

## LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall Litton Cheney

Present: S. Kourik (Chairman), W. Orchard (Vice-Chairman), I. Homer, Dr. H. Lantos and Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance was Cllr R. Coatsworth and two local residents.

1. **Apologies:** Mrs D. Cheater, C. Franklin and Mrs A. Spurrier.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** J. Williams brought to the attention of the Parish Council that stiles near Baglake Farm were broken and required repair. The Chairman explained how this should be dealt with and indicated he would take it up at local authority level.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015:** Proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously that the Minutes were a true reflection of the proceedings.
5. **Matters Arising from the previous Meeting:**
  - Magna Green – This remained in the slow lane and was being dealt with by the legal side of Magna and our own legal advisor Katherine Jones of Humphries Kirk.
  - Radio Mast – There were indications that there had been a slight delay in progressing this matter by the parties involved but it was expected to proceed shortly and the mast could be in place in several months' time.
  - Neighbourhood Plan – The new Local Plan adoption had been further delayed and may go beyond autumn as had been indicated. This appeared to leave the gate open for developers to apply for permission to put houses in places where they would not normally be allowed. It was decided that the Parish Council should explore the possibility of setting up a committee to look at a Neighbourhood Plan in line with the general feeling at the recent village assembly. Whilst it was for the Parish Council to initiate the setting up of this committee, it would be the job of the committee to progress the requirements that needed to be put in place so that a Neighbourhood Plan could be created. It would be a lengthy process, possibly taking a couple of years, but it was felt that it was necessary in order to control what development and where if any was to take place in the village in the near future. The Chairman asked Deputy Chairman W. Orchard if he would contact WDDC and find out what needed to be done, after which a village meeting would be held and an agenda formed.
  - Superfast Broadband – Dr. H. Lantos confirmed that it was still on track to be brought into the village during 2015.
6. **DCC/WDDC Overview:** Councillor Ron Coatsworth who was attending as our County Councillor but also covering for our Ward Councillor, Cllr John Russell, who was presently hors d'combat, brought the meeting up to date on happenings at local authority level. It seems that a number of local schools are destined to become academies, adult services in Bridport are likely to be reduced and a number of

services centralised. The District Council was concerned with plans to reduce or re-locate health services including mental health. More businesses were required in the county to offset central government grant reductions.

7. **Finance Report:** The RFO/Clerk introduced the report. Current funds available taking into account the £831 held for the village defibrillator was £5813.00. Income since May 2015 was 25p (Interest), and expenditure was £580.75 (Clerk's salary £173, donations £200, Lengthsman £199.25 and Good Councillor's Guide £8.50). Invoices requiring approval – Lengthsman £90, DAPTC annual membership £131.93, Padding for basketball stand £90 and DAPTC GC Guides £8.50. Proposed that they be approved for payment, I. Homer, seconded by Dr H. Lantos and carried unanimously. Russell Randall had submitted several quotes for work to be carried out at the playing field/allotments. For clearing the stream and de-silting adjacent to the play area - £120, to clear river running up the right hand side of the field up to the allotments - £110, to continue up to the centre of the allotments - £35 (Total £265). The PC agreed to having the river cleared up to the allotments at £110. Proposed By I. Homer, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously. Mr Randall would be asked to complete the work as soon as possible.
8. **Councillors Portfolios:**
  - Highways – S. Kourik had responsibility for this subject. He reported that a number of roads had been resurfaced and were now a pleasure to drive on. Chalk Pit Lane still required remedial work to be carried out. HGV's continued to be the scourge of the village and a recent coming together of lorry and tree resulting in damage to the vehicle had been reported to WDDC.
  - Playing Field/Allotments – in the absence of Mrs D. Cheater, there was little to report (see Finance Report) but concern that unauthorised vehicles were driving down to the field causing the banks of the stream to show signs of collapsing was expressed. The situation would be monitored and if necessary a lockable post would be installed at the access point to the playing field (beyond the access to dwellings). Swallowfield would be asked to bring their hedge back from overhanging the track, pushing vehicles further towards the stream.
  - Sustainable Development – W. Orchard indicated that there was little to report beyond what had already been dealt with in Matters Arising and at recent meetings dealing with a planning application for Charity Farm.
  - Footpaths/Lengthsman – The footpath sign on Chalk Pit Lane still requires attention and the village lengthsman was asked to progress it.
9. **Wessex Water:** Considerable concern had been expressed by local residents, in particular Sir Chris Coville, about the rate of extraction from bore holes within the Litton Cheney area. The Parish Council had been in contact with Wessex Water and asked to be kept informed of the situation on a regular basis. WW had from time to time reached the limits of their allowed extraction but had indicated that they would be reducing the extraction rate and hopefully those who had ponds and bournes fed from nearby springs would notice the difference. The situation would be carefully monitored.
10. **Planning Matters:**
  - Charity Farm – There was little more to say on this matter presently. Submissions had been made by the Parish Council and others to WDDC who were now deliberating. The Parish Council objected to the application in its current form. Because of the PC's objection, if WDDC planners are of a mind to approve the application it would be forwarded to the Planning and Development Committee for consideration.
  - Ashley Chase Estates – This long running saga continued and an approved Travel

Plan was awaited from WDDC before work could start on an additional storage unit. The Old Rectory – This application had been in the public domain for a few weeks and had been circulated to parish councillors. It was usual when tree works were involved for the PC to rely on the knowledge and expertise of the WDDC Tree Officer, Mr Ron Martin, to make the right decision. At this point Mr James Williams asked from the floor if he could speak and was allowed to do so by the Chairman. It appeared that Mr Williams objected to the planning application for various reasons at which point he went into considerable detail. After some time the Chairman reminded Mr Williams that the PC were only reviewing the planning application. It was not the PC's job in this instance to deal with ancillary matters and that if Mr Williams had further objections he must submit his views to WDDC as an individual. Mr Williams continued speaking at some length until the Chairman drew the matter to an end and indicated that the Parish Council would now discuss the matter without further contributions from the floor. After some discussion, the Parish Council agreed they had no objection and that they would pursue their usual approach with tree works and rely on the good offices of the Tree Officer to arrive at an appropriate decision. He would be asked to view the situation overall, take account of any relevant environmental or conservation issues, plus conduct a site visit if he had not already done so.

11. **Correspondence:** None that had not been dealt with within the agenda.

12. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015, at 7.30 pm.

13. **A.O.B:**

Defibrillator – Dr H. Lantos had contacted South West Ambulance Service who although quite helpful had effectively thrown the ball back into the village's court in relation to where the equipment might be located. The thinking was that it should be located in a place where it is likely to be required such as The White Horse or the community hall. Other locations that might be considered were the telephone kiosk, bus shelter and the Snicket. The matter would be placed on the agenda for the September meeting when the initiative founders, Hannah and Nick Bunting, would be asked to contribute to the debate.

Cllr John Russell – Ward Councillor, Cllr Coatsworth thought that Cllr Russell would be back in circulation in time for the next meeting in September.

Swimming Pool – A question was raised about possible public use of the school swimming pool, but it was felt not to be a Parish Council matter. People should contact the school direct should they have an enquiry.

14. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10 pm.

J. Firrell  
Parish Clerk