

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm

**Attendees:** Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Olibhe Collins-Neat, Cllr Ian Driver and Cllr Phil Hadley.  
Cllr Bill Hunt- District Councillor for Stretham Ward

**Clerk:** Amy Jacklin  
Members of the public- One  
Start Time 7.30pm

**23/108 Chairman Welcome**

Cllr Mitchell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**23/109 To receive and accept apologies for absence.**

Cllr Durham  
Cllr Kilby

**23/110 Councillor's Declarations of Interest**

None

**23/111 Public and Press Participation Session**

The groundsman made comment that the automatic gate closer is no longer needed on the conservation area gate now the new latch has been fitted.

**23/112 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 8th October 2023.
2. The final draft budget (with variances) will be delivered in December's Council meeting.
3. No questions regarding the clerk's report.

**23/113 Finance Matters**

1. It was **proposed** by Cllr Hadley and **seconded** by Cllr Mitchell, with a unanimous vote to **accept** the council's financial position.
2. It was **proposed** by Cllr Mitchell and **seconded** by Cllr Hadley, with a unanimous vote to pay the invoices for November apart from Freeman Brear Architects.

**23/114 To receive County Councillor & District Councillor Reports**

- Cllr Bill confirms his position of District Councillor for the Stretham Ward.
- Hedgehog Campaign- In a public vote the endangered hedgehog has been chosen for East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) to support over the coming year. The council will now start a hedgehog action plan to ensure all its own premises are hog friendly. They will also be raising public awareness and working with schools.
- ECDC are against the four-day working week South Cambs Council have implemented for its staff.
- Congestion charges for Cambridge have been dropped. The cost of the taxpayer for this scheme was £4.9m.

- Cllr Hunt shares his opinion on the current 20 mph limit scheme, these replace the current 30 mph limits in towns and villages. His opinion is a blanket limit across a whole town or village is too broad, but parcels where there is high movement eg around schools, around doctors surgery's or shops could work. Ultimately the only right thing is what the people want.
- There are concerns about the lack of doctors' facilities over the Grunty Fen area. Cllr Hunt shares his disappointment that Stretham Parish Council voted against having a doctor's surgery. East Cambs had put aside £1.44m towards the potential surgery in Stretham, which will now not be going ahead. Cllr Hunt is dedicated to improving doctor facilities over Grunty Fen in the future.
- The improvements to St Marys doctors' surgery in Ely have now been completed which has created much needed capacity. £800k was given by ECDC for this very successful project.
- There have been many complaints about weeds growing in the paths around ECDC, Cambridge County Council are now in the process of killing the weeds.
- The maximum discount on council tax in ECDC is 91.5% for extreme cases.
- A motion was put in place to reduce the A1421 to a B road. Sadly, this was declined but it was agreed to prioritise this road for future works.
- CAPALC are supporting warm hubs this winter.
- A Cycle, pedestrian and horse-riding path is being installed between Soham and Wicken at a cost of £1m.
- ECDC have come 29<sup>th</sup> out of 164 in a climate change campaign, this involved looking at new bin lorries ect.
- A successful prosecution has been made for fly tipping in Grunty Fen of £440.
- ECDC have opened a growth and infrastructure fund for Parish Councils ending on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**23/115 Planning Matters-** None

**23/116 Progress on Planning Applications (For Information)-** None

**23/117 Council Administration Matters**

1. It was **proposed** by Cllr Hadley and **seconded** by Cllr Mitchell, with a unanimous vote to order two benches (as per quotation). It was agreed to swap the disabled access bench that is located near the conservation area to a standard bench. This is due to accessibility to that location. The disabled access bench and the other standard bench will be placed behind the MUGA on the sports field. It was agreed for the clerk to get quotations for the two new bench bases.
2. A local company has now admitted liability for the broken bench at Holt Fen. They have agreed to pay for a new base and bench to be fitted. The clerk is currently organising quotations for this company.
3. It was **proposed** by Cllr Mitchell and **seconded** by Cllr Collins- Neat, with a unanimous vote to decline the quotation of the soakaway for the trampoline from Sovereign.
4. The football foundation has sadly informed council that they are not able to give the council a grant towards a new surface. It was **proposed** by Cllr Collins-Neat and **seconded** by Cllr Driver, with a unanimous vote to get quotations for the current surface to be deep cleaned and the broken light to be replaced. This is a short-term fix to ensure the area is safe to use until next steps have been agreed.
5. No quotation has been received. The clerk to put on December's agenda.
6. The Sports and Social club have confirmed they are finalising finances.
7. It was **proposed** by Cllr Hadley and **seconded** by Cllr Collins- Neat, with a unanimous vote to accept the quotation for the basketball backboard and net for Holt Fen.
8. The council will consider this application and report any potential works to the clerk if necessary.

**23/118 Open Spaces**

1. It was **agreed** for the clerk to get three quotations for tree work needed on Ash tree 333.
2. It was **agreed** for the clerk to gain three quotations for tree works needed in the cemetery.

3. It was **agreed** based on our groundsman's advice not to put an automatic gate closer on the gate at the conservation area. It was **agreed** for the clerk to obtain a quote for a sign, for that gate to say, 'Please close gate after use'.

**23/119 Date of next meeting**

13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Wave			Cemetery Water	£	5.00		£	5.00	Paid by DD
Three	AAP1176277684		Mobile Phone Charges	£	8.33	£	1.67	£	10.00
NEST			Clerk Pension	£	15.03			£	15.03
Amy Jacklin	1123	15-Nov-23	November Salary	£	680.24			£	680.24
John Skipper		31-Oct-23	Village Maintenance	£	493.06			£	493.06
Screwfix	18018	12-Oct-23	Wood filler and sandpaper	£	24.57	£	4.91	£	29.48
RBL	ECB07	16-Oct-23	Rememberance wreath	£	20.00			£	20.00
NBB Recycled Furniture			2 x standard picnic benches	£	890.00	£	178.00	£	1,068.00
Ernest Doe	829004	20-Oct-23	Danger Ice signage	£	43.50	£	8.70	£	52.20
Amy Jacklin	910	31-Oct-23	September/October clerk expenses	£	85.40			£	85.40
Networld Sports	201184618	09-Nov-23	Backboard and basketball net	£	244.18			£	244.18

End Meeting: 8.55pm

Signed.....

Dated.....

