

LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 at Litton and Northerner's Community Hall Litton Cheney

Present: W. Orchard (Chairman), S. Kourik (Deputy Chairman), Mrs K. Brooks, A. King, Dr H. Lantos and Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance, Cllr. R. Coatsworth, Cllr. J. Russell, Mr R. Jones (Chairman of LCNPSG), Mrs K. Wyatt (Parish Clerk candidate) and two local residents.

1. **Apologies:** I. Homer and Mrs A. Spurrier.
2. **Declaration of Interests:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** Richard Jones felt that the condition of the grass verges in many parts of the village were suffering from a lack of care and consideration from those driving large vehicles of varying types. This matter would be taken up with Dorset Highways who were currently responsible for their upkeep. James Williams mentioned that the security lighting from Ashley Chase Estates had become quite intrusive at certain points in the village. He had taken it upon himself to speak with ACE management who had attended to the matter. James Williams had also persuaded the hedge trimmer operative working in the village to cut back the hedge going up Redway making it safer for pedestrians and cyclists to transit that narrow space. The Chairman thanked him for taking care of these two matters and also for gaining possession of the two goal post sets now situated in the playing field. James Williams also mentioned that the barn located on the land off School Lane appeared to have been extended, possibly without planning permission. It would be investigated. Finally, he requested that the situation regarding the Triangle tree could be made clear at the Village Assembly given it was a public area and some local residents may not be in possession of relevant information, although it is contained in previous PC minutes and on the planning website.
4. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Richard Jones as Chairman of the Litton Cheney Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group informed the Parish Council that an information leaflet had now been produced and would, subject to the PCs approval, be distributed to every household in the village setting out the pros and cons of a Neighbourhood Plan. It would then be for residents to decide whether they wished to have a NP or not but there would be ample opportunities for in-depth information to be passed out including a couple of drop-in events at the hall. The result of the survey would be announced at the Village Assembly on 9th May. The Parish Council approved the leaflet for printing and distribution, but suggested the collection point for surveys should be several household addresses around the village rather than the bus shelter. This was accepted and at this point Richard Jones left the meeting.
5. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on Tuesday 10th January and Monday 13th February 2017:** It was proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by Mrs K. Brooks and carried unanimously that the Minutes of the 10th January meeting be approved. It was proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by A. King and carried unanimously that the Minutes of the 13th February meeting be approved.
6. **Matters Arising:** New Parish Clerk – Mrs K. Wyatt had expressed an interest in the job as Parish Clerk and attended this meeting. Further interviews would be carried out with councillors over the coming weeks. South Western Ambulance Service – The Clerk indicated that he had chased up SWAS because they had been extremely tardy in

responding to the letter sent to them by the Parish Council. There has since been a flurry of activity but the PC has still yet to receive an account of what went wrong although an abject apology has been forwarded. After note – SWAS will inform the Clerk of the result of their investigation by the end of March. Dog Control – Post discussion at the last PC meeting, the NFU would be approached to check if they had any suitable signs that could be displayed near fields with livestock. It had recently been reported that a local resident had been badly bitten by a dog whilst walking in the village. It turned out that the dog was owned by someone living in rented accommodation within the village who had, subsequent to the incident, left the village. The dog owner has now been given a 3-year dog contract requiring the dog to be kept under strict supervision, muzzled and on a lead when in public. Failure to do so could lead to the dog having to be put down. A cautionary tale.

7. **DCC/WDDC Overview:** The Chairman asked Cllrs Ron Coatsworth and John Russell to inform the council of details and events that may be of interest. Cllr Coatsworth encouraged everyone to view the result of the clinical services review which was currently being analysed and was likely to mean significant changes to hospital provision as the main demand for services was deemed to be from the east of the area, rather than the less populated west. He, as indeed did Cllr Russell, also spoke about the new arrangements for local government, whereby 6 of the 9 authorities were in favour of becoming 2 new authorities. East Dorset, Purbeck and Christchurch were not currently in favour. It was likely that majority rule would prevail and the 2 authority concept would be approved by central government. Cllr Russell suggested that a Community Land Trust for the village may be worth considering if a Neighbourhood Plan may not seem appropriate. Cllr Ron informed the Parish Council that this would be his last meeting as he was standing down as a County Councillor in May. The Chairman thanked him for his dedicated and long standing service to the community, rarely missing a meeting over many years. The Parish Council joined the Chairman in wishing Cllr Ron every best wish for the future.

8. **Finance Report:** The Clerk & RFO informed the meeting that parish funds currently stood at £5938.07. Income since January was £379.41 made up of Interest ((£0.32p), Allotment Rental (£100.00) and VAT Refund (£279.09). Expenditure since January was £786.20 – Leaflet Production (£8.40), Grass Cutting & Ditch Clearing (£769.80) and LATCH hire (£8.00). Invoices requiring approval – Village Lengthsman (£15.00) and The Play Inspection Co (Annual Inspection of Playground Equipment - £114.00). Proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by Dr H. Lantos and carried unanimously that they be approved.

