

# LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Litton Cheney Parish Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

Present: W. Orchard (Chairman), Mrs K. Brooks, Mr S Kourik, Dr H. Lantos, and Mr A King. Also attending Cllr Ron Coatsworth, Cