

**MINUTES of a meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall,
Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 15 April 2010 commencing at 7.00pm.**

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

In attendance: PC K Humble, County Cllr P Read, Jake Roberts and Theo Hall (7.24pm)

APOLOGIES – Cllr CE Hall, Dist. Cllrs A Bailey and T Goodge.

214/09 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None

215/09 **PARISH CRIME MATTERS**

1. **Police Crime Reports** – Between 16/02/10 – 13/04/10, six crimes were reported in Little Downham and two in Pymoor. During the same period, there were 15 calls for service for Lt Downham and three for Pymoor.

7.03pm Cllr Winters and Cllr Martin arrived.

2. **To report recent events** – PC Humble confirmed there was not a great deal for concern; however, he feared that some people are not reporting thefts for whatever reason. He reiterated that thefts need to be reported and police still need calls of suspicious vehicles.

216/09 **REQUEST FOR DESIGNATED AREA TO BUILD SMALL BMX DIRT TRACK**

7.24pm Jake Roberts and Theo Hall arrived.

1. **To consider request for proposed BMX dirt track (Min.198/09)** - A site visit was held earlier in Lt Downham Recreation Area and an area of 10m x 20m was considered suitable for the youths' proposals. Cllr Taylor informed that he could bring in some soil from Wilburton that is ideal for building dirt tracks and that the person who had set up Wilburton's track was willing to help in Lt Downham. It was suggested that guidelines are drawn up for use of the area and the track.

Resolved unanimously to approve a dirt track in principle and allocate an area of 10m x 20m at the northern end of the recreation field.

A meeting will be arranged with the youths to view the area and discuss the next step.

7.29pm Jake Roberts and Theo Hall thanked the council and left.

217/09 **TO ADJOURN MEETING FOR PUBLIC FORUM**

7.29pm No comments

7.30pm Meeting reconvened.

218/09 **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** (Dist. Cllrs A Bailey & A Goodge)

1. In an email with her apologies, Dist Cllr Bailey reported on matters regarding the withdrawal of the kerbside plastics, which will save ECDC £140,000p.a.

219/09 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** (County Cllr P Read)

1. Cllr Read reported he was campaigning for the forthcoming general election, is aware of Highways work proposed for B1411 Seven Sisters, has been to meetings in London regarding transport and locally for care of the elderly. Following a question regarding the condition of the A10, it was reported that CCC Highways has 'sealed cracking' to reduce further maintenance until funding is available for the road to be resurfaced.

7.35pm Cllr County Read left.

220/09 **TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

1. **Resolved that the minutes of 18 March 2010 (Full Council) be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

221/09 **MATTERS TO REPORT**

1. **(Min.207/09.2) To consider recommendations from Play Area & Recreation Committee** – Prices for 'grass mats' ranged from £14 to £38, but there is a worldwide shortage and only one company is expecting a delivery mid May. The Log World net costs £600. The Clerk will enquire of other manufacturers.

Resolved to place an order with Smart-Product.co.uk for 20 mats @ £14 each, plus £45 delivery and VAT making a total cost £381.88.

2. **(Min.178/09) Lt Downham First Responder Scheme** - Letter of thanks received from MAGPAS.

3. **(Min.208/09.1) Lt Downham Youth Group – Use of Lt Downham Recreation Area and Pavilion on 24/04/10** – Due to skate equipment not available for 24 April, permission was approved for the Skate Fete to be held on 15 May instead. The Cricket Club had no objection.

222/09 **PLANNING MATTERS**

1. Planning correspondence -
 - 1.1 **East Cambs Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-2031 – consultation - deadline 20/05/10** – The Council declined to comment.
 - 1.2 **CCC – Introduction of Electronic Consultation – proposals to send all planning related correspondence by email** - The Council objected to the proposals because it does not have the equipment to print large correspondence and documents via email.
- For information only:**
- 1.3 **ECDC Applications approved:** 10/00009/FUL, 10/00023/FUL, 10/00056/ADI, 10/00094/LBC, 10/00096/FUL, 10/00119/FUL,
ECDC Applications refused: 10/00037/FUL, 10/00091/FUL,

