

# LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

Present: W. Orchard (Chairman), Mrs K. Brooks, A. King, Dr H. Lantos and Clerk J. Firrell.  
Also attending – six local residents reducing to five.

1. **Apologies for absence:** S. Kourik and Mrs A. Spurrier.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** It was considered that on this occasion sufficient democratic time had been given at the Village Assembly for concerns and views to be expressed.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Village Assembly held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016:** These had been circulated well in advance of this meeting and were deemed to have been read. Proposed by Dr. H. Lantos, seconded by Mrs K. Brooks and carried unanimously that they be approved.
5. **Matters Arising:** Given the 2016 Assembly mirrored that discussed at this year's Village Assembly the discussion became an update of where we are at this point in time. Neighbourhood Plan: A recently held survey of local residents resulted in a 60/40 percentage in favour of no neighbourhood plan, the belief being that currently the Local Plan was sufficiently robust to prevent unwanted development in the village. In confirmation of this, it was proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by A. King and carried unanimously that no further action would be taken at this point to create a Neighbourhood Plan. It was however agreed that information relating to housing needs would be sought involving the WDDC Housing Enabling Team in readiness for a discussion at July's PC meeting.

Children's Playground: This item too had progressed further from the preliminary status of last year. It was proposed by A. King, seconded by Dr H. Lantos and carried unanimously that costings be put together to refurbish and maintain the present playground equipment using the funds (approx £1500) currently ringfenced for this purpose.

6. **Approval of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017:** These were accepted as read and it was proposed by Mrs K. Brooks, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously that the Minutes be approved.

7. **Matters Arising:** Bus Service – Contact had been made with DCC regarding the decision not to continue to subsidise the 210 bus service. Whilst this did not necessarily mean the service would discontinue, investigations were underway by the Parish Council as to the various alternatives on offer. DCC had provided contact details of other organisations who might assist and we had been contacted by Dorset Community Transport who may be able to offer an on-demand bus service. There was clearly more to come on this subject. The Rocks – DCC were providing details of possible finance that may be available to surface The Rocks with a non-slip covering. We would then seek costings from suitable contractors. Parish Clerk – As previously indicated John Firrell was stepping down as Parish Clerk after nine years in the post. We have been fortunate in finding a new Clerk, Mrs Maggie Walsh, who brings with her considerable local authority experience during her time with Aylesbury Vale District Council's planning department.

Suitable references had been sought and furnished and subject to the approval of the Parish Council, Maggie would assume the duties of Parish Clerk towards the end of May. It was proposed by Dr H. Lantos, seconded by A. King and carried unanimously that Mrs Maggie Walsh be employed in the role of Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer on an annual salary of £2300 based on 20 hours per month. A review would be carried out in three months' time and adjustments made as agreed were necessary. The Chairman formally welcomed Mrs Walsh to the Parish Council, as did the other parish councillors.

Verge Damage – A continuing problem and it now appeared verge maintenance may become the responsibility of smaller councils, the task being devolved from the principal authority. This may become one of those tasks that is dealt with via liaison with other councils so that a contractor may possibly be shared amongst several councils in the Bride Valley.

**8. Approval of Minutes of Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017:** It was proposed by Dr H. Lantos, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously that the Minutes relating to the Donkey Plot planning application accurately reflected the outcome of the meeting.

**9. Election of Chairman:** On an indication that he was willing to continue if re-elected, it was proposed by Dr H. Lantos, seconded by Mrs K. Brooks and carried unanimously that W. Orchard be re-elected to the office of Chairman of Litton Cheney Parish Council for the coming year, 2017/18.

**10. Election of Deputy Chairman:** Although absence at this meeting S. Kourik had indicated a willingness to continue as Deputy Chairman if re-elected. It was proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by A. King and carried unanimously that S. Kourik be re-elected to the office of Deputy Chairman for the coming year, 2017/18.

**11. Co-option of New Parish Councillor:** Due to the resignation of I. Homer, and there being no request by ten or more electors for an election, permission had been given for the Parish Council to co-opt a replacement. Although stepping down as Parish Clerk, J. Firrell had indicated a willingness to serve on the Parish Council if selected. It was proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by Dr H. Lantos and carried unanimously that J. Firrell be invited to serve on the Parish Council. It was agreed that the effective date would be 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 once the turnover to the new Parish Clerk had been completed.

**12. Annual Finance Report:** The Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer offered up his Annual Report by stating that parish funds stood at £10,140.63 in the bank, plus a cheque held for £619.95, giving a grand total of £10,760.58 as of 8<sup>th</sup> May. Income since March amounted to £4582.56 made up of Interest of 0.11p, Precept & Grant £3612.50, Playground Donation £350.00 and Shared Proceeds of Variety Show in aid of the Playground Project £619.95. Expenditure since March was Lengthsman £15.00, Clerk £173.00, NP Printing £78.00 and Playground Inspection £114.00 and amounted to a total of £380.00. It was proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by A. King and carried unanimously that invoices be approved for payment for the following – Fingerposts (£131.98), PC Annual Hire of Meeting Room (£65.00) and Annual Insurance Premium (£427.58), a total of £624.56. Confirming that the amounts were catered for in the 2017/18 budget projections, it was proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by Dr. H. Lantos and carried unanimously that donations be made to the following charities – Bridport CAB £75.00, Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance £75.00 and Bride Valley News £50.00, a total of £200.00.

Concerning the Annual Report for 2016/17, the balance carried forward to 2017/18 was £5580.54. The amount currently ringfenced for the Playground Project stood at £1469.95 made up of £500 (PC Funds), £619.95 (Variety Show) and £350.00 (Donation). The Parish Council were asked to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 shown in the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2017. Proposed by A. King, seconded by Dr. H. Lantos and carried unanimously. The Parish Council were asked to approve the Accounting Statements 2016/17 shown in Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2017. Proposed by A. King, seconded by Dr. H. Lantos and carried unanimously. S106 Funds currently accrued to Litton Cheney stood at £7337.73 and it was suggested that these funds should be utilised given that the bulk of the funds had been unused for some time.

**13. Councillors Portfolios & Reports:** Highways/Transport (W. Orchard) – Although discussed in some detail at the earlier Village Assembly, the emphasis was clearly on monitoring HGV's entering the valley and ensuring they took the correct route for vehicles of that size. The Parish Council was working with Ashley Chase Estates and Long Bredy PC to ensure this happened. Playground/Playing Fields/Allotments (A. King) – This had been discussed at great length both earlier in this meeting and at the Village Assembly and there was nothing useful to add. Superfast Broadband (Dr H. Lantos) – Those who had ventured into fibre had seen their download speeds increase considerably. Footpaths/RoW/Lengthsman/Mobile Phone (S. Kourik) – In the absence of S. Kourik, it was decided to set aside most of this report. The Parish Footpaths Officer (Madeleine Hickling) who was present at this meeting did comment that the footpath/right of way issue in Watery Lane was in the process of being dealt with by DCC although there was some frustration it was taking so long. The Chairman confirmed that the mobile phone mast company representing O2 and Vodafone had submitted their planning application for a 12.5 metre monopole in Chalk Pit Lane and we awaited to be officially informed by the local authority. Risk Assessment/Transparency Code (Mrs K. Brooks) – Little further to report. It was confirmed that the PC's insurance policy covered the risks that had earlier been identified during a recent review.

**14. Planning Applications Pending/Outcomes:** The two outstanding planning applications – Charity Farm and The Orchard - would be dealt with at a separate meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 7 pm at LATCH.

**15. Correspondence not covered in this Agenda:** The meeting was informed by the Clerk that the South Western Ambulance Service had written apologising for the lengthy delay in attending Mrs Peggy Patterson.

**16. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

17. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30 pm.

J. Firrell  
Parish Clerk