

GREAT WITCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of a meeting held at 7.45 p.m. at The Memorial Hall on Thursday 27th July 2006

Present : Roy Church, Bridget Wright, Kevin Francis, Pauline Brown, Stephen Williams and John Willmore. Ron Cornell in the chair.

Clerk: Peter Dilloway, James Joyce (County Councillor). Mr S. Woodbridge (District Councillor) and two members of the public: Mr. R. Gribble, Mr. P. Williamson

(718). Apologies. None

(719). Minutes of the meetings held 26/3/06 and 27/4/06 were agreed to be a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

(720). Matters Arising:

- (i). First Response Scheme. Paul Williamson outlined the requirements for getting a local scheme off the ground. Whilst there are schemes running at Reepham, Horsford and Felthorpe these are considered too far away to amalgamate with our village. The purpose of the scheme is to provide first aid assistance during the first 5 minutes of injury and none of the above could achieve that response. To be viable the scheme needs at least 6 people to operate and funding of £1400 to £1600 to cover training and equipment.. It was suggested that an article be put into the Wensum Diary to attract volunteers and donations.
- (ii). Whilst on the subject of emergencies Stephen Williams said that Norfolk County Council were seeking volunteers for accident/emergency simulations to be held at Thetford during September. Anyone interested in participating should contact NCC by phone or via their website.
- (iii). John Willmore told the Council that as promised, Blackwater Lane has received a surface dressing, which, as predicted has made absolutely no difference to the underlying ripple in the original mettle.
- (iv). Whitwell Station. The site has recently received much publicity as a potential travellers' site. The Chairman asked Simon Woodbridge to give a resume of the situation: Under Government legislation, Broadland DC has a statutory duty to make provision of a permanent or transit site for the travelling community. The initial stage was to consider the criteria for the provision of a site. Two basic principles were established; a). The site should be on or near a route regularly used by travellers. b). The use of ratepayer's money in providing a site should be minimal. In consideration of principle b) above, the decision was made to initially identify all publicly owned land in the district without disclosure. During this process, two things happened. Norfolk County Council took the decision to sell Whitwell Station on the open market. Broadland therefore felt it necessary to declare its interest and request that the site be withdrawn from sale pending their further consideration. Secondly, Government made funding in excess of £600K available for the provision of a site, which has now overridden principle b). The furore over the Whitwell site is well documented and the arguments are not given in these minutes; suffice to say that previous local encampments have led to various affrays, much mess and sharp increases in theft. Government funding has allowed the District Council to now give consideration to the purchase of privately owned land. Simon Woodbridge spoke at length on the reason for not disclosing the whereabouts of the other sites, which have been identified. Primarily BDC considered that the anguish to communities which disclosure would cause at this stage was believed unwarranted as they are not even close to point where close assessment of any site can be made. A consultation on the assessment tools will be made during September, and once concluded an invitation will be made to interested landowners to identify private land. Once all potential sites for assessment have been identified they will be disclosed for public consultation. James Joyce (also a Reepham Town & Broadland District Councillor) felt that the matter had been veiled in secrecy contrary to the public interest such that the whole picture is not being declared. He added that only a select few of District Councillors were privy to all the information. This Parish Council concurred with that view and instructed the Clerk to write a letter of complaint to the District Council

(721). Correspondence:

- (i). Letter from Broadland District Council advising that grants are available for community projects such as village halls. Presently there is no point in seeking funding as there much uncertainty as to the future use of the existing hall or the location of a replacement.

(722). Planning Matters:

- (i). Planning Application 20060852 – New IT building Bernard Matthews plc. The Council had no objection to the proposal. This application has subsequently been refused permission.
- (ii). Planning Application 20060901 – Covered Loading bay. DGT Atlas Works. The Council had no objection to the proposal. The application is believed to be retrospective.
- (iii). Planning Application 20061073 - Full application for two bungalows Pearce's Yard, The Street. This application follows outline permission granted against 20041910. Members noted that the positions of the dwellings had changed leaving the land adjacent to 8 The Street unused. In the absence of approaches from neighbours the Council could find no objection to the proposal. A further application for a third property on the remainder of the site was considered possible and would not be welcomed.
- (iv). Planning Application 20061117 - 39 Fakenham Road. First floor rear extension. The Council had no objection to the proposal.
- (v). Planning Application 20061127 – two- storey side extension. The Council had no objection to the proposal.

- (vi). Planning Application 20061153 – Prefabricated office. Bernard Matthews plc North site. The Council had no objection to the proposal.
- (723). Payments/Financial Matters:
- (i). Grounds maintenance Mar & Apr 06. A & J Canham. Chq no. 100476 £76.38 (Retrospective approval)
 - (ii). Insurance renewal (amended to reduced asset value) Allianz Cornhill. Chq no. 100477 £466.08
 - (iii). Grounds maintenance May 06 A & J Canham. Chq no. 100478 £47.00
 - (iv). Hall Hire Feb 05 to Apr 06. GW Memorial Hall. Chq no. 100479 £71.50
 - (v). Grounds maintenance Jun 06 A & J Canham. Chq no. 100480 £47.00
 - (vi). Memorial/ litter clearance Apr to Jul 06. R. Cornell Chq no. 100481 £96.27
 - (vii). Grounds maintenance Jul 06 A & J Canham. Chq no. 100482 £47.00
 - (viii). Clerk's Salary (£243.00) & expenses to date (£59.51). P. Dilloway. Chq no. 100483 £302.51
- (724). Any Other Business:
- (i). Roy Church requested that the Council write to the Environment Agency and ask what measures are being taken to safeguard the rapidly depleting water resources in the River Wensum. He added that the Yare has already ceased to flow and a number of streams and springs have now dried up. The water level is now lower than the sluices at Lenwade Mill and as a result some fishstocks have become trapped in low and heavily weeded water. The Clerk will write.
 - (ii). Following a recent accident at the junction of Nowhere Lane and the A1067, members suggested that a review of the speed limits between the 50mph at Bawdeswell and the 30mph at Gt. Witchingham, should again be brought to the attention of the County Highways dept. The Clerk advised that Sparham PC had recently requested a review to no avail. Members were surprised that the section of straight road at Bawdeswell had a reduced limit whilst the section referred consisted mostly of bends. The Clerk will write to Highways.
 - (iii). John Willmore said that motorbikes were using Marriott's Way. Another unidentified vehicle, presumed larger than a motorbike was also heard.
 - (iv). The circulation of correspondence is posing a problem with time sensitive items being delayed. The correct order of distribution will be: PD - RoyC - JW - PB - BW - KF - RonC – SW and back to PD for action.
 - (v). Ray Gribble said that dog bins had now been sighted on Marriott's Way but was perplexed as to why one was close to an existing bin. James Joyce advised that they needed to be near entry points for ease of emptying. It is coincidence that our own bin is already close by.
- (725). Date and time of next meeting: 26th October 2006 at 7.45pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

AGENDA GWPC– 26th October 2006 at 7.45pm

- (726). Apologies
- (727). Minutes of meeting 27/7/06
- (728). Matters Arising
- (729). Correspondence:
- (730). Planning Applications:
 - (i). Rendering Plant Clay Hay Hall Farm
- (731). Payments/Financial Matters)
 - (i). Grounds maintenance Aug 06 £47.00
 - (ii). Grounds maintenance Sep 06 £47.00
 - (iii). Grounds maintenance Oct 06 £47.00
 - (iv). Memorial/ litter clearance £To be advised
 - (v). Clerk's salary & expenses to date £To be advised
- (732). Any other Business
- (733). Date & time of next meeting 25th January 2007 at 7.45pm