223/09 **FINANCE**

1. **Monthly Internal Audit** was carried out by Cllrs D Adams-Payne and EW Hall.
2. **To approve purchase of replacement bin on wall of Lt Downham Pavilion** – It was agreed to purchase a large yellow bin with a hood
Resolved to purchase a yellow 50HSL wall mounted bin with a hood from Glasdon UK @ £93.71 + VAT.
3. **To consider purchase of new Printer/Scanner/Copier for Clerk’s office** – The matter was deferred to the next meeting for the Clerk to obtain prices.
4. **To approve bills and other items for payment**
Proposed by Cllr D Adams-Payne, seconded Cllr EW Hall and agreed unanimously.
Resolved to minute approval of cheque number 000675 for £1948.00 that was required to be paid prior to the end of the financial year 31/03/10.
Resolved to minute approval of cheque numbers 000673 and 000674 for total sum of £817.64 that required being paid prior to 15/04/10 meeting.
Resolved to approve list of payments for cheque numbers 000676 to 000682 for the total sum of £2598.84.

224/09 **CASUAL VACANCY**

1. **To set dates for advertising vacancy and co-option of new councillor** – It was agreed to advertise immediately with closing date of 20/05/10 and co-option at full council meeting 27/05/10.

225/09 **PARISH MATTERS**

1. **Neighbourhood Panel Meeting (19 April) – To consider issues to report** – Dog fouling and dog bins not being emptied. The Clerk was instructed to email the issues to the NHP coordinator because the Annual Parish Meeting was being held on the same evening and Cllr Winters was not sure which he would attend.
2. **Downham Feoffees – Nuisance and damage at 12 School Lane from ‘footballers’** – The concern was discussed but the Council doesn’t have funding in the budget to erect a fence on the recreation area boundary. It would like to replace the All Weather Court fence.
Resolved to put up a sign asking people to respect the privacy of local residents and to request they knock on the door to retrieve balls from the gardens.

226/09 **PARISH PATHS**

1. **CCC – Parish Paths Partnership 2010-11 - application acknowledgement** – Kate Day (CCC Public Rights of Way and Access Manager) wrote to inform that as the Parish has not requested any grant funding for this year and all works requested fall under the County Council’s existing work programmes, Lt Downham will be added to the list of non-P3 Parishes. Cllr Winters disagreed with other members’ interpretation of the letter that a P3 representative was not required. It was agreed to write to Kate Day to request clarification of how matters are to be reported and what the Parish Council’s role is. Cllr Winters proposed that the following was included in the letter because he wants to check the cutting of the footpaths: “Could I have the dates the footpaths are due to be cut, so that I can inspect them afterwards or preferably the same day. As the main complaints by parishioners is the fact that the rights of the footpaths are not being preserved due to poor maintenance. The footpaths are not cut short enough.” Cllr BL Taylor seconded. Council approved. It was pointed out that the Council could apply for P3 again next year.

227/09 **RECREATION AREAS**

1. **To consider grant funding for drainage of Lt Downham Recreation field** - It was considered that funding could be available from Section 106 allocations to the parish. The Clerk was instructed to obtain three quotes to playing field specifications for consideration at a future meeting.

228/09 **CORRESPONDENCE**

For information only:

1. **Downham Feoffees – Confirmation of Parish Council’s Wayleave permission on School Lane** – the correspondence documents dated 1970 were noted and observed to confirm the following:

1. *Access permitted, other than as a public right of way on foot, is determined by the landowner and exists so long as the landowner permits. Permission is maintained by payment to the landowner.*
2. *The Feoffees are content with the permission for access to the Children’s play area, All Weather Sports Area (fenced), single storey pavilion and grassed field used for sports such as cricket, football etc., and do not propose to change or draw up a more detailed document.*

Copies of the documents will be held in the Council’s files and be lodged with other legal documents at the Council’s solicitor.

2. **Moore Stephens - Notification of External Annual Audit - 1 June 2010** – As legally required to advertise public inspection period, notices were displayed on Council notice boards on 08/04/10.

229/09 **HIGHWAYS**

1. **Replies re matters reported from previous meetings** – There were no replies. Thanks were expressed to Highways for the recent resurfacing of pavements on Lawn Lane and patching work in the parish.

2. **To report current matters of concern:**

- 2.1 **Townsend, Lt Downham** – A pothole has appeared near Anglian Water leak area.
- 2.2 **Townsend, Lt Downham** – A lorry has driven over the Council’s grassed area outside No. 4 and left deep ruts. Cllr Taylor agreed to take a look with the prospect of filling in with soil.
- 2.3 **Agency Grass Cutting** – CCC Highways have offered the same funding as last year, £2387.06. **Resolved to accept the offer of £2387.06 for the 2010 Highway verge grass cutting.**

230/09 **REQUEST OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION** - None

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.50pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date