

Minutes of the Meeting of Litton Cheney Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 12th March 2013
At Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

Present: Mrs S. Dyke (Deputy Chairman), D. Bowen, I. Homer, H. Lantos, W. Orchard, Mrs A. Spurrier and Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance Cllr R. Coatsworth and R. Dewar.

1. **Apologies for absence:** S. Kourik (Chairman) and Cllr T. Bartlett.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** Not taken up.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th January 2013:** Proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by D. Bowen and carried, Mrs S. Dyke abstaining due to non-attendance at that meeting, that the Minutes represented a true reflection of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising:** A number of matters arose
Speeding through the village. Further concern was expressed at the speed of some traffic travelling through the village. Should we investigate the imposition of a speed limit which undoubtedly would take time and probably produce a profusion of street furniture (signs)? It was decided that the concern would be communicated via BVN and the village website and enquiries would be made by the Clerk with WDDC/Highways Agency as to the possibility of imposing a speed restriction if the problem did not get better. Many village school children walk to school – to put this and them in danger is unacceptable.
Potholes – an epidemic of potholes was apparent throughout the county but there were particular places within and without the village that were causing concern. W. Orchard, within whose portfolio this fell, had been in contact with the local authority who were clearly struggling with the enormity of the task but emergency work would be carried out in certain areas. Sadly the temporary repairs did not last long given the severity of the weather conditions currently experienced. A notice would be placed in the BVN and village website extolling village residents to report potholes rather than waiting for someone else to do so.
Barges Farmhouse – The owner of this property had brought the council's notice to the excessive streams of water flowing through the property, over and above that normally expected. Because W. Orchard lived in the same vicinity he had discussed this problem with the Environment Agency. It became clear that this was primarily a problem for the landowner as the various authorities had neither the funds nor remit to attend to the problem. This would be conveyed to the owner of Barges Farmhouse. However, the Parish Council felt this was not a very satisfactory state of affairs and would be expressing this view to the Environment Agency and Dorset County Council.
6. **Finance Report:** The Parish Clerk, as the Responsible Finance Officer, presented his report. Current funds stood at **£3970.08**. Since January an income of £95.17p had been received made up of £95 from allotment rental and £0.17p from bank interest. Expenditure was £459.00 represented by G.B. Foot of £36.00, Lengthsman £72.00 and R. Randall £351.00. An invoice for the playing field equipment inspection of £114.00 was approved for payment. Proposed by Mrs S. Dyke, seconded by D. Bowen and carried unanimously. A cheque for £397 had been received from DCC to enable remedial work to be carried out on The Rocks. An invoice was expected for other work to date of the village lengthsman and, once received, the amount would then be communicated to councillors seeking approval to pay before the end of the fiscal year. The precept for the coming year 2013/14 was £3250 but a government grant of £124 had been applied so the recovery via council tax would be £3126. A review had been carried out with the help of Internal Auditor Robert Dewar (who attended this meeting) of council income and

expenditure over past and future years, the intent to establish a sensible level of reserve to be maintained in readiness for future demands on expenditure. It was agreed that a figure approximating to the current precept of £3250 should be maintained as a reserve. As a result charity donations normally considered and paid in Jan/March would be paid in April. It was proposed by D. Bowen, seconded by I. Homer and carried unanimously that donations be made to CAB Bridport (£75), Dorset/Somerset Air Ambulance (£75) and BVN (£50). Future donations and financial assistance to other village related organisations would be reviewed annually and dealt with on a case by case basis. The RFO thanked Robert Dewar for his assistance with this matter.

7. **Councillors Portfolios:**

Allotments/Playing Field – D. Bowen led on this subject. The Allotment Association had held its AGM and continued to remain a viable organization with a small surplus of funds despite a drop off in allotment holders. Current rents paid to the PC had produced £95 and a little more was expected before the end of March. There remained concern about the fee structure regarding allotments and a review would be carried out by D. Bowen and presented at a future council meeting.

Super Broadband – H Lantos explained that bids to carry out Super Broadband installation in Dorset were currently being considered by DCC/WDDC. It was being mainly funded by the two main local authorities and government. It was possible that in the future local communities may be asked for support.

Signs – there were still a number of unauthorized signs in the village, i.e. lacking planning permission, and this matter could not be allowed remain dormant. The enforcement officer would be asked to investigate and take the necessary action.

Footpaths/Bridleways – the route of the bridleway near Ford Farm had been changed as a result of groundwork carried out by the estate. This would be monitored. Remedial work was required to return the land behind The Old Rectory back to its original state now that building work had finished on the property. The planning permission documents would be consulted to see what extent this was required.

Affordable Housing/Sustainable Development – Stinsford Parish Council had invited other parish councils to attend a meeting addressed by Oliver Letwin MP on “Neighbourhood Planning”. Mrs S. Dyke and Parish Clerk J. Firrell would attend at the meeting to be held on 19th April.

8. **Planning Applications:**

Bride Valley Nurseries – This application had been refused by WDDC and had gone to appeal. The outcome of the appeal was still awaited.

8 Baglake – A Certificate of Lawfulness had been refused so a Change of Use had been applied for – 1/D/13/000217. Councillors were asked to review the application online and let their recommendations be known to the Clerk by 28 March.

9. **Correspondence:** All had been dealt with during the course of this agenda.

10. **AOB:**

WATAG – It was emphasized that this organization carried out important work related to public transport and bus services.

Dog Poo – constantly a problem and this would once again be brought to local residents notice via BVN and village website. The message is – Clean up after your dog, wherever you are.

Risk Assessment – Documents had been distributed at the last PC Meeting for councillors to review. That review had taken place in line with the requirement of Council Audits and is now formally minuted as such. There were no additional observations from councillors.

Cllr Coatsworth – The Deputy Chairman asked Cllr Coatsworth if he anything he would like to add. Cllr Ron confirmed that the move had now been made from WDDC’s old premises to the new building in South Walks and settling in was taking place. Council Tax would remain the

same as last year although increases had been implemented with regards to policing and fire services. The lengthsman grant would slowly be reduced over the next two fiscal periods so if we wished to receive financial assistance we should apply now.

September's Council Meeting – This meeting would be held in the Thorner's School as the hall would be in use by the school for the Scout's Gang Show. The Clerk would request use of the school hall.

11. **Date of Next Meeting: Annual Meeting** – Tuesday 14th May at 7.30 pm. It was hoped to get someone from Ford Farm to come and give a presentation on cheese making.

12. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9 pm.

J. Firrell
Parish Clerk
Litton Cheney Parish Council