed bungalow –

RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no concerns.

1.3 08/01122/FUL Mrs C Scally, Land parcel adjacent to Railway line N/W of Second Drove, Lt Downham – Proposed entrance and stables –

RESOLVED: Little Downham Parish Council had concerns about this application and recommended outright refusal for the following reasons:

1. Over development of the area.

8.13pm Cllr M Oldfield left the meeting prior to the following item being discussed.

1.4 08/01150/FUL Mr & Mrs M Cornwell, 45 Ely Road, Lt Downham – Construction of replacement chalet bungalow –

RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no concerns.

8.16pm Cllr Oldfield was invited back to the meeting.

2. Planning correspondence

For information only:

2.1 ECDC - Applications approved: 08/00826/FUL, 08/00982/FUL, 08/00985/FUL,

2.2 ECDC - Applications refused: 08/01010/FUL, 08/01024/FUL

158/08 **FINANCE**

1. Monthly Internal Audit was carried out by Cllrs DJ Badcock and RS Martin.

2. To set Precept for the financial year ending 31 March 2010 - Proposed by Cllr CM Frankland, seconded by Cllr M Oldfield and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: To set the Parish Council Precept for 2009/10 at £71,897.00.

3. To approve bills and other items for payment

RESOLVED: To approve list of payments for cheque numbers 000481 to 000489 and direct debits for the total sum of £3036.50.

159/08 PARISH MATTERS

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 – The following amendments were agreed:

Condition 3

To remove the words '*only for the specified dwelling(s)*'.

Condition 4

To remove that it is for use of adjacent development, to stipulate that a 225m (9inch) pipe is laid and request that at least four inspection chambers are installed on the recreation ground.

2. To receive P3 Application for 2009/10 and approve proposed works – Cllr Winters requested that this be deferred to the next meeting.

3. Neighbourhood Panel Meeting (26 January at The Glebe, High Street, Sutton) – To consider issues for Council representative to report – There were no issues to report.

Cllr Winters was asked to mention that Cllr Stacey had not received information about the training session on 17/01/09 (Min.91/08.4.1).

8.30pm Cllr RS Martin returned to the meeting.

160/08 PRESERVATION AREA MATTERS

1. To authorise advertising for grazing of Myles Meadow and Holts Meadow during 2009 season

RESOLVED: To authorise advertising in the parish magazine and notice boards with a closing date of 17 March. The Council will consider all tenders received at its meeting on 19/03/09.

161/08 YOUTH ACTIVITIES

1. Youth Action Group Report – Following the re-evaluation of the Youth Club at the end of 2008, training sessions have taken place in the Pavilion ready for the sessions to resume at the end of the January. New sessions for younger youths are being considered to start after Easter.

162/08 HIGHWAYS

1. Replies from CCC re matters reported at previous meetings

1.1 Hurst Lane – Following investigation of the area, the existing 30mph / national speed limit is considered correct, within CCC policy and governmental guidelines and will not be amended or extended. A pedestrian warning sign may be appropriate but no CCC funds are available to supply and erect any new signage at present.

1.2 Cowbridge Hall Road - An order has been placed to fill the hole with planings.

1.3 High Road/The Hythe - An order has been placed to fill the hole by the verge area with planings.

1.4 Black Bank Road – A reply from Amanda Mays (CCC) is still awaited.

2. To report current matters of concern

2.1 Corner at Seven Sister, Ely Road, Lt Downham (B1411) – Concern was expressed regarding this 'accident hotspot' following recent accidents; a serious one occurring today. CCC was asked that it be looked at with a view to making it much safer.

2.2 Black Bank Road, Lt Downham - Request for the new area of patching on the Littleport side of Black Bank Business Centre and Woodfen Lodge is reviewed because a dip has been reported on the south side (near the entrance to Woodfen Farm) and a crack has appeared across the road.

2.3 Third Drove, Lt Downham – A deep rut has developed on Third Drove, off Main Drove. Request that it be looked at.

2.4 Coffue Drove (BW 44), Lt Downham – Request that the sleepers be replaced on the railway track above the tunnel or lights be provided to warn the horse riders of impending trains because the sudden increased noise of trains over the tunnel scares the horses when riding under the track and causes them to bolt.

2.5 Street lights –Marshall's Lane column 1, School Lane col. 2, Main Street cols. 14 & 19 are out and opposite the cemetery is a day burner.

2.6 Hundred Foot Bank, Pymoor – Flytipping of conifer trimmings was reported again near the railway.

2.7 West Fen Drove, Lt Downham –Still concerns regarding the leak on the road in freezing weather.

3. Hurst Lane Speed Concerns (Min.139/08.2.1 & 162/08.1.1) – to consider purchase of pedestrian sign @ £250 (including post and installation) – It was unanimously agreed that the sign was required. The Clerk will contact CCC Highways for actual costs.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of a pedestrian sign, posts and installation by CCC Highways @ approximately £250.

163/08 CORRESPONDENCE

For information:

1. GO-East – East of England RSS Gypsy and Traveller Review: Panel Report – Notification that the report to be considered by the government is available to download in full from http://www.goeast.gov.uk/goeast/planning/regional_planning/687221 - Due to the size of the documents, the Clerk was unable to print copies and will try to obtain hardcopies.

164/08 REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- 1. Complaints of smell, light and water pollution at Straight Furlong, Pymoor**
- 2. To receive P3 Application for 2009/10 and approve proposed works (Cllr KO Winters)**
- 3. Councillor Training**
- 4. Footpath 27 – Cllr Winters (P3 Rep.) to report back of meeting with Karen Whymark (CCC P3 Officer).**

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.00pm.

