

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 8th February 2023 at 7.30pm

Attendees: Cllr C Mitchell, Cllr Olibhe Collins- Neat, Cllr Phil Hadley, Cllr Tracey Durham and Cllr Ian Driver

Clerk: Amy Jacklin

Members of the public- 2

Start Time 7.30pm

23/11 Chairman Welcome

The chair welcomes everybody to the meeting.

23/12 To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Dan Peacock absent.

23/13 Councillor's Declarations of Interest

Cllr Collins- Neat will not comment on 23/21-1 due to being on the Feast committee.

23/14 To receive County Councillor & District Councillor Reports- Cllr Bill Hunt

Cllr Hunt wishes everyone a Happy New Year

The Government have issued the combined authority with a 'Best Value' letter (similar to special measures) due to having significant concerns as to how the combined authority is being run. The combined authority has received millions of pounds in 2021 however we are still hanging on to our bus services and fighting to retain the zipper.

Haddenham Community Land Trust have repaid the startup loan from the combined authority two months ahead of schedule and now have a beautiful Community Land Trust site open.

East Cambridgeshire District Council are aware of the cost-of-living crisis and have subsequently for the 10th year running not increasing the ECDC element of council tax.

East Cambridgeshire trading company has paid ECDC £3.8 million since its formation in 2016, this is for the benefit of the residents. ECDC will continue to support schemes to strengthen communities such as improvements to Little Thetford Village Hall and CLT schemes.

East Cambridgeshire District Council have passed a motion completely opposing the planned Cambridge Congestion Charges. The final vote has been delayed until after elections in May. A survey carried out shows 92% opposed the congestion charges.

East Cambridgeshire District council will retain free parking in Ely city centre if administration is unchanged after elections.

There are currently no issues with homelessness within ECDC but have claimed £670k from central government to retain this.

New black wheelie bins have been agreed in the budget as well as a new fleet of multi fuel bin lorries. These may take up to a year for delivery.

23/15 Public and Press Participation Session

A member of the public shares that the cemetery is being used once again, as a cut through to the Wyches. It was **proposed** by Cllr Mitchell and **seconded** by Cllr Durham and **agreed** by unanimous vote agreed for fencing to be supplied by Cllr Driver and erected by the groundsman to prevent this. It was also agreed that laurel hedge is to be planted inside any gaps in the hedge to fill it out.

A member of the public shares his views that Little Thetford Parish Council should remain independent for the future. He mentions Streatham is edging closer and closer towards Little Thetford with recent developments. It is important to understand from ECDC their long-term plan with both villages.

23/16 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 11th January 2022.
2. i)The clerk has received a response from Little Acorns regarding the water leak invoice from WAVE. It was agreed for the clerk to ask Little Acorns if they can claim the cost of the leak detector via their insurance. Also, to find out what the consequence would be in relation to increase in premium and excess.

- ii) Update from Jo Andow regarding the issues at Red Fen Road and an update on the vehicles in the carpark at New Close Road.
- iii) Sovereign have confirmed that warranty will still stand if the integrity of the mound is not changed.
- iv) The hedge opposite the school on Watsons Lane will be a costed job for April, height will be reduced due to the size and proximity to the highway and footpath.
- v) The clerk shared initial conversations between herself and the Football foundation about potential grants for the MUGA project.
- vi) The school have agreed to design some posters for the village to try to prevent dog fouling. The art club are currently designing these.

3. No questions

23/17 Finance Matters

1. It was **proposed** by Cllr Hadley and **seconded** by Cllr Durham and **agreed** by unanimous vote to agree the financial situation for January.
2. It was **proposed** by Cllr Hadley and **seconded** by Cllr Durham and **agreed** by unanimous vote for the February invoices to be paid shown at the bottom of the agenda.

The clerk advises she has another two invoices that will need to be paid from John Skipper for the fence inside the cemetery/gate at Red Fen Road (£608.14) and safe play for the quarterly inspection of the play park (£83.40). It was **proposed** by Cllr Hadley and **seconded** by Cllr Durham and **agreed** by unanimous vote that the additional invoices would be approved.

23/18 Open Spaces

1. Both tree surgeons that looked at the remaining work (C Trees) from the previous tree survey have said they would recommend a new survey to be completed this year. The reason for this is there is some confusion about which works have been carried out on the previous survey. Both have reported work that needs doing, that is not stated on the original survey and both state that some of the work that needs completing has already been completed.
2. The clerk shared three quotations from Acacia, Arbtech and MB Trees for the completion of a no negative tree survey. It was **proposed** by Cllr Collins-Neat and **seconded** by Cllr Durham and **agreed** by unanimous vote to accept the quotation from Acacia.
3. It was **proposed** by Cllr Hadley and **seconded** by Cllr Driver and **agreed** by unanimous vote to accept Howard Jones recommendations to re-profile the eastern bank and reduce some of the reeds. The Parish Council would like to thank Howard Jones for funding this project from his budget. The work will likely be carried out late summer to early autumn.

23/19 Risk Management

The actions from the previous playpark inspection have been discussed. It was **agreed** for the clerk to speak to Sovereign to find out when they will be returning to tighten loose fittings and replace missing caps on the new equipment. It was also **agreed** for the clerk to chase the groundsman to complete remedial work on the mound, this would consist of a retaining wall each end next to the tunnel to prevent erosion further. This needs to be completed and ready to use by spring.

23/20 Council Administration Matters

1. It was **proposed** by Cllr Hadley and **seconded** by Cllr Driver and **agreed** by unanimous vote (with 1 abstention) to accept the Feasts request for use of the Sports Field for the Kings Coronation event.
2. The clerk updated the council with the election process and timings.
3. The clerk shared a request letter for a memorial (Firepit or Bulrush sculpture) to be placed inside the cemetery. Due to health and safety both ideas have been dismissed by council. An idea from council is to maybe incorporate a name onto an existing headstone. The clerk will write to the requestee and share this information.
4. Any ideas for a topic to the clerk as soon as possible so she can start the planning process.

23/21 Car Park Re-Development

It was **proposed** by Cllr Mitchell and **seconded** by Cllr Durham and **agreed** by unanimous vote (with 1 abstention) to accept the quotation for Freeman Brear Architects to get the initial surveys completed.

23/22 Date of next Meeting

Wednesday 8th March 2023

End meeting 9.03pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

March Agreed Invoices

Wave		Cemetery Water	£ 5.00		£ 5.00
Three	\P1176277684	Mobile Phone Charges	£ 8.33	£ 1.67	£ 10.00
Little Thetford Newsletter		01-Feb-23 Newsletter costs	£ 15.00		£ 15.00
Little Thetford Village Hall		13-Jan-23 APM meeting hall hire	£ 30.00		£ 30.00
Ernest Doe	1008	02-Feb-23 Signage	£ 127.48	£ 25.50	£ 152.98
John Skipper		31-Jan-23 Cemetery Maintenance	£ 135.00		£ 135.00
John Skipper	2306	06-Feb-23 Cemetery Fence/Gate erection	£ 608.14		£ 608.14
Safeplay	22980	08-Feb-23 Quartely inspection	£ 69.50	£ 13.90	£ 83.40
Amy Jacklin	Feb-23	20/02/2023 Clerks Salary	£ 680.24		£ 680.24