

LITTLEPORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 20th June 2022 meeting at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillor C Allen
Councillor C Ambrose Smith
Councillor D Ambrose Smith
Councillor P Cox
Councillor R Gasgarth - **Absent**
Councillor S Green
Councillor B Guittet-Carriere - **Apologies**
Councillor D Jordan – VICE CHAIRMAN
Councillor S Kerridge
Councillor L Malkin
Councillor G Norman
Councillor E Dos Santos
Councillor J Weaver - **Apologies**
Councillor C Webber – CHAIRMAN
Councillor J Webber

Also in attendance: Deputy Clerk

Members of the Public: 1

PUBLIC FORUM

No attendees

22/23.39 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone for attending the full Council meeting.

22/23.40 APOLOGIES & ABSENCES:

Cllr J Weaver – Apologies- Accepted

Cllr B Guittet-Carriere – Apologies - Accepted

22/23.41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None

22/23.42 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council and Annual Village Meeting of 16 May 2022 and Planning Sub-Committee of 23rd May and 6th June 2022 were duly signed as a true record.

22/23.43 PRESENTATION OF THE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

A certificate was presented by the Chairman to David Porter, recognising he was fundamental in the successful grant bid for the building of new premises for the Littleport Society and was a founder member. The award was in recognition of his tireless voluntary work as a Trustee of Townlands Charity and Littleport Society and Adams Heritage Centre, to name just a few of the organisations that he has been

involved in, along with organising many events that have benefited the residents of Littleport.

22/23.44 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Meeting has taken place with Highways, and the ECDC Economic Development Officer about a levelling up fund bid.

I have delivered a presentation to Littleport Rotary and the WI, on Parish Council projects.

There is a meeting planned for Wednesday with the Loss Adjuster. Cllr D Jordan can update you more on this item under HR agenda item.

We have been in communication with LECA, about working together and we will be shortly having a meeting with the new head and the safeguarding lead.

We have received the annual H & S report on the play equipment and all amber items are in the process of being actioned once the materials / replacement parts have been received. Our Clerk has also requested some costing of new play equipment.

After this meeting, the first meeting of the new working group will be arranged.

22/23.45 YOUTH AND COMMUNITY BUILDING UPDATE

Site meetings take place on the last Thursday of the month, which includes the valuation.

I have visited the site with the Community Connector / Think Communities Officer for CCC to show them what their grant is funding.

The LECA's new head will also be visiting the site shortly, and I will extend the offer of a visit to the site to ECDC officers in the near future.

22/23.46 COMMUNITY YOUTH WORKER / COMMUNITY LINK WORKER – UPDATE REPORTS

Community Link Worker and Community Youth Worker reports for information only, had been circulated to councillors via email prior to the meeting.

22/23.47 PLAYGROUND WORKING GROUP - TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

After discussions it was agreed that the number of councillors on the Working Group needs to be increased from 5 Councillors to 7 Councillors.

22/23.48 Multi Pay Cards

After discussions it was agreed to apply for 3 Multi Pay cards for the 2 Community Link Workers and 1 for the Clerks Office. The process was agreed and there would be further discussion around the pre-loaded limit.

22/23.49 FINANCE

- 49.1 The Financial Statements of the Parish Council had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting that had been prepared by the Locum Clerk.
- 49.2 The Payments confirmed from 19th May – 20th June had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting that had been prepared by the Locum Clerk.

22/23.50 CLERKS' FOLLOW UP DIARY

Following a conversation with the Chairman it was agreed that the use of the Parish Council Logo can be shared with partners / groups that are working in collaboration with the Parish Council.

There is currently an issue across the village in relation to graffiti. Graffiti remover is on order and once received the grounds team will carry out the necessary work on the Parish Council owned land.

Year End has now been closed and we are now looking at the over and under spends .

We have finalised the explanations to the NO on the agar report and now the CCLA statements have arrived the AGAR can now be completed, unless any further information is requested.

