

LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Litton Cheney Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th January 2015 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

Present: S. Kourik (Chairman), Mrs S. Dyke (Deputy Chairman), D. Bowen, Dr H. Lantos, Mrs A. Spurrier and Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance for part or all of the meeting were two local residents, Mr J. Rowlands and Mr T. Peters.

1. **Apologies:** I. Homer and W. Orchard.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** The Chairman asked Mr J. Rowlands if he will like to use this juncture to the agenda to bring the council up to date on Hines Mead Lane gulley and any other points. A visit has been made by a Dorset Highways manager who had suggested that what was now in was adequate although there was general disagreement amongst local residents that this was the case. Mr Rowlands thanked Cllr Coatsworth for his assistance in this matter. We will wait and see what transpires. As a result of an investigation by Wessex Water, they had now adopted the sewage arrangement for the three properties in Hines Mead Lane. Since the road had been re-surfaced a puddle had been created near the entrance to a field which appeared be partly due to the camber of the road. Confusion seemed to reign concerning Wessex Water and the various water concourses that pass through the village. This is a return to the situation highlighted by Sir Chris Coville over which a mass of communication exists. It was agreed to invite Wessex Water to the next PC meeting in March in an attempt to find out what the true situation was. A list of questions would be put together that would be forwarded to WW in. The Chairman thanked Mr Rowlands for bringing these matters to the attention the Parish Council and follow-up action would be taken. At this point Mr Rowlands left the meeting. Mr T. Peters asked what action he should take as a result of his dog contracting a skin infection that appeared to be caused by high concentrations of fertiliser in a field that has a footpath going through it. He was advised to contact the Environment Agency or Environmental Health both of which has a national contact number, and who will then pass any complaint onto the local office. The Chairman asked Mr Peters to keep the PC informed.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2014:** It was proposed by Dr. H. Lantos, seconded by Mrs A. Spurrier and carried with one abstention (not present at the meeting) that the minutes accurately reflected the content of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting:** Hines Mead Lane – already covered in Democratic Time. BT Kiosk – The thoughts of the Parish Council as covered in the Minutes had been communicated to WDDC who was collating responses. Ashley Chase/Long Bredy PC Meeting with members of Litton Cheney Parish Council had taken place in December. A further meeting would be held in February. Detailed minutes exist of the meeting. A Travel Plan had been developed by AC which has included the routing of HGV's through Long Bredy together with appropriate signage. Various suggestions were put forward that might improve the situation including a new road and one-way system. HGV's are a terribly emotive subject and clearly there was much more to come on this subject. Magna Green – The PC's offer had been turned down but since then Magna has offered to lease the land to the PC for a peppercorn rent. No decision had been made and much would be determined by the length of lease on offer. The PC would express its interest and see what happened. Local Plan: The public examination of the draft Local Plan had taken place. Litton Cheney PC had been invited to attend but felt in the event it was not necessary as the issue raised by LCPC had been overtaken by events.
6. **DCC/WDDC Overview:** Sadly Cllr R. Coatsworth did not attend the meeting so was unable to speak on this subject. Apologies were later received from Cllr Coatsworth.
7. **Finance Report:** The Clerk/RFO informed the Parish Council that current funds stood at £6362.86. However £831 of this was monies received for the Village Defibrillator Project.

Available funds realistically stood at £5431.86 with the PC committed to contributing £100 to the Defibrillator Project. Income since November was £831.17 and expenditure £513.00 (Lengthsman £90, Clerk's Salary £173 and St Mary's Churchyard £250). An invoice for £390 for playing field grass cutting was approved – proposed by D. Bowen, seconded by Dr H. Lantos and carried unanimously. Precept – A request has been forwarded to WDDC for the village precept to be increased by £100 for the fiscal year 2015/16. Review of Election Re-charges - WDDC had reviewed their policy regarding election charges. As from 2019 local election charges would be levied dependent upon on the number of electors at around £1.98 per elector. If district elections were held at the same time then the costs would be halved. Internal Audits - A recent communication indicated that councils with a turnover of less than £25,000 would no longer require an external auditor, but with a detailed report being tendered by the internal auditor and critical information being made available to local residents.

8. **Councillor's Portfolios:** Highways – In the absence of W. Orchard, S Kourik indicated there was little to report over and above the HGV situation mentioned in Item 5. Redway continued to be ignored by DCC and required cutting back. Allotments/Playing Field – D. Bowen would be enquiring when the allotment rentals would be received and if the AGM had been held, plus insurance cover is in place. Sustainable Development – Mrs S. Dyke raised the subject of Neighbourhood Plans and her enquiries had suggested that the village should consider setting down details of safeguards it believes should be contained in a NP should one be initiated. It was agreed a meeting would be held in advance of the Village Assembly in May when a WDDC representative would be invited to talk about Neighbourhood Plans. Superfast Broadband - Dr H. Lantos confirmed that LC's inclusion in the scheme was still planned for 2015. Footpaths/Lengthsman – There had been a problem with the closure of a footpath in School Lane which had been resolved although the gate was still troublesome.
9. **Report on Meeting with Director of Environment:** A meeting had been held on 19th December with the Director of Environment, Dr David Evans, John Greenslade and Debbie Redding. In attendance on behalf of LCPC was S. Kourik, Mrs S. Dyke and W. Orchard. LCPC had requested the meeting in order to discuss the role of parish and town councils and the interface between them and the district council. A letter had been sent well in advance of the meeting highlighting issues where the Parish Council thought their views had been ignored. On reflection those attending felt that whilst the PC's views had been listened to, no confidence existed that action would be taken to rectify matters. Of particular note was the comment made by WDDC that the views expressed by the PC were given no more value than that made by an individual, despite the fact the PC was a designated consultee. WDDC promised follow-up action early in 2015 and the PC left the meeting leaving an aide memoir with WDDC highlighting major concerns. Clearly there was more to come on this subject.
10. **Planning Matters:** Baglake Farm – PV Array. The PC had indicated it had no objection to this application. Glebe End (Hines Mead Lane) – This application had recently been received and a hard copy was available for councillors to peruse at the meeting. All present agreed they had no objection to this application.
11. **Correspondence:** None that had not been dealt with as part of this agenda.
12. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 10th March 2015, 7.30 pm at LATCH.
13. **A.O.B:** Parish Council – S. Kourik stated he would not be standing again for Chairman at the Annual Meeting in May assuming he was re-elected to the Parish Council on 7th May. Mrs S. Dyke said she would be stepping down from the Parish Council at the forthcoming elections. Councillors should begin to seek out interested candidates.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.

J. Firrell
Parish Clerk
Litton Cheney Parish Council