

LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Litton Cheney Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2014 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall Litton Cheney

Present: S. Kourik (Chairman), Mrs S. Dyke (Deputy Chairman), D. Bowen, I. Homer, W. Orchard, Mrs A. Spurrier and J. Firrell (Clerk). Also in attendance three local residents including R. Dewar (Internal Auditor).

1. **Apologies:** Dr. H. Lantos.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** Not taken up.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th November 2013:** It was proposed by Mrs A. Spurrier, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously that the Minutes were a true reflection of the meeting. The Chairman signed the Minutes on approval.
5. **Matters arising: Charity Farm –** Mr A. Romans attending the meeting stated that he had the drawn up plans ready to submit them to WDDC requested retrospective planning permission of the “new” barn. The PC perused the documents while Mr Romans explained his intentions. An additional barn was being requested in a similar position to the second barn originally approved in a previous planning application. Mr Romans responded to a number of questions asked by members of the Parish Council, some to their satisfaction and others where it was felt more information was needed in particular with regards to landscaping. Certainly there would be a need for all landscaping requirements from previous planning approvals to be implemented which the Parish Council assumed had been agreed by applicant and WDDC. Members of the PC indicated the application would be viewed more favourably if a composite landscaping scheme was included and if approval was given the scheme implemented, something that had not been done in the past. Mr Romans said he would heed the words of the PC. **Wessex Water –** Wessex Water had now been requested to keep the PC informed of the state of play with regards to water extraction and water quality issues. Sir Chris Coville had already entered into a dialogue with Wessex Water and had requested the PC also involve them in the subject matter. Confirmation had been received from Wessex Water that they would keep the Parish Council informed of the situation as it develops. **Hines Mead Lane –** Due to considerable usage by HGV's, many heading to Parks Farm (Cheese Dairy), Hines Mead Lane has been ruined and requires serious remedial work. It was resolved to contact Dorset Highways to see what action could be taken including adjustment of information made available to Sat Nav users which may prevent HGV's from taking that route.
6. **Finance Report:** Current funds stand at £5110.96. Income since November was £0.25p (Interest) and expenditure £353.00 (Lengthsman £180, Clerk £173). Vat re-imburement stood at £122 and a claim would be submitted towards the end of this fiscal. An invoice for grass cutting (£390 including £65 Vat) of the playing field was approved for payment. Proposed by Mrs S. Dyke, seconded by D. Bowen and carried unanimously. Mr R. Randall had also confirmed that he would be prepared to continue the grass cutting at the same rate (£32.50 per cut) for the coming year and this was gratefully accepted by the Parish Council. The Precept for 2014/15 was confirmed at £3500. A further £98 would be received from WDDC as a support grant provided to the local authority by central government. Churchyard Maintenance – A request had been received from St Mary's Parochial Church Council for financial assistance with the maintenance costs of the churchyard. Last year the PC had given £550 but that was considered a one-off, and the previous year the amount had been £250. A lengthy discussion ensued – all were sympathetic but

concerned that the annual precept did not allow for a similar amount to last year to be offered. It was proposed by D. Bowen, seconded by I. Homer and carried unanimously that £250 be given to St Mary's Church for the maintenance of the churchyard. The PCC were asked to look at the need to optimise effective maintenance methods and practices and requested that the PCC should ask relevant experts to advise on/ consider an attractive alternative replanting scheme for the rear of the church that may require much less maintenance. There may be an opportunity to utilise the services of the village lengthsman. Annual Risk Assessment – A paper had been distributed by Robert Dewar regarding the need to review the PC's responsibilities towards risks whereby the PC may be considered liable. A formal proposal would be put forward at the March meeting indicating that the review had taken place together with any action deemed appropriate. The distributed paper listed all the apparent risks and action in place to avoid any occurrences.

