

LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Litton Cheney Parish Council

Held on Tuesday 11th March 2014

At Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

Present: S. Kourik (Chairman), D. Bowen, I. Homer, Dr H. Lantos, W. Orchard and J. Firrell (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** Mrs S. Dyke (Deputy Chairman), Mrs A. Spurrier, Cllr R. Coatsworth and Cllr T. Bartlett.
2. **Declaration of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** None taken up.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 14th January 2014:** The Clerk informed the meeting that several corrections had been made to the draft minutes and he believed they were now factually correct. It was proposed by D. Bowen, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously that the Minutes be approved and that they accurately reflected the details of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising:** None that would not be discussed later as a result of this meeting's agenda.
6. **Finance Report:** Parish Council funds stood at £4646.14 as of 11th March. Income since January was £175.18p, £175 coming from allotment income and 18p from interest. Expenditure amounted to £640.00, £390 for grass cutting/playing field maintenance and £250 for St Mary's churchyard maintenance. Vat payments of £206.15 were in the process of being reclaimed from HMRC. Invoices amounting to £312.00 were approved for payment – Play Inspection Company (Play equipment inspection) - £114, incl. £19 vat. Lengthsman (Dec, Jan, Feb) £150 and LATCH Hall Hire (to be paid in April) - £48. Proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by I. Homer and carried unanimously. Online Banking – The Clerk sought permission to apply for online banking which would allow financial matters to be conducted more efficiently and more quickly. Currently two members of the council have to sign a cheque. This would not need to change as a result of the switch to online banking. It was agreed this was an astute move and the request was approved – proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by I. Homer and carried unanimously. Risk Assessment – a review of risk assessment as a result of a document circulated at the January meeting had been undertaken and the document was formally adopted at this meeting. Proposed by D. Bowen, seconded by Dr. H. Lantos and carried unanimously. A councillor was required to take on this portfolio and it was agreed that Mrs A. Spurrier would be asked to do this. Internal Auditor – R. Dewar had after eight years of service resigned as the Internal Auditor and there was a need to recruit a replacement. The Clerk expressed his considerable appreciation for the help Robert Dewar had given him over the years and the systems and procedures now in place were very much as a result of the internal auditor's efforts. A sincere vote of thanks was unanimously approved by the Parish Council. A search would now be carried for a suitable person to take up the reins. Given the end of the fiscal was nigh, an audit of accounts prior to completion of the annual report would need to be carried out soon. Councillors indicated their willingness to seek out possible candidates.
7. **Councillor's Portfolios:** Traffic/Roads – W. Orchard brought the council up to date with the situation regarding Hines Mead/Cow Lane. A meeting has been held with DCC, with W. Orchard, S. Kourik and the Parish Clerk representing the council. It was agreed the road was in a very poor state despite temporary repairs having been carried out. DCC representatives agreed to look at signage which might deter HGV's from entering lanes unsuitable for large vehicles. Actual repairs to the road would have to go through a different department and this

was being pursued by W. Orchard. Allotments/Playing Fields – D. Bowen informed the meeting that several new people had taken on allotments and although this was not a time of huge production the overall state of the allotments was good. I. Homer wondered if allotment insurance paid for by the allotmenters could be incorporated as part of the PC's insurance. This would be looked at, the PC's insurance being due in June. A play equipment inspection had been carried out, a report rendered – generally the equipment was in good condition but some repairs would be required by the lengthsman. Village Inventory – I. Homer presented on this subject and produced a list of all PC-owned equipment that he had inspected and reviewed. Whilst all were in reasonable condition, several items were requiring some attention and the lengthsman would be asked to attend to these repairs if within his field of expertise. Superfast Broadband – Dr H. Lantos brought the meeting up to date. Litton Cheney would not be in the first tranche of those receiving the new service but generally things were moving along, although not at superfast broadband speed. Sustainable Development – Mrs S. Dyke had asked the meeting (in her absence) to note that there was nothing to report.

8. **Planning Applications:** Moxom's Yard – although there appeared to be a considerable amount of activity clearing the site no planning application had so far been forthcoming. Charity Farm – Mr Romans had indicated that a planning application had been made although the PC had yet to receive it. After note – now received and being reviewed. The Old Rectory – update required to see what progress was being made on returning the area to its original state. Willow Tree, situated behind houses on Chalk Pit Lane and Garden Close. An application had been made for it to be cut down but it appeared this application had now been withdrawn although the PC has not heard officially.
9. **Correspondence:** Any received had been dealt with within this agenda.
10. **Date of Next Meeting:** The Annual Meeting would be held on Tuesday 13th May. Cllr I. Homer was asked if he would give a presentation on bees and beekeeping and he said he would discuss it with his wife, Ruth. After note – they have agreed to present at the Annual Meeting.
11. **A.O.B:** Country Car Scheme – This scheme is being discontinued and there is some concern that this will cause difficulties for a number of people who rely on the current scheme. A new type of scheme has been suggested and this will be considered at a meeting of volunteers shortly. The PC will be kept informed. School Bus – Thorne's School is at the moment caught up in a situation whereby a large bus is being used by Damory that cannot get up School Lane. This has resulted in children having to be crocodyled down School Lane to get to the bus. Much toing and froing is going on, the PC have been kept informed and have indicated their support to the school and have involved Cllr Ron Coatsworth. A further complication in this saga is that a smaller more suitable bus does not have enough seat belts. Hall Annexe – In order to set the record straight, it was proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by D. Bowen and carried unanimously that the record show that permission was given by the Parish Council to LATCH for the hall annexe to be constructed when this subject was discussed at meetings in 2011, and at a time when planning permission had been applied for by the Parish Council. Mobile Shop-It was now likely that this would be positioned at The White Horse. The Clerk had put the shop organiser in touch with Kelvan and Val at The White Horse and we await developments. Litter- concerned was expressed by Dr Lantos of the need for litter to be removed from within the village confines. It was noted that the village lengthsman would be including this in his spring cleaning of the village. Footpath Signs – several signposts need repairing and the lengthsman would be asked to see if they were within his area of expertise.
12. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2110.

J. Firrell
Clerk to Litton Cheney Parish Council