

Little Thetford Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr C Mitchell

Clerk: Mrs Amy Jacklin, c/o Little Thetford Village Hall, The Wyches, Little Thetford CB6 3HG

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Minutes of a Quorum (3) Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 7.30pm.

Attendees: Cllr Bill Hunt, Cllr Alison Kilby, Cllr Charlotte Mitchell

Clerk: Amy Jacklin and minute taker.
21 x Members of public present.
Start time 7.30pm

21/88 Election of the Chairman

Cllr Mitchell was nominated by Cllr Kilby. Cllr Mitchell accepted the position of Chairman. The declaration of acceptance was signed by both Cllr Mitchell and the clerk.

21/89 Statement from Bill Hunt

Cllr Hunt shares how much respect he has for Parish Councillors, for all the hours they put into their parishes for no pay. He states that he will only be part of Little Thetford Parish Council meeting for October, and that in November the new councillors will take position. Although he will still work with Little Thetford Parish Council as a District Councillor.

21/90 Apologies

None

21/91 Councillor Declaration of Interest.

Cllr Hunt declares he is on the board of East Cambridgeshire District Council planning so will not comment on item 21/96.

21/92 Public and Press Participation Session

1. Question- Did the clerk find out from the last meeting weather a trustee of the Community Land Trust (CLT) can also be a trustee of the Parish Council?
Answer- CAPALC have clarified that it is allowed, a declaration of interest form must be completed.
2. Mr James shared a prepared statement as to his reasons for his sudden resignation. (If anyone would like a copy of this document, please email me)
3. Question- The Village Hall details on the Parish Councils website are out of date, the village are finding it very difficult to book the hall as the details are incorrect. Please could they be updated asap?
Answer- The clerk advised she would work with the Village Hall to update the website.
4. A member of the public is very disappointed that the CLT is not featured on the Parish Council agenda, he would like to see it regularly on the agenda. The reason being for oversight and communication purposes. He proposes a meeting on Tuesday 19th October for the CLT members to re-elect a board. The chair suggests with parish agreement, that the CLT have a quarterly slot to present progress and any updates. The clerk will add this the agenda for November to discuss.
5. A member of the public is concerned that a local footpath has disappeared under the plough, he would like the Parish Council to help get it restated. He states the footpath marker has also been removed. The clerk advises she will contact ECDC for guidance.
6. A member of the public wanted to share his opinion on the CLT.

21/93 Approval of Minutes

1. It was **proposed** by Cllr Mitchell and **seconded** by Cllr Kirby and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 10th September.
2. None

3. The clerk has been working with ECDC to complete the process to elect a new board of Parish Councillors. All quotations from the September meeting have been obtained, then will be presented at the November meeting.

21/94 Finance Matters

1. The clerk presented the bank reconciliation. She mentions that the COVID grant received from ECDC has now been spent and the lottery grant money is earmarked for the pathway in the conservation area. It was **proposed** by Cllr Mitchell and **seconded** by Cllr Kirby and **RESOLVED** to agree the Council's financial situation.
2. It was **proposed** by Cllr Mitchell and **seconded** by Cllr Kirby and **RESOLVED** to agree the invoices for October payment. It was **agreed** for Cllr Kirby to authorise the payments.

21/95 To Receive County Councillor & District Councillor Reports

Cllr Schumann welcomed himself as the new elected County Councillor. County Council meetings will happen quarterly.

Cllr Bill Hunt- There will be no elections now for the 4th of November due to only 4 applications for the Parish Councillor positions. These new councillors have all now been elected and will take office on 4th November.

Princess of Wales hospital have been approved for a national health proposal for £45 million on extending the hospital. We have been able to do a land swap with the NHS to allow them to build a multi-story carpark which is much needed on the new site.

ECDC are also giving help to the expansion of St Marys doctors surgery which has been agreed.

Parking in the City of Ely will continue to be free of charge as well as Littleport and Soham.

100K homes- The first ones are now coming onto the market in Ely. The government are introducing a similar scheme for this called 'First homes'.

ECDC want to encourage Parish Councils to plant free fruit trees provided by the council.

ECDC are supporting the crematorium. Resident question- Is there a demand for the new proposed crematorium as there is one close by in March. The resident would like to see the projections. Clerk will forward these onto the resident when Cllr Hunt shares them.

The Citizens Advice bureau will now operate from ECDC.

21/96 Planning Matters

The planning application could not be discussed as the meeting is inquorate. Cllr Hunt is on the ECDC planning committee so cannot comment.

21/97 Council Administration Matters

1. Playpark update- Unfortunately, we have been turned down from the National Lottery grants, but we are now at the final stages with the FCC grants which will be decided in December. Fingers crossed on good news, so work can start early next year.
2. Outcome of external audit- Little John have provided the final report with no actions. One comment stated that the locum clerk's salary was submitted in the wrong section, but the clerk has now corrected this.
3. Christmas Light switch on update- Several meetings have taken place to start to organise the Christmas event. The event will need permission from the Parish Council to hold the event on their land. Estimated cost will be around £1500. Clerk to investigate the possibility of getting electric from a lamp post for the tree lights. Good progress made, with another update in November. Clerk has asked the Feast Committee to put forward a grant application to the PC for the funds needed for the event.

21/98 Open Spaces

1. Update on Conservation Area- A machine from Ben Burgess will be hired in November to cut the large patches of brambles and thistles in the conservation area, the cost was agreed in September's PC meeting of £250. The groundman will work with a team of volunteers to get this cut before winter sets in.
2. Trees on Cowslip- The clerk has obtained further recommendations about the work needed on the trees at Cowslip after residents' concerns about pollarding them. It has come to light that the trees

should not be pollard, the clerk will continue to obtain advise on how we should proceed with the work needed.

3. Rent Valuations- The clerk has obtained an independent evaluation from Cheffins for the rental of land owned by the Parish Council. It was **agreed** by unanimous vote that John Parish's rent will be £650 for the year 2021/22. It was agreed to defer Cllr Mitchell's rent until November due to being inqorate. The clerk will go ahead and invoice John Parish.
4. Urgent work is needed at Little Acorns pre-school on the oak tree in the garden, as soon as ECDC have agreed, due to a preservation order in place. The tree has deadwood hanging over the pre-school garden where children play. The work cost is £450. It was **agreed** by unanimous vote to agree to the work.

21/99 Cemetery Matters

1. The trees to the left of the cemetery do not require any work at present. The lime trees in the Cemetery have a small amount of deadwood that needs to be removed.

21/100 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 10th November- We will be welcoming our new Parish Councillors. Please could anyone who wishes to submit items for the addenda do this at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

Wave		Cemetery Water	£	5.00		£	5.00	Continues to be colle
Three	AP1176277684	Mobile Phone Charges	£	8.33	£	1.67	£	10.00 Paid by DD
Mrs Amy Jacklin	2109	Clerk Salary	£	813.40			£	813.40 Paid 20th Sept
Parrott Flooring	717	Little Acorns flooring Part- Grant	£	931.97			£	931.97 Paid 20th Sept
Cheffins	1	Land Rent review	£	250.00	£	50.00	£	300.00 paid 14/10
John Skipper	2173	Village Maintenance	£	573.00			£	573.00 Paid 14/10
PKF LittleJohn LLP	09/05/1902	External Audit Fees	£	300.00	£	60.00	£	360.00 paid 14/10
Red Shoes	7398	Payroll services	£	45.00			£	45.00 paid 14/10
Little Thetford Village Hall	14	Hall rates	£	270.00			£	270.00 paid 14/10

End meeting 9.30pm

Signed:

Date:

DRAFT