It was anticipated that a balance in the region of £5136 would be carried forward to the next fiscal (2017/18), allowing for £500 to be set aside for the playground project. A further sum of £619.95 for the playground project would be received in April thereby providing a ring fenced amount of £1119.95 for the project.

The Parish Council's Financial Regulations which form part of the Standing Orders had been updated and had been forwarded to councillors in advance of the meeting for review. A copy had also been placed on the village website. Whilst many of the regulations were intended as a one size fits all, and may not be particularly relevant to a council the size of Litton Cheney, it was necessary for these rules to be in place as part of the transparency code of practice. It was proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by A. King and carried unanimously that the Financial Regulations be accepted and taken as read.

9. **Councillors Portfolios:** Highways/Transport (Chairman) – As mentioned in Democratic Time, village roadside verges were constantly being damaged by heavy vehicles. Whilst it was a nationwide problem it appears that considerable time, finance and effort will need to be applied if this problem is to be satisfactorily addressed. The same applied to potholes. A further meeting regarding the Ashley Chase Estates Travel Plan

was being held on Thursday 23rd March at Ashley Chase. The main thrust of the meeting was to monitor and control the movement of HGV's in and out of the Bride Valley. Playground/Field/Allotments (A. King) – Progress on a number of fronts were being achieved. As mentioned in Democratic Time a set of goalposts had been obtained and were now being actively used. It was highly likely the old rusting goalposts would be removed. Funding for the playground project was beginning to take shape. Awards for ALL administered by the Lottery Fund had been identified as a distinct funding possibility. Other sources were being investigated. Fencing off the play area – Quotes received ranged from £1700 for stock fencing and £3700 for picket type fencing. No conclusion had yet been reached on this matter as yet. Grass Cutting Contract – A number of quotes had been received and were discussed. DCC had submitted a quote of £752 based on 16 cuts in a season (£47 per cut). It would be cut at the same time as the school and hall. Russell Randall had quoted £520 on a like for like basis (£32.50 per cut). Wessex Ground Services £1400 (£87.50 per cut). It was decided on this occasion to pursue and agree the quote from DCC, even though it was not the cheapest on offer, but may be the best value. Cllr King was asked to ensure that the means of bringing machinery into the playing field did not damaged the track and bank leading into the field.

Superfast Broadband (Dr. H. Lantos) – Little to report. Varying speeds being experienced in different areas of the village but there are a number of very competitive offers out there and residents were being advised to shop around.

Footpaths/RoW/Lengthsman/Mobile Phone (S. Kourik) – The Rocks continued to be a frustrating issue concerning the possible application of a non-slippery surface. Various companies had been contacted but had been very tardy in submitting quotes or making visits. More perseverance would be applied. It was anticipated that the outcome might involve some fund-raising, and perhaps some financial support from DCC. It was agreed that the turnstiles, top and bottom of The Rocks, need not necessarily be retained. CG Fry would be contacted to see if they were interested in the job. On Rights of Way there were two outstanding issues which need resolving and also a time deadline had now been set for footpaths etc which are in dispute to be settled. The issues would be registered. Radio Phone Mast – The Parish Council had been notified by Vodaphone/O2 that they intended to apply for planning permission to erect a monopole in the position originally reserved for a mast at John Cooper's property. Information had been distributed to councillors who gave their support in principle, given it was a project they had supported for several years along with that of local MP, Sir Oliver Letwin.

Risk Assessment (Mrs K. Brooks) – The Risk Assessment document on the village website had recently been updated and the contents/risks reviewed with the Clerk/RFO. The review is in line with that required by UK auditing practice and will be used when reviewing the Parish Council's insurance requirements.

10. **Adoption of the Model Publication Scheme:** This document has been available to view for some time now on the village website and indicates where interested parties may find and obtain copies of various Parish Council publications. It was proposed by A. King, seconded by Dr. H. Lantos and carried unanimously that the Model Publication Scheme be adopted by Litton Cheney Parish Council.

11. **Bus Service:** The Parish Council had been officially informed that Dorset County Council would not be subsidising the 210 bus service from the end of July 2017. There were a number of options to be explored including persuading a newly contracted bus company to take on the route without subsidy. Cllrs Mrs K. Brooks and Dr. H. Lantos agreed to form a sub-committee together with the Chairman to explore other possibilities. A letter had been forwarded to the Director of the Environment and the Economy requesting information that could be used in negotiating new bus rates/arrangements.

There was clearly more to come on this. After note – Information has now been received from DCC.

12. **The Rocks:** This item was dealt with under Cllr S. Kourik's portfolio.

13. **Planning Matters Pending & Outcomes:** All tree work applications for 7 Barges Close, The Cottage and the Triangle had been approved by WDDC, together with Glebe Cottage. Planning approval had also been given to Bride Valley Nurseries. It was hoped a considerable amount of tidying up work would be carried out at the nurseries now that approval had been given. The situation regarding the wind turbines would be kept an eye on.

14. **Correspondence:** All had been distributed that were relevant, or placed on the agenda.

15. **Date of Next (Annual) Meeting:** Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 7.30 pm, to follow the Village Assembly. S. Kourik tendered his apologies in advance of the meeting.

16. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35 pm. and thanked people for their attendance.

J. Firrell
Parish Clerk