

**Minutes of the Meeting of Litton Cheney Parish Council
held on Tuesday 8th January 2013
at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall**

Present: S. Kourik (Chairman), Mrs S. Dyke, D. Bowen, I. Homer, Dr. H. Lantos, W. Orchard and Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance Cllr. R. Coatsworth and two residents.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mrs. B. Spurrier and Cllr T. Bartlett.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Item 10c – S. Kourik.
3. **Democratic Time:** Not taken up.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November 2012:**
Proposed by Dr. H. Lantos, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously that the Minutes were a true record of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising:** Moxom's Yard – Although it appeared that nothing had been formalized, there was movement on this matter and we await further developments. Super Fast Broadband – This was a Dorset County Council project. Bids were in the process of being sent out and it was hoped the project would reach fruition in 2015. Dr. H. Lantos whose brief this was would report back to the council on progress made.
6. **Finance:** The Clerk/RFO reported that funds now stood at £4333.91. Income since November was 0.17p (Interest) and expenditure £867 made up of £144 (BDO – auditors), £173 (Clerk's salary) and £550 Churchyard maintenance assistance). Over the coming months leading up to the end of the fiscal year, around £300 would be recouped from VAT. Invoices for the following were approved: R.Randall (Grass cutting) - £351, Lengthsman - £72 and GB Foot (Hedge trimming) - £36. Proposed D. Bowen, seconded I. Homer and carried unanimously. Risk Assessment – A review document had been circulated to councillors by R. Dewar (Internal Auditor). Very little had changed since the last review in 2012 and councillors were asked apply themselves again to this matter which would be placed on the meeting agenda for March. Overview of Finances – With the help of the internal auditor a review had been undertaken of the parish annual finances. Over the last few years the amount held at the end of each fiscal had reduced and whilst this was intentionally done, it could not go on indefinitely. Costs were still rising, and there was every likelihood that a number of maintenance matters would rear their head at some point in the near future. Finances were indeed under control but it was decided that donations to charities that normally took place at this meeting should be deferred to the March meeting and donations made if approved in April. This would provide a balancing effect with the onset of an increased precept in the new fiscal. The Chairman thanked Mr Dewar for his foresight and assistance.
7. **Councillors Portfolios:** Playing Field/Allotments – D. Bowen led on this subject. Money taken from allotments this year was down on previous years and currently there were four vacancies. £65 had been handed to the RFO. A notice would be placed in BVN advertising the vacant plots. The barrier planned for the entrance to the playing field was put on hold but could be purchased and installed for around £150. Footpaths – The Chairman indicated that a grant from Rights of Way might be possible to improve the drainage situation at The Rocks. A quote would be sought from the village lengthsman and submitted to Dorset County Council. After note – this has been done. Highways – W. Orchard stated that the area was littered with potholes. He had discussed the matter with Dorset Highways who were both concerned and aware of the situation. HGV's continue to traverse through the village. This would be continually monitored and residents were urged to follow the

instructions shown on the village website whereby they could contact a satellite navigation company and highlight unsuitable routes for HGV's. Affordable/Sustainable Development – Mrs S. Dyke had nothing to report on this matter.

- 8. Planning Applications: Bride Valley Nurseries** – Planning permission had been refused. Subsequent to this meeting it was found that an appeal process was already underway but the PC had not been informed. **Holm House** – Approved by WDDC. **8 Barges Close** – A Certificate of Lawfulness had been refused and discussions were now underway as to how this matter could be resolved. It would appear the wrong advice had been given, hence the refusal.
- 9. Correspondence:** None, other than that dealt with as a result of other items on this agenda.
- 10. Any Other Business:** CG Fry & Son – The Chairman raised the matter of cars being driven at speed to and from Fry's yard in the morning and evening when visibility was poor or it was dark. The Clerk would contact Fry's and request they bring this matter to the attention of their employees. Christmas Trees – Mrs S. Dyke said it was a pity matters could not be organised this year for the collection of village Christmas trees. Hopefully more success could be achieved this year. Cllr Coatsworth – The Chairman asked Councillor Ron if he wished to raise any matter. He highlighted the current difficulty WDDC were experiencing over loss of budget making the maintaining of services difficult. Stratton House (about to be vacated by WDDC) was proving difficult to sell but the District Council would be moving into their new home (South Walks House) very shortly. The Library would also move at the same time.
- 11. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 12th March 2013. The Chairman indicated he would be away for the next two meetings and offered his apologies in advance.
- 12.** There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45 pm

J. Firrell
Clerk to Litton Cheney Parish Council