

LITTLEPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19th February 2024



Present: Councillors Clive Allen; Christine Ambrose Smith; David Ambrose Smith; Eluned Dos Santos; Martin Goodearl; Debra Jordan; Sue Kerridge; Geoff Norman; Clive Webber; Jo Webber.

Town Clerk: Diane Lane

The meeting opened at 7.00pm

Members: 15 Quorum: 5 Vacancies: 2

- 23/24.150 Apologies and Reasons for Absence**
It was proposed by Councillor Clive Allen, seconded by Councillor C Ambrose Smith, and resolved that apologies with acceptable reasons are approved for councillors Paul Cox and Susan Green.
Absent: Baptiste Guittet-Carriere;
- 23/24.151 To Receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors**
There were no declarations of interest from members.
- 23/24.152 Open Forum for Public Participation (15 Minutes)**
There were no requests to speak from members of the public.
- 23/24.153 Minutes of Previous Meeting**
It was proposed by Councillor J Webber, seconded by Councillor Jordan, and resolved that Littleport Town Council agree the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15th January 2024.
- 23/24.154 To Receive Committee Meeting Minutes**
It was proposed by Councillor Allen, seconded by Councillor Norman, and resolved that the Council receive the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held January 8th 2024.
It was proposed by Councillor D Ambrose Smith, seconded by Councillor Jordan, and resolved that the Council receive the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held December 11th 2023.
- 23/24.155 Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising.
- 23/24.156 Clerk's Report**
The Clerk's report was read out at the meeting; noting the following points:

- Installation of the Changing Places Toilet would take place commencing 21st February. Match funding had been sought from the Town Council's S106 pot at the District Council which had not yet been confirmed.
- A new telephone system, and a door access system had been installed at the Barn, completing the current upgrade of the office.

23/24.157**Chairman's Update**

The Chairman's report included the following matters:

- Councillor Paul Cox had resigned as chairman of the Planning Committee at the last committee meeting. A new chairman and vice-chairman were to be elected at the next meeting of the committee.
- A Highways Officer had met with the Chairman, the Amenities Officer and a resident of Ely Road to discuss the feasibility study for the community LHI Bid. A full report will be written up and circulated to the Town Council, the Community Group and the County Councillor before it goes to the Panel for consideration.
- The end of the defect period for the Youth Building is imminent; there are still issues with the bollards and the fire door that need to be resolved before the final retention figure is paid to Salmons.
- A meeting had been requested by the District Councillor with the Planning Officer, Ecology Officer and the Tree Officer, to discuss the planning application for the play area and skate park at the Paddocks. A date had not yet been agreed.
- A meeting had been held at the cemetery with the Chairman, the Burials officer, the Clerk and the groundsman to establish how many unsold plots are remaining (25 unsold plots had been identified).
- The Highways Department had completed its searches and established the highway boundary line for access to the new cemetery. The Council's Highways Consultant has been sent the information and a further update is expected in the next few days.
- If the requirements for the highway are met, the application will be submitted to the ECDC Planning Committee with the EA policy comment outstanding.

23/24.158**Allotment Rents**

It was proposed by Councillor Ambrose Smith, seconded by Councillor Goodearl, and resolved that the Allotment rents for 2025-26 are increased from £10 to £15 for a half plot and from £20 to £30 for a full plot, with payment becoming due at Michaelmas 2025. It was also resolved that the rents should be reviewed again in 2 years.

23/24.159**Internal Auditor**

It was proposed by Councillor Jordan, seconded by Councillor J Webber, and resolved that LGS Services are appointed to carry out the Internal Audit for the financial year 2023-24.

23/24.160**Defibrillator**

It was proposed by Councillor J Webber, seconded by Councillor Jordan, and resolved that the Council purchase a defibrillator for the Youth and Community Building.

23/24.161**Martyn's Law**

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill was included in the programme of legislation the Government intends to pursue in the forthcoming Parliamentary session. The Bill is also known as 'Martyn's Law' in tribute to Martyn Hett, who was tragically killed alongside 21 others in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack in 2017.

Ahead of its introduction to Parliament, on Monday 5th February the Government launched a six-week public consultation on an updated Standard Tier. The consultation seeks views on the updated Standard Tier measures, to ensure the Bill strikes the right balance between public protection and avoiding undue burdens on smaller premises, such as village halls and other community venues.

Councillors were requested to complete the online survey.

23/24.162**County and District Councillor Reports****162.1****County Councillors Report**

- I. A review of highways operational standards in relation to weed management had been undertaken, and as a result the Highways and Transport committee decided to reinstate weed control across the county. There will also be a one off non-chemical weed removal program implemented at the beginning of May. The committee are still keen to obtain the views of the parishes across the county
- II. The 2024/25 funding scheme is now open for applications. The County Councillor suggested that the Council should consult fully with the community before undertaking any such application.
- III. (Feltwell & Littleport – Iron Bridge Footbridge) Modification Order 2023

Norfolk County Council had applied for a modification order proposing the addition of a public right of way over the footbridge section of the bridge known as 'Iron Bridge' crossing the Little Ouse river in the parishes of Feltwell and Littleport.

The County Councillors report had been circulated before the meeting.

- The highways department had started work on resurfacing some of Branch Bank, although it is not clear how extensive the work is going to be, Councillor DAS will continue to petition the County Highways to upgrade this stretch of road between Littleport and Queen Adelaide.
- The county council budget and precept had been agreed with an increase of 2.99% on the basic precept and 2% on the Adult Social Care precept.

162.2

District Councillors Report

The District Councillors report would be circulated after the meeting.

- District Councillor Ambrose Smith gave a brief overview of the budget proposals for East Cambs District Council for 2024-25. ECDC will not be increasing its share of the council tax for the 11th consecutive year.
- It was noted that the Combined Authority will be increasing its share of the precept by 200% for

Full reports from the County and District Councillor are available on the Town Council website.

23/24.163

Date of Next Meetings (The Barn)

Planning Committee 26th February 2024

Finance Committee 11th March 2024

Full Council 18th March 2024 (Apologies Councillor Dos Santos)

The meeting closed at 8.28pm

Signed:

Date: