

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Litton Cheney Parish Council  
Held on Tuesday 11th January 2011  
at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall**

Present: F. Spicer (Chairman), S. Kourik (Deputy Chairman), Mrs S. Dyke, W. Orchard, B. Prentice, J. Randall and Parish Clerk, J. Firrell. Also in attendance Cllr T. Bartlett, four members of the public, Ian Rees of Dorset AONB and CSO Sarah Pilcher.

1. On opening the meeting, the Clerk informed the Chairman that Mrs A. Spurrier and Cllr R. Coatsworth had tendered their apologies.
2. There were no Declarations of Interest.
3. South Dorset Ridgeway Landscape Partnership: Dorset AONB Countryside Officer Ian Rees described the project and indicated that the partnership was seeking further funding from the Big Lottery. The support of Litton Cheney Parish Council was sought. Those attending the meeting signed a petition of support and it was proposed by F. Spicer, seconded by B. Prentice and carried unanimously that a letter of support be sent. S. Kourik raised the issue of flood meadows within the area of the project and requested that when sufficient funding is made available that these meadows be re-established.
4. Home Watch: CSO Sara Pilcher discussed the re-launch of the Home Watch Initiative but more volunteers were required including a coordinator for Litton Cheney. The subject would be raised again at the next meeting but in the meantime the Clerk would put an advertisement in the BVN asking for volunteers.
5. Democratic Time: Mrs B. Whillock enquired as to who looked after The Rocks footpath. The Chairman indicated that the village lengthsman now looks after it and a letter of thanks has been sent to Mr Alan Spring who had, without charge, looked after the path for many years.
6. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th November: Proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously that the Minutes as presented reflected accurately the proceeds of the meeting. The Chairman signed the Minutes.
7. Matters arising: A paper setting out the means of saving costs relating to the maintenance of the churchyard had yet to be tabled.
8. Financial Report: Parish Funds stood at £6187.54. Income over the last two months (November and December) was £175.16p – Allotment fees and interest. Expenditure was £856.51p represented by BDO (Audit Fee) £88.13; Clerk's Salary £173.00; Lengthsman £240.00; Meeting Room Hire £3.20; Play Equipment Inspection £99.88; St Mary's PCC (Churchyard maintenance) £200.00 and IT Annual Fee £42.30. There was an excess of expenditure over income of £681.35. The following invoices were approved for payment: Village Lengthsman £120.00, Seltek Warehouse (2 grit/salt bins) £238.98 incl. Vat, R. Randall (Grass cutting) £317.25 incl. Vat and R Dewar (Land Registry Fee) £20.00. Proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by F. Spicer and carried unanimously. After some discussion, it was proposed by B. Prentice, seconded by F. Spicer and carried unanimously that a total of £250 be donated to the following:- BVN £50, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance £75, Weldmar Hospice are Trust £50 and Bridport CAB £75.00. Mr Robert Dewar (Internal Auditor) presented a report on Risk Assessment

dated 9th January 2011 together with a draft Risk Register which was part of the requirement of the audit required by BDO. Information had been circulated to councillors setting out parameters for the risk assessment and after some discussion at the meeting these were agreed. It was proposed by F. Spicer, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously that the paper and register be accepted as amended by additions/deletions arising from the discussion. A copy of the up-to-date register would be typed up and distributed to Councillors in due course.

9. Playing Fields/Allotments: B. Prentice presented a report on the playing fields and allotments. Invariably at this time of year the area was not looking at its best. Some ditching work needed to be carried out although overall, thanks to some work undertaken by the village lengthsman, this was minimal. It was normal at this time of year for the Chairman of the Allotment Association to present the annual report to the Parish Council, however, he had proffered his apologies as he was away on business and B. Prentice presented the report on his behalf. Below is a précis of that report : (a) The AA remain an active association.(b) All plots are let and there is now a small waiting list. (c) The AA is fully insured against public liability. - 1st Jan 2011 to 31st December 2011 in the sum of £5,000,000. (d) The AA continues to be members of the National Association of Allotmentkeepers and Leisure Gardeners. (e) The AA ended 2010 £21.50 in credit, and although have a couple of members still owing subs, it is already in credit and all bodes well for 2011. (f) All the members apart from two have paid their PCC money. (g) The individual allotment agreements with the PCC have been replaced with a single one in EXACTLY the same terms but for everyone to sign. (h) The AA is not aware of any complaints and has received some positive comments and a write-up in the Dorset Magazine. (i) The AA have re-fenced the plots as previously discussed, moved the shed, installed the drain grid and maintained the whole area as required. (j) The AA had their AGM before Xmas and the existing officers were re-elected. Minutes will be forwarded in due course.
10. Village Project: Tarmacing of the Hall Access Road – Due to the high cost of tarmacing a large part of the access road it was proposed that a collective agreement in principle between interested parties that they contribute “an amount of money” would be desirable, at which point the Chairman would once more approach Dorset County Council to ascertain if they too would contribute. Proposed by F. Spicer, seconded by S. Kourik and carried unanimously.
11. Traffic/Signs/Highways: The Clerk informed the meeting of the background to his efforts in obtaining signs for the Hall. Regulations, health and safety issues, costs and general bureaucracy all played their part in thwarting efforts to obtain signs. Further efforts would be made but an initial quote for one finger post at the junction of School Lane was given at £600. Local sourcing and self help sadly did not make the situation any easier. The Clerk also updated the council on the sad saga of village roads not being salted or gritted during the recent spate of bad weather. Two salt/grit bins had been ordered and were expected to be delivered within the next week. Authorisation as to where they could be located was awaited from DCC. The Parish Council wished it to be noted that they very much appreciated the efforts of the village lengthsman to maintain path and road access as far as was possible and assist residents generally during the recent period of severe weather conditions.

12. Planning Applications: a) Charity Farm – Holiday Let Accommodation – This has yet to be determined. b) Ourganics – Increase height of barn. Provide ramp. Alterations to fenestrations and change of materials – This has now been approved.
13. Correspondence: All relevant correspondence had been distributed either electronically to councillors or in hard copy.
14. AOB: a) The Parish Clerk reminded Parish Councillors that elections would be held on 5th May this year and there would be a need for individuals to decide if they wished to stand for re-election. In the event that some may be standing down there would be a need to “encourage” others to stand for election. Posters would be displayed on village notice boards indicating time scales and procedures. b) Village Web Site – S. Kourik raised this subject. The present village web site was in need of upgrading so as to provide a better information service to residents and those viewing the web site. The web site had become an essential part of the imparting of information. Whilst the new web site was still being developed, it was requested that the council consider at their next meeting in March the question of a financial contribution towards the development. Costs currently being looked at were in the region of £375 (one-off), and around £140 annual hosting costs. c) Councillor Bartlett – The Chairman invited Cllr Bartlett to bring the meeting up to date with any relevant WDDC matters. It appeared that two park and ride schemes were being considered in Dorchester although the cost was very high and there was some concern that perhaps this should be left until the economic situation improves. d) Mrs S. Dyke raised the question of WDDC selling off parts of the beach (report in local paper).
15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th March, 2011 at LATCH.
16. There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and patience, and closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.

John Firrell  
Parish Clerk