7. **Councillors Portfolios:** Highways (W. Orchard) – Hines Mead Lane had already been highlighted earlier in the meeting. A letter to DCC would be initiated. Village Inventory (I. Homer) – This would be carried out within the next few weeks and a report tendered at the next meeting. Allotments/Playing Field (D. Bowen) – The “new” sign seemed to be standing up well to the onslaughts of the weather although there was evidence that both vehicles and dogs were still entering the playing field area. Mr Bowen said he had stepped down as chairman of the Allotment Association but had ensured the insurance policy had been renewed and Alison Dunbar who would be continuing as Secretary of the AA would shortly hand over the annual rents to the Parish Clerk and provide a copy of the minutes of the AGM being held on 24th January. The Clerk informed the council that a playground inspection would be carried out within the next few weeks by The Playground Inspection Co. This was an annual requirement and the village lengthsman would be used to carry out any necessary repairs to equipment if within his area of expertise. Sustainable Development (Mrs S. Dyke) – Organisations and individuals who had submitted views regarding the recent consultation on WDDC's draft Local Plan had been invited to attend a meeting called by the government inspector appointed to review the Local Plan. It was thought after some discussion that there was no point in attending because the meeting is solely to consider principles relating to legal matters and the soundness of the plan. Policies or land allocation are not to be discussed and there would be no opportunity for general discussion. It was agreed that Mrs Dyke would read the notes of the meeting and outcomes of the discussion that will be available afterwards in order to keep the PC abreast of progress. At the last PC meeting it had been agreed that the council would look further into the possibility of producing a neighbourhood plan. the plan could take up to 2 years to prepare and would involve a considerable amount of volunteers' time. Although more grants were due to become available it could be costly in part due to having to comply with EU regulations plus a number of other bodies such as the Environment Agency; professional help might be needed to do this. Planning for the brownfield site in the village might be resolved long before a Neighbourhood Plan could be put in place. However the PC were anxious to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan if it would be advantageous to the village in terms of planning input. The possibility of involving other villages in the Bride Valley was a serious consideration. Little and Long Bredy, Swyre and Puncknowle would therefore be approached prior to the next PC meeting in March to ascertain whether they were considering producing Neighbourhood Plans and if so would be interested in a joint venture. Footpaths (S. Kourik) – Many footpaths had taken a beating during recent weather and several signs were in need of repair. It was agreed to ask the village lengthsman to look at repairing them. A new project called The Charmouth Dragon involved a mobile shop selling fresh local organic produce and calling at villages without a shop including Litton Cheney. The PC had been contacted by the shop liaison person to discuss a possible location given the need for the “shop” to open out to the public, taking up a reasonable amount of space. The clerk was in contact with David Bayer who now owned Moxom's Yard and he had promised to look at the situation on his return from abroad.
8. **Planning Matters & Applications:** 11 The Paddocks – Two-Storey Rear Extension. The application had been supported by the Parish Council but a decision had yet to be made by WDDC.
9. **Correspondence:** None that had not been covered in other parts of this meeting.

10 **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 11th March 2014, 7.30 pm, LATCH.

11 **AOB: PC/LATCH Land Lease** – This matter had been raised by the internal auditor that when applying for planning permission for the hall annexe extension, the conditions of the land lease stated that this should have been applied for by LATCH having first sought the written permission of the Parish Council. In the event the application was made by the Parish Council. Whilst there was some disagreement as to whether there was a need for remedial action to be taken, it was proposed by D.Bowen that he review the situation and that a letter be raised stating that in accordance with the terms of the lease (date to be added), consent is formally given for works to be conducted by LATCH as authorised by Planning Permission reference 1/D/07/001848 namely the construction of a store/annexe adjoining the community hall. Financial information could follow in due course. This proposal was agreed unanimously by the council and D. Bowen would work with the Clerk over the wording of the letter. He also agreed to be the responsible councillor for the lease which currently was retained within the strong room of Humphries Kirk who had drawn up the lease. **Parish Files** – At the request of the Clerk it was agreed that parish files be shared out to various councillors who would go through them to see what papers should be retained, disposed of or sent to the Dorset Records Office. I.Homer suggested the possibility of placing files on disc and this would be looked at. The Chairman also suggested that a small space be sought in the hall annexe once built to store parish documents. This matter would be taken up with LATCH.

12 There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.35 pm.

J. Firrell
Parish Clerk