Little Downham Parish Council

Mr Dale Parson
Chair to the Council

Ms K Palmer
Clerk to the Council

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Minutes of Meeting 11th January 2024 held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room

In attendance:

Cllrs	D. Parson	P. Spofforth
	P. Travers	M. Winters
	F. Waddelow	C. Scott
	G. Taylor	

Also in attendance: K. Palmer, Clerk to the Council, Anna Bailey, District Councillor and 4 members of the public.

1	**To receive and accept Apologies for Absence:** (LGA 1972 s85 (1)) Cllr Waters, Cllr Butcher, and Cllr Maxey
2	**To record any declarations of interest:** Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations) **NONE**
3	**Minutes of previous Meetings:** LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41. **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held 7th December 2023 and the Budget Meeting held 4th January 2024.
4	**Public Participation Session** A resident gave a formal report on flood risks and dangers that Council accepted and agreed to be sent Lorna Dupre on their behalf copying in ECDC, IDB and the EA, MP Steve Barclay as Sec of State and the press, Ely Standard, Fenland Citizen and BBC and Anglia News.
5	**District and County Councillors Reports:** i) County Councillor Report – not present. ii) District Councillor Report – reported on a new IDB Special Interest group that aims to lobby parliament about funds as IDBs cannot get funds other than levying the District Councils which can't support it due to being capped. The former crematorium site is being discussed soon with further information to follow. The Combined Authority is soon to agree its precept which seems to be for the purpose of funding buses. ECDC is required under the Environment Act to bring in a separate food waste contract but the processing site cannot accept it in that format. It may mean that ECDC are exempted which will mean it loses c£1m of funding that is available now. ECDC strongly supports recycling/repurposing so are frustrated by this. Cllr Travers asked Cllr Bailey about how IDB maintenance works can be funded. Cllr Bailey responded. The funding mechanism for catchwaters is broken and unfit for purpose.
6	To hear from Love Tennis CIC Director Sebastien Scaux on his wish to operate a Tennis Club at Little Downham MUGA. - Mr Scaux spoke to Council about his wish to run a tennis club and the ways in which it could work. Members were warm to the idea and requested further information on what hours the club would want the courts for and how it would progress as the amenity has to be kept available for residents to use both regularly and on an ad-hoc basis. It was agreed to see what information Mr Scaux presented for further conversation if needed.
7	**Finance**: i) To consider and approve the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023. **RESOLVED** to accept the accounts as presented. ii) To consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March 2023. – **RESOLVED** to accept the Governance Statement. All in favour and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

	iii) To consider and approve the Accounting Statement for the year ended 31st March 2023.- **RESOLVED** to accept the accounting statement. Duly signed by the Clerk and the Chairman. iv) To consider and note the Internal Auditors Report for 2022/23 – **DEFERRED.** v) To confirm and note the period for the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of the Unaudited Annual Governance and Audit Return. **NOTED** vi) To consider and approve the budget for 2024/25. - **RESOLVED** to set the budget as presented. vii) To consider and approve the Precept for 2024/25. – Cllr Spofforth proposed to keep the precept the same as last year, seconded by Cllr Waddelow. Cllr Parson objected, no other Cllrs in favour. Motion dismissed. Cllr Taylor proposed Option C, Seconded by Cllr Scott, Cllr Winters, and Parson in favour. 4 in favour, 3 against. **RESOLVED** to set the precept at £97,741.00. viii) To approve the monthly payment schedule for January as presented. – **RESOLED** to approve the payment schedule as presented.
8	**Clerks Report**: Verbal report given.
9	**Planning Applications**: List below
10	**Council Matters:**
11	**Parish Council Land and Assets**: i) To update Members on the grant application for LD Sports Pavilion. Verbal report given by the Clerk. Awaiting a structural engineers report. ii) To consider and agree a contractor to replace the overhead barrier at LD Recreation Ground. **RESOLVED** to accept contractor 1.
12	**Parish Matters:** i) To note the work done by Mr and Mrs Dean on the Christmas Trees. – Council recorded its thanks to Mr and Mrs Dean for all their effort in getting the trees donated, dressed, and lit up. Thanks also to the residents of Pymoor who dido the same for their tree, both looked lovely.
13	**Highways Matters:** i) To note the Local Highways Officer has resigned.
14	**Ouse Washes/IDB:** i) To update Members on recent meetings attended, if any.
15	**Matters to Share or Inform the Next Meeting:** Verbal only, no decisions can be made. i) To discuss the benefits of an events Committee to establish parish events. ii) Sign on Village Green – clerk to give an update next month.
16	**To confirm the date of the next Meeting/s:** 15th February 2024 – Full Council Meeting
17	**Close of Meeting –** 22:10