

LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Litton Cheney Parish Council's Meeting held on Tuesday 8th July 2014 At Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

Present: Mrs S. Dyke (Deputy Chairman), D. Bowen, I. Homer, W. Orchard (arrived during Item 5.) and Clerk J. Firrell.

- 1. Apologies:** S. Kourik (Chairman), Dr H. Lantos and Mrs A. Spurrier.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 3. Democratic Time:** Not taken up.
- 4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2014:** It was proposed by D. Bowen, seconded by I. Homer that the minutes accurately reflected the proceedings and the motion was carried. Mrs S. Dyke abstained as she was not present at that meeting.
- 5. Matters arising from the Previous Meeting:** School Bus – The situation had still not reached a satisfactory conclusion. Thorner's headteacher Mrs J. Chaffey had informed the clerk that Damory hoped to use two smaller buses at the start of the new term but this was by no means guaranteed. Cllr Coatsworth would be informed. Charity Farm – Although the planning application had been approved both for the "retrospective" and a new barn, concern continued to be expressed that the landscaping issue which was a condition of the Parish Council's support was not being addressed adequately. Within the last few days additional building activity had been reported in another area of the farm. Mr Romans, the applicant, had informed the clerk that a hard standing was being built to store silage bales. Local residents were concerned that this was being constructed outside the farmyard and closer to residential properties. Voiced Concern - Parish councillors were coming to the conclusion that little or no notice was being taken by the local authorities of the concerns and observations of parish and town councils. It was agreed a letter would be forwarded to WDDC addressed to the highest level seeking a meeting whereby it can hopefully be explained what the Parish Council has to do to have its presence/influence felt as currently it would appear to be just a talking shop, not to be taken seriously by district or county councils. Other councils and organisations would be contacted to investigate if a combined approach may have more clout. The Clerk would draft the letter and circulate to councillors prior to sending.
- 6. Finance Report:** Funds stood at £5232.71p as of 8th July. Income since May was 0.17p (Interest) and expenditure since May £981.91 (Lengthsman £120, Hall Hire £48, Clerk's Salary £173, Historic Town Forum Seminar £70, Insurance £370.91 and Donations £200). It was proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by D. Bowen and carried unanimously that the following invoices be approved for payment – DAPTC Membership £129.35, Lengthsman £150 and Groundworks at Allotments £135. Request for contribution to purchase new flagpole – This request had been received from the PCC at St Mary's Church. Being the highest point in the village and a prominent public building, St Mary's Church was a very obvious choice from where to fly the nation's flags on behalf of the village. The current flagpole was in need of replacement and considerable work had been done to ensure it was replaced properly and the cost represented good value for money. The cost was in the region of £2300 and a contribution was being sought from the Parish Council. A private donation of £900 had already been promised. All councillors felt this was a cause worthy of support. Mrs S. Dyke suggested this was an ideal contender that could be funded by the village's share of the S106/Community Infrastructure Levy, if the project fulfilled the criterion for funding. This would be investigated and the PCC informed. As a fall-back position, should funding not be forthcoming, a reserve donation of £250 was established. Online banking – Until such times as more signatories/delegates could be registered for online banking the RFO would ensure a second signatory was placed on the invoice, in addition to approval for payment being minuted. New Internal Auditor – Mr Chris Franklin had agreed to be the Internal Auditor and had now completed the audit for 2013/14. The Annual Report had been dispatched to BDO, the nominated external auditor. The Internal Auditor recommended that the Parish Council seek the written confirmation from the village lengthsman that he is registered self-employed. The Clerk would request this document in writing.

- 7. Councillors Portfolios:** Playing Fields/Allotments – D. Bowen presented this report. The allotments appeared to be in good shape. The basketball set up in the playing area required either repairs to the padding around the base or new padding. W. Orchard offered to purchase new padding and this was agreed. Highways – W. Orchard informed the meeting that repairs were being undertaken to minor roads in the county, and his enquiries had gleaned the information that Whiteway and Hines Mead Lane both of which were in a sorry state would be attended to before the end of July. Additional government money had been received to attend to road repairs but this had to be expended before the end of July otherwise the funding would lapse. Signs warning HGV's that the roads were unsuitable were in the process of being obtained by DCC. Sustainable Development – Mrs S. Dyke had been asked to complete a Rural Housing Survey and this would be done in conjunction with W. Orchard. An Affordable Housing Guide had been developed by Sutton Hastoe and a copy of the guide had been requested. It was believed the Common Land Trust would be the ideal vehicle should affordable housing return to the Litton Cheney agenda. The situation would be monitored. Superfast Broadband – In the absence of the responsible councillor (Dr. H Lantos), Mrs Dyke passed on the information confirming that superfast broadband was still destined for Litton Cheney by the end of 2015 and a radio mast was expected to be in place by the end of 2014. Village Inventory – I. Homer had nothing to report on this subject.
- 8. Appointment of Nominated Trustees to Litton Cheney Relief in Need Trust:** The Trust had requested that Brian Prentice and Margaret Thomas be approved by the Parish Council as Nominated Trustees. This was so approved. The comment was made that as in all long standing village organisations the need for planned succession be kept in mind, bringing on “new blood”, often younger residents/members/trustees as opportunities arose – not always as easy as it sounds.
- 9. Planning Matters & Applications:** Moxom's Yard – The planning application had now been approved subject to an S106 payment. Lidden Lee – The Parish Council raised no objection to this application but no decision had yet been made by WDDC.
- 10. Correspondence:** All have been incorporated in the meeting's agenda.
- 11. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 9th September 2014, 7.30 p.m.
- 12. A.O.B.: Defibrillator Support** – The Clerk informed the meeting of the project that existed in the village designed to locate a defibrillator within its confines. Funding had commenced at The White Horse and so far had produced £300. Both LATCH and the Social Committee had contributed £100 and it had been suggested that the Parish Council might like to do the same bringing the funds so far up to £600. It was anticipated a figure in the region of £1500 would be required and it was possible that Relief in Need might also contribute. It was proposed by Mrs S. Dyke, seconded by I. Homer and carried unanimously that £100 be donated to the project at the point when monies needed to be paid in order to obtain the defibrillator. Church Path – This area remained unkempt despite the fact several residents as a result of a letter sent by the Clerk had made some effort to tidy up. Further efforts would be made prior to calling in DCC. Car parking in that area was creating problems although it was felt not a lot could be done other than a request to Dorset police to remind car owners of the need to park sensibly.
- 13.** There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10 p.m.

J. Firrell

Clerk to Litton Cheney Parish Council