

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Litton Cheney Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 9th July 2013
At Litton and Thorner's Community Hall
Litton Cheney**

Present: S. Kourik (Chairman), Mrs S. Dyke, I. Homer, Dr. H. Lantos, Mrs. A. Spurrier, Clerk J. Firrell and one local resident.

1. **Apologies:** D. Bowen, W. Orchard and Cllrs R. Coatsworth and T. Bartlett.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** None.
4. **Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 14th May 2013:** Two small amendments were made – Paragraph 3, should read A35. Paragraph 7; add in W. Orchard, in addition to I. Homer. Proposed by Dr. H. Lantos, seconded by Mrs A. Spurrier and carried unanimously that the Minutes were a true reflection of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising:** Local Plan – WDCC had now forwarded their Draft Local Plan to central government who in turn had handed it to an Inspector for adjudication. It was not known at this stage if the Parish Council's wish to have brownfield sites included in areas for future development had been submitted, although reference was made to all who had submitted comments during the period of consultation in 2012, The Parish Council had been asked to support a petition put forward by another Council that due regard be paid to the decisions of town and parish councils when dealing with planning applications. With the revised National Planning Framework now in operation which has a distinct reference to favouring sustainable development, there is a fear that local concerns are not being taken in account despite government's insistence that local communities would have more say in local development. It was decided that more impact could be made by individual councillors, identifying themselves as parish councillors, supporting the petition and local residents would also be encouraged to review the petition and support it if they felt so inclined. Oliver Letwin would also be contacted requesting his support. Lights on A35 – Representation would be made to Dorset Highways/Highways Agency for improved signage on the A35 indicating the need for vehicles to "light up" during period of poor visibility. The sign indicating the "Area prone to fog" was simply not good enough. Potholes – Whilst there were still many to be found, there had been an improvement in the speed of repair, although the standard of repair was often poor. The Rocks – work in the area had now been completed although the Chairman felt there was more to do. He would discuss the matter with Tony Humphries who had carried out the work and also with the village lengthsmen. Broadband – An announcement had been made by government that the creation of superfast broadband for rural areas had been put back by two years. This was greeted with some dismay although it was not known at this stage if Dorset was affected to such a degree – we will need to wait and see. TV reception remained iffy and DORBAG had been strangely quiet on the matter. They would be contacted again. Noise/Enforcement Matters – Follow up action was required on this and would be carried out via the Clerk and Chairman. It was felt the council should take this on rather than leave it to individuals which might involve them in direct confrontation. There have been several planning approvals given over the years which have been conditional on landscaping being provided, and this has not happened. Trees – Ron Martin (WDCC Tree Officer) would be contacted about the Triangle tree and the trees on the periphery of Moxom's Yard – after note: awaiting visit.
6. **Finance Report:** Current funds stood at £5109.41. Since May, income had been £40.17 (interest and allotment fee) and expenditure £636, made up of clerk's salary (£173), lengthsmen (£216),

donations (£200) and hire of hall for PC meetings for 2013/14 (£47). Invoices were approved for payment as follows – proposed by I. Homer, seconded by Dr. H. Lantos and carried unanimously – T. Humphries (The Rocks), £476.40; AON (Insurance), £599.03; Mrs A. Spurrier (Purchase of sign for playing fields), £40.50; LATCH - Hire of hall for September PC meeting/drinks for village assembly, £28.00. Payment for The Rocks was held in abeyance until the Chairman had confirmed all the work had been carried out. This has now been confirmed and the cheque issued. VAT Re-imbusement of £473.52 would be applied for shortly. Clerk's Salary – The Clerk's salary had been reviewed and increased in 2012 to keep in line with current scales and also to take account of the clerk also assuming in 2010 the duties of Responsible Finance Officer. J. Firrell requested that the previous salary of £692 per annum be maintained while he was in the post and that the unpaid element be put towards extra hours for the village lengthsmen. It would allow for an extra two hours per month. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his gesture and it was agreed to carry out this request. The Annual Report was unanimously approved by the Parish Council outside of this meeting on Thursday 29th June. Other aspects of the internal audit still needed to be finalized but the overall picture of the Parish Council's finances was that they were in a relatively healthy state with a carried forward figure of £4,102.

7. **Councillors Portfolios & Reports:** Superfast Broadband – This matter had been dealt with in Matters Arising but Dr H. Lantos reiterated that he was in contact with the local authority and expected to hear in due course how the tender process was progressing and when the area was likely to receive superfast broadband. Village Inventory – The Clerk would provide Cllrs Homer and Orchard with a copy of the property inventory so they could assess the condition and the items and report back at a future PC meeting. Affordable Housing/Sustainable Development – Mrs S. Dyke had nothing further to report on this matter. Allotments – In the absence of D. Bowen, the Clerk indicated that recently a new person had taken on an allotment which left two plots vacant. As a result of a recent playground inspection the village lengthsmen would carry out any necessary repairs. Footpaths – The Chairman indicated that some maintenance was required on footpaths in the area and he would be in contact with colleagues at DCC to see what could be done. Highways – dealt with in Matters arising.
8. **Planning Applications:** Myrtle Cottage – This application had now been approved thanks to the intervention of Cllr Tom Bartlett. It seemed likely that the application would be turned down on conservation grounds despite the Parish Council supporting the application believing it to be an improvement on what is currently in place. Fortunately common sense prevailed. Malters Cottage – This has now been approved by WDDC. Pins Knoll – The Parish Council supported this application and would inform WDDC accordingly.
9. **Correspondence:** None that had not already been dealt with earlier in the meeting.
10. **AOB:** Road Damage – I. Homer raised the question of damage to country lanes by heavy vehicles and wondered if this concern could be conveyed to the various authorities responsible for highways in the county. DCC would be contacted but it was emphasized that anyone with concerns (not just highways) should contact the local authority on the basis that the more people that expressed concern, the more likely it was that something would be done.
11. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 10th September 2013 at 7.30 pm. Early apologies were given by S. Kourik and Mrs A. Spurrier.
12. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm