

LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 12th July 2011 At Litton and Thorner's Community Hall Litton Cheney

Present: Mr S. Kourik (Chairman), Mrs S. Dyke (Deputy Chairman), Mr W. Orchard and Parish Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance Cllr R. Coatsworth and 2 village residents.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Mrs A. Spurrier, Mr D. Bowen and Cllr T. Bartlett.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None declared. See 11 e).
- 3. Democratic Time:** Nobody chose to take up this opportunity.
- 4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10th May 2011:** It was proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously that the Minutes be accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.
- 5. Matters Arising:** Home Watch Coordinator – This post had yet to be filled by a volunteer and it was suggested that CSO Sarah Pilcher be invited to the Village Café in September in an attempt to persuade someone to take on the position. Village Website – This had been up and running now for almost four months. It contained a wealth of information and additional input could be uploaded by contacting one of several people including S. Kourik, J. Firrell, J. Salvetti and Mrs B. Robbins (LC Social Committee), or webmaster Mr David Hearn. Other Matters – These matters would be discussed via the present agenda for this meeting.
- 6. Finance Report:** The Parish Clerk/RFO reported to the meeting that Parish funds currently stood at £5414.00. Since the last meeting in May there had been an income of £206.56, and expenditure of £972.87 giving an excess of expenditure over income of £766.14. Two invoices were approved for payment - £23.89 payment to Mrs S. Dyke for items purchased for the Village Gathering in May and £120.15 being the annual subscription to the Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils. Proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously. The RFO reminded councillors that a bill of £850 was expected in due course as the PC's contribution towards the tarmacing of the hall access drive.
- 7. Co-option of additional Parish Councillor:** It was proposed by W. Orchard and seconded by Mrs S. Dyke that Mr David Bowen be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Carried unanimously. Two vacancies remained and councillors would discuss outside of this meeting who should be approached with a view to co-option.
- 8. Distribution of Councillors Portfolios:** It was agreed that councillors would take on the following portfolios and report on that subject at each future meeting: - Mrs S. Dyke (Affordable Housing), W. Orchard (Highways), D. Bowen (Playing Field and Allotments) and Chairman S. Kourik maintaining a watching brief on Footpaths and Rights of Way. A meeting would be held shortly to discuss the effectiveness of the Internal Audit and also a review of the Risk Register.
- 9. Report on Incident at Litton Lake:** The Parish Clerk informed councillors of the details of 16th Birthday party that was held at Litton Lake. It appears the party got out of hand, partly because the word was put out on Facebook and a number of gatecrashers turned up. At one point the ambulance and police were called, there was evidence of under age drinking and suspicions of drug trafficking and drug taking. The music was played at top volume and went on until 6 a.m on Sunday morning. The noise was so loud, the lady resident living

next door had to remove items from walls and shelves as the vibration caused things to fall off these surfaces. Subsequent to the incident the police have carried out an investigation and spoken to those involved. The environmental health department of WDDC was also contacted. There is a duty of care required from both the land owner and party organizer, and due diligence must be applied for what is a commercial transaction – that of hiring out a facility for use as a party venue. Public liability is involved and there is concern that a repeat may well result in a death or serious injury given the close proximity of water and the taking of alcohol and drugs. The land owner is allowed to have a temporary change of use of the land for up to 28 days per calendar year. The land owner, Andy Romans, has indicated he will not be repeating such a booking and will endeavour to keep noise to a minimum and within social hours for the future. The WDDC enforcement officer has asked to be kept informed of any future incident. The Parish Council Chairman stated that village residents should phone Dorset police on 01305/01202 222222 should something similar occur again, and do so at the time of the incident rather than after the event. It was hoped a number of lessons had been learnt by those directly involved that would help avoid a re-occurrence.

- 10. Traffic/Highways/Signs:** A giant pothole towards the bottom of Whiteway had been repaired. Local residents were encouraged to report potholes directly to DCC/WDDC on 01305 221020. The salt/grit bins were now firmly in place and would shortly be filled by Dorset Works. The edging stones on Church Path needed attention and this would be passed to the village lengthsman who if he couldn't fix it would pass the task onto DCC. There had been a complaint about cars parking too close to the letterbox at the bottom of Whiteway. This matter had been raised before. It was suggested that we ask Royal Mail if they would move the letterbox closer to the telephone kiosk which would certainly help. The clerk would contact Royal Mail. Several roads would be closing in and around the village over the coming weeks and signs had been posted informing people about this.
- 11. Planning Applications:** **a) Summer Hill** – This application had been supported by the Parish Council and a decision awaited. After note:- Planning approval has now been given by WDDC. **b) St Mary's Church** – Pruning of Yew tree has been approved by WDDC. **c) Faith House** – Approval has been given subject to S106 conditions whereby a premium is required to be paid with subsequent funds being used to improve local amenities. The PC felt very strongly that this money should be ploughed back into facilities and public maintenance within the parish confines. **d) Bride Valley Nurseries** – The application for a Certificate of Lawfulness has been refused by WDDC. **e) Glebe Cottage, Hines Mead Lane** has applied to WDDC to prune a number of trees within the property and a response would be considered by the Parish Council. W. Orchard claimed a personal interest and would not be participating in any decision relating to this matter.
- 12. Correspondence:** Low Flying Aircraft – a letter had been received by the Parish Clerk complaining about the low flying of military and other aircraft within the Bride Valley. The matter had been raised before but it was felt at the time given the British military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan that such activities were necessary and no action was taken. The Parish Council felt the same situation still existed but suggested the clerk write to the MOD and requested that whenever possible we be informed of activity. WDDC Notification of a New Bye Law – the clerk had received a letter informing the PC of a new bye law recently placed on the statute book – No person shall urinate or defecate in any street or public place. Councillors expressed surprise that this was not already enshrined in a bye law.
- 13. AOB:** Mrs S Dyke suggested that the clerk circulate councillors regarding the response to planning application prior to the decision being sent to WDDC. This was agreed. It was also agreed that councillors would copy other councillors on their response to the clerk regarding planning applications. The Chairman invited Councillor Ron Coatsworth to inform the PC of any happenings within the portals of WDDC and DCC. Councillor Ron mentioned

the oncoming of the Localism Bill which would probably become law towards the end of the year and would certainly affect the workings of parish and town councils. Seminars would be held to bring councillors up to date on this matter. Libraries – a consultation on libraries had ended and decisions were likely at a meeting of the full council on 21 July. As a result of road improvements and markings, the number of accidents has lessened considerably.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 13th September, 7.30 pm – LATCH.

15. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

John Firrell
Parish Clerk
Litton Cheney Parish Council