Little Downham Parish Council

Full Council Meeting- **November Minutes**

Date: Monday 4th November 2024 Time: 8pm

Venue: The Village Hall, Little Downham CB6 3ST

Attendees:	**Cllr Parson**	**Cllr Butcher**	**Cllr Scott**	**Cllr Spofforth**	**Cllr Moorhouse**
	Cllr Waters	**Cllr Taylor**	**Cllr Massey**	**Cllr Godsmark**	**Cllr Travers**

Members of the Public: 7

Clerk: Mrs Amy Jacklin

Assistant Clerk: Miss Kendle Hanslip

24/51 Welcome

The chairman welcomes everybody to the meeting.

24/52 Apologies

Cllr Winters

24/53 Councillor Declaration of Interest

24/60.2- Cllr Taylor- Declared an interest in 24/24 4. Due to being on the Social Club Committee.

24/54 Public and Press Participation

The church warden asks the parish council to look favourably at the grant application for the cemetery. She says that the cemetery is a parish facility. Without funding to maintain the cemetery the church would be forced to close it. With funding the cemetery committee would be able to investigate re-burial as spaces within Little Downham cemetery are very limited. The church receives no funding other than burials which is a very small amount per annum.

The chair of the Feoffees charity speaks and says she was chair of the Parish Council when the legacy, mentioned in the cemetery committee letter was left. The parish council at the time, advised the cemetery committee to use the funds sensibly for the maintenance of the cemetery and when the money was gone to come back to the Parish Council. At no time was the legacy ringfenced nor did the Parish Council force the cemetery committee to use it. The Feoffees Charity chair gave a suggestion to the Cemetery Committee to ask for donations yearly to boost income, this could be shared in the village newsletter. Also mentioned from the letter, that the cemetery committee may come to the Feoffees for a grant for a new mower, this cannot be taken for granted. The Feoffees charity have helped the church on several occasions with heating costs, clock repairs, maintenance of the tower.

The chair of the Parish Council said it would be appropriate to bring the agenda item forward to be discussed.

24/60 6. To discuss a grant application from the Cemetery Committee.

The application form was shared with councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Scott questions the way the figures are broken down and says the income stream is not clear. She asked how much income the cemetery receive for a burial/cremation plot- These are not available as the treasurer is not present. The fees can be found online https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/parochial_fees_2024_a4_full.pdf The chair questions that the income is £500 exactly and asks if that is accurate, he also asked how many burials happened last year with no response given. A councillor has asked what the opening balance for 2024 is, no response was offered. The clerk mentioned that she has emailed a list of finance items to the church warden to include with the application, some of which haven't been received, hence the

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discrepancies council are finding. The clerk also advises that all details given to the Parish Council for a grant application must be accurate. Cllr Scott asked if the cemetery committee had considered having a company come in with their own machinery to cut the cemetery. The reply being this has been looked at in the past without success.

The cemetery committee fundraise for the church to keep the doors open which takes up lots of time, with the aging committee this isn't an option to fundraise further.

It was agreed for the clerk to go out and get three independence quotes from external companies to maintain the cemetery and bring figures back to the next meeting for discussion.

A member of the cemetery committee committed to set up a go fund me page to help raise funds, this article would also go inside the village magazine.

The chairman agreed to bring another agenda item forward

24/60.1 To discuss the possibility of having a village fete in 2025

The idea of a big summer bonanza/fete for 2025 has been posed. The event would be a big social event for the whole parish which would include food vans, music, fundraising for all village charities and groups ect. It was agreed after a long discussion that the council would look at getting a committee together for a village fete in 2025. This agenda item would be brought back to the December meeting for next step discussions.

24/55 To receive County Councillor and District Councillor Reports.

Cllr Lorna Dupree

Cllr Dupree had sent her report prior to the meeting. No questions were asked based on this report.

A councillor shares that the signage is missing from the bottom of Black Bank in front of Commonside. Cllr Dupree committed to looking into this.

Cllr Anna Bailey

Anna shared information about her tour around the community diagnostic centre at the RAF hospital. She said that the centre has cut wait times dramatically and is a fabulous facility to have in Ely.

East Cambs District Council have recognised 641 people who are eligible for pension credit who are not claiming it. This has come to light from the winter fuel motion where 16000+ pensioners are affected. The district council are locating these people to help them make the claim. The district council are also urging people who are not eligible but need support with energy costs to get in touch.

November will bring the 'Net Zero villagers project' A new grant to help make community buildings more energy efficient. This will help reduce carbon emissions and be funded by East Cambs District Council. This grant window is now open for community projects of up to £30,000.

The district council has now taken back the social housing register from Sanctuary Housing.

Community grants available currently for up to £1000, available for any community groups that are improving life for residents.

East Cambs have had to correct Fen Scene- Fen scene have published that the district council supported with £75000 for the upgrade of St Marys doctors' surgery, that figure should have been £750,000.

The number 9 bus service (Littleport, Ely, Stretham and Cambridge) has been reduced from 3 buses to 2. There has been a 62% drop of users due to the terrible time times. Anna is doing everything she can to improve this timetable.