22/23.50 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Waste Service update:

Just to give some context, here is the post that Anna Bailey used on local social media, a week or two ago:

I am the Leader of the District Council. Firstly, I apologise for the disruptions that residents have experienced to their waste and recycling collections over the last few weeks. The (very necessary) round reconfiguration was a huge logistical change, the complexities of which have to be studied in detail to really appreciate in full. When the round reconfigurations had been implemented we then experienced far higher than normal sickness rates and staffing issues which have caused the issues with rounds not being collected on the correct days. The service is then in constant catch up mode and with staffing issues it is hard to get back on top. I promise you that we haven't been sitting around doing nothing about this. We have been working hard to secure extra resources (which are not easy to come by at the moment, with national HGV driver shortages and a labour market that is changing) and I really do hope that residents will begin to see improvements to the service very soon now. We will then be working to review the service to make sure that everything that can be done is being done to bring the service performance back to the excellent level it was at before the round reconfiguration and to ensure there is enough resilience built into

the service. We won't get there overnight but I have every confidence we will get there again. The crews are (mainly) the same crews as before when they were running an excellent service with high performance levels. I want to thank the crews for their ongoing hard work - it is not an easy job, crew members walk an average of 11 miles per day. Waste services in many local authorities are experiencing similar issues. None of this is given as an excuse but by way of explanation and to assure you we are committed and working hard to get back to giving residents the excellent service you deserve. Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding.

Senior management, supported by the Leader of the Council and the Chair of Operational Services have worked tirelessly to deal with the recent problems around the Waste Service.

An action plan has evolved, addressing short term issues and to provide longer term resilience when future challenges inevitably arise.

There is an ongoing service response to missed bins and bags together with assisted lifts. This is being assisted by external capacity through Countryside Recycling who are currently providing one additional staffed wagon. The team will assess whether this additional help is required on an extended basis and/or in a different form, for example, the direct provision of HGV drivers. In order to ensure resilience, we are identifying additional external capacity for now and in the future.

External management consultancy support to the team, specifically; continual review of the allocation of resources to rounds within the same day, procuring (if required) additional external operational resources and advising on the conditions of employment to assist with the retention of staff and to attract new staff. We will continue to encourage staff to progress within the team and work towards qualifying as HGV drivers.

Engagement with staff and their trade union including a review of staff terms and conditions. A formal Joint Consultative Committee is being established as a matter of urgency.

Short term and temporary (a matter of months) changes to terms and conditions as a recognition of market conditions and current service pressures on staff. This is subject to consultation but will be introduced as soon as possible to have an immediate impact on retention and recruitment.

These short term changes will allow the new JCC to agree (subject to consultation) long term sustainable changes to terms and conditions and working arrangements.

Other updates:

Operational Services Committee on 13 June reviewed the ECDC Environment & Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan June 2022, considering and approving the 3rd fully refreshed edition of the Environment Plan. Approval was given for the establishment of a full time, permanent, Climate Change and Natural Environment Officer.

The Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy was debated and approved at the same meeting, as was the Food and Health & Safety Service Plan. The Quarter 4 Performance Report for Waste & Street Cleansing Services was discussed and noted, and the Annual Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies were presented. As colleagues are aware, the three District Councillors serve as representatives on our local Internal Drainage Boards, Christine & Jo are board members of Sanctuary Housing, and the East Cambs Community Safety Partnership. David currently Chairs Anglia Revenue Partnership.

We are also members, variously of: District Planning Committee, Operational Services Committee, Finance & Assets Committee, and Licencing Committee, all of which have recently held regular committee meetings. Our next Full Council is on Thursday 14 July. As you may be aware, all public committees and Full Council are now live streamed and available for members of the public to view.

We also attend member seminars via zoom on a variety of subjects and meet with officers as and when our ward is involved in a particular project or a matter of interest.

22/23.51 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Drainage & Flooding issues Sandhill Littleport

Meeting representatives: Sandhill Residents, Network Rail, CCC Highways & Flooding, MP's office,

Aims: to see the issues the residents have been experiencing for the past three years.

Action points agreed at the meeting:

- Network Rail to camera survey along the drains to the culvert
- Highways to camera survey their drains
- Highways to cut back vegetation and create better drainage
- MP's office to speak to CCC Transport Asset Team to consider Sandhill in their funding for drainage projects

EXCLUSION OF STAFF PRESS AND PUBLIC

22/23.52 HR COMMITTEE UPDATE

Update was given to Full Council from the HR Committee

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.47pm.

Signed:Chairman

Dated: