

# 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 the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm

**Attendees:** Cllr C Mitchell, Cllr Olibhe Collins- Neat, Cllr Phil Hadley, Cllr Dan Peacock and Cllr Ian Driver

**Clerk:** Amy Jacklin

Members of the public- 3

Start Time 7.30pm

### 22/61 Chairman Welcome

The chair welcomes everybody to the meeting.

### 22/62 To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Tracey Durham

### 22/63 Councillor's Declarations of Interest

Cllr Collins- Neat will not comment on 22/68-1 due to being on the Village Hall committee

Cllr Dan Peacock will not comment on 22/68-1 due to being part of the Village Hall committee

Cllr Charlotte Mitchell will not comment or vote on 22/69-1 and 2 due to being the tenant of the land in question.

### 22/64 Public and Press Participation Session

Mr James updates the council on the Village Hall works regarding the energy upgrade. After conversations with UK Power Network there will be a funding gap of around £10000. There have also been concerns about the roof being strong enough to hold solar panels, this means a surveyor will need to investigate this. The Village Hall have submitted a grant application to the Parish Council for £7000 (in principle). This money would not be drawn down until a fully costed plan is shared with the council. It was agreed by the council to review this and vote on in January 2023.

Warm Hub is going well- Little Thetford is the second most positively supported in East Cambs. 25/30 people attend on a Monday and between 10/15 on a Thursday.

It was agreed that the Village Hall give any updates to the Parish Council regarding the Warm Hub so the clerk can distribute any communications out to councillors and residents if needed.

A member of the public shares concerns about the pond at the conservation area being frozen and a potential risk. It was **agreed** to close the pond off temporarily until it thaws. The clerk will arrange this urgently and share on social media.

Cllr Hadley asked if anyone has information regarding the depth of the pond for a risk assessment he is carrying out- A member of the public shared his thoughts.

### 22/65 Approval of minutes

1. It was **proposed** by Cllr Hadley and **seconded** by Cllr Collins- Neat and **agreed** unanimously to accept the minutes from Wednesday 9th November 2022.
2. The clerk shared that the new dog waste bin is now in place on New Close Road. Cllr Hadley has been given permission from the owners of a property on the Wyches to trim a tree to uncover a streetlight.
3. No comments.

### 22/66 To receive County Councillor & District Councillor Reports- Cllr Bill Hunt

1. Cllr Hunt congratulated the Village Hall trustees on winning a £63000 grant from the East Cambridgeshire District Council's Growth and Infrastructure fund. This will be used on a much-needed energy upgrade for the Village Hall.

2. Cllr Hunt urges residents and councillors to attend a special Full Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December where formal comments will be discussed regarding the introduction of road charging in Cambridge to fund GCP proposals. The proposal means anyone travelling into Cambridge will be charged a minimum of £5 per day, this is something the council do not support.

3. The Zipper Bus subsidy finishes 31.3.2023-Not yet sure of the Zippers future.

4. East Cambridgeshire District Council have upgraded three disabled bays at Broad Street Carpark.

5. Very pleased the waste service is now back to operating normally.

6. Sanctuary Housing have 156 empty houses in East Cambs- This is now being challenged by ECDC and questions are being asked to understand why.

7. 'Warm Hubs' are proving very popular in East Cambs with nine active venues. These venues have been very popular, not only for keeping people warm but for identifying others in the community that need help eg collecting prescriptions for those who can't get out.

8. East Cambridgeshire District Council are white ribbon accredited to help fight domestic violence especially against women

It was agreed for the Parish Clerk to write an objection letter regarding the proposal for road charging to send to Cllr Hunt to be shared at the meeting.

#### **22/67 Finance Matters**

1. It was **proposed** by Cllr Hadley and **seconded** by Cllr Peacock and **agreed** by unanimous vote to agree the financial situation for November.
2. It was **proposed** by Cllr Collins- Neat and **seconded** by Cllr Peacock and **agreed** by unanimous vote for the December's invoices to be paid shown at the bottom of the agenda.  
The clerk highlighted that there is one other invoice to agree from the Village Hall. This is for the 2023 room hire costs. It was agreed to pay the Village Hall in full.

#### **22/68 The Village Hall**

The clerk advises that due to the late receipt of the grant application that it should be carried over to January's meeting for a vote. This gives councillors time to review the application. It was proposed by Cllr Hadley and seconded by Cllr Driver and **agreed** by unanimous vote (with 2 abstentions) to carry this agenda item to January's meeting.

#### **22/69 Council Administration Matters**

1. It was **proposed** by Cllr Hadley and **seconded** by Cllr Driver to **approve** the changes to the contract. (3 votes in favour of the change and one vote against) At this point the clerk notes that Cllr Peacock disagrees with the wording in November's minutes (22/59-5) he doesn't recall these terms being agreed.
2. It was **proposed** by Cllr Driver and **seconded** by Cllr Peacock and **agreed** by unanimous vote to **agree** to Fen Farm supplies quotation. It was agreed for the clerk to organise the order and delivery of the gate.
3. After a long discussion it was **proposed** by Cllr Hadley and **seconded** by Cllr Mitchell and **agreed** by unanimous vote to rectify the erosion on the mound by netting the mound and building up the area with topsoil before turfing it. It was also **agreed** for the clerk to seek advice from East Cambridgeshire District Council's open spaces manager about the situation and where we stand regarding warranty.
4. It was **proposed** by Cllr Collins- Neat and **seconded** by Cllr Hadley and **agreed** by vote to accept the quotation for the replacement fence (4 vote in favour/ 1 abstention)
5. It was **proposed** by Cllr Peacock and **seconded** by Cllr Mitchell and **agreed** by unanimous vote to increase the precept to £19365 for 2023/24. The clerk is to seek advise to find out if the telephone box refurbishments could be added to precept.
6. Cllr Driver shares his findings from a meeting with Durman Stearn about the carpark refurbishment. Permission must be granted from the water authority to allow surface water to drain into the catchment. An architect must be hired to draw up a scheme if the council chose to go ahead. It was **proposed** by Cllr Mitchell and **seconded** by Cllr Driver and agreed by unanimous vote for the clerk to move forward in getting an architect quotation. The clerk was given a name to follow up on- Freeman Brear Architects. It was also agreed for the clerk to speak to Sally Bonnet at ECDC about the requirements to use their CIL monies for the project. Cllr Peacock shares his opinion that the carpark refurbishments must be the priority in 2023.

#### **22/70 Motion to Exclude**

It was agreed by unanimous vote to give the clerk a pay increase in line with the NALC recommendations. The clerks pay scale sits at LC1(14). This will be back dated to April 22.

#### **22/71 Date of next Meeting**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

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
John Skipper	2292	30-Nov-22	Village Maintenance	£ 1,457.80		£ 1,457.80	paid 16/12
Balfour Beatty	16245	30/11/2022	Replacement latern in lampost	£ 349.35	69.87	£ 419.22	paid 16/12
safeplay	03-Feb	18-Nov-22	Quartely inspection	£ 69.50	£ 13.90	£ 83.40	paid 16/12
Little Thetford Village Hall	2309	11-Dec-22	Hire costs 2023	£ 412.50		£ 412.50	paid 16/12
Amy Jacklin	06/05/1903	15-Dec-22	Clerks Salary	£ 607.86		£ 607.86	paid 16/12

End meeting 9.12pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....