The combined authority was working away on the business case for the A10 upgrade which were potentially upgrading junctions or putting in a dual carriageway between BT Ely and Milton- £2m was allocated from government for this work. Four options were proposed for a public consolation but this work has now been stopped for now. Government have now said they will be reviewing work that's already been completed before any decisions are made.

24/56 Approval of Minutes

1. To approve minutes for signature from Monday 7th October 2024 RESOLVED to accept the minutes.

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2. No matters arising from minutes.
3. The clerk shared a written report prior to the meeting, no questions regarding this report were asked.

24/57 Financial Matters

1. To consider and approve monthly accounts and reconciliation **RESOLVED** to accept the monthly accounts and reconciliation up to 31st October 2024.
2. To approve invoices for payment **RESOLVED** to accept the monthly invoices for November payment. It was **agreed** unanimously to spend an extra £60 with online playgrounds for a repair on the zip wire.
3. To share an update on changing bank signatories- Current account has now been moved across to Unity Bank, Lloyds has been closed 29/10/24. Council is now in a position where all accounts can be accessed and all signatories are up to date.
4. To discuss investing council money into CCLA- This item has been deferred until December so council have more time to research investment fund.
5. To agree a separate budget meeting in December- The date of 10th December between 7-8pm. Kendle to book the Village Hall for this meeting.
6. Clerk to advise council on Local Government services agreement for 24/25 and the impacts on staff pay- NALC pay scales printed and council shown. Clerk shared difference in pay scales for the clerk and the assistant clerk.

24/58 Planning Applications

1. **23/00814/DISA -** Quaker Farm Main Drove Little Downham Cambridgeshire CB6 2ER Proposal: To discharge Conditions 3 (Contamination), 4 (Arboricultural Method Statement), 5 (Piling report/method statement), 6 (Soft landscape works schedule) of decision 23/00814/FUL dated 24 January 2024 for replacement dwelling- **No comment**
2. **24/00353/FUL-** Black Bank Business Centre Black Bank Road Little Downham Cambridgeshire Proposal: Change of use of land from agricultural to vehicle turning area ancillary to existing businesses, including introduction of hardcore surfacing, associated lighting infrastructure, and retention of toilet block and staff room- retrospective. (Extension granted until 5/11/2024)- **Council opinion on this application has not changed. (1 abstention)**

24/59 Progress on Planning Applications (For Information)

24/60 Council Administration Matters

2. To share progress on the gates/fence at Pymoor Social Club- No update to share other than the Parish Council have accepted the plans and are awaiting an invoice as agreed.

3. To discuss financing the ILCA qualification for the assistant clerk **RESOLVED** council agreed to fund the assistant clerk's entry qualification at the cost of £150.

4. To agree council dates for 2025 **RESOLVED** dates including the Annual Parish Meeting were agreed (19th May 2025), the clerk will publish these on the council's website. Full council meetings remain the first Monday of every month at 8pm.

5. To agree for the Village Hall AGM who the Parish Council representative/s are **RESOLVED** council agreed unanimously that Cllr Parson will remain as the Parish Council representative for the Village Hall committee.

7. To share details about the Net Zero grant fund from ECDC- Launched on 30 October 2024. ECDC invites local community groups and Parish Councils to apply for grant funding to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their operations or in their local community. This is a 100% grant fund (no match funding required) for measures such as insulation and solar panels, low carbon transport or perhaps even installing a 'green roof'. Only local community groups can apply, and funding must be used on buildings or land open to the public. We anticipate most of the funding will be used to improve the energy efficiency of a local village hall or other buildings that local community groups use **RESOLVED** council have agreed for the clerk to put in an initial interest application for this grant to have solar panels fitted onto the pavilion.

8. To discuss applying for planning for an occasional advertising board on the village green **RESOLVED** council agreed for the clerk to put in a planning application for an advertising board to be situated on the village green.

24/61 Recreational Facilities

1. To note the Football Foundation have paid out Grant 1: £23950 for the pavilion refurbishments and Grant 2: £900 for the MUGA goals.

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2. To share the outcome from the play park consultation and next steps- The clerk shared that the meeting was very successful with two play park providers coming along to showcase their products. A plan is beginning to come together as to what the children of the village would like to see in the play park.
3. To share results from the Legionella Assessment **RESOLVED** the assistant clerk is currently working through the report and will share in the next meeting a list of actions that need addressing.
4. To discuss having additional lighting for the MUGA **RESOLVED** council have had a local company out to check the lighting and it has been advised that the current lighting will be effective with slight adjustments. Council have **agreed** with this advice and instructed the company to carry out the adjustments.

24/62 Date of next meeting

Monday 2nd December 2024 @ 8pm

Close meeting 22.02

Chairman: Cllr D Parson
Clerk and RFO- Mrs Amy Jacklin, 5 Third Drove, Little Downham CB6 2UE
Tel: 07354 468757 **Email**: clerk@littledownhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Signed: Dale Parson (Chair) ……

Dated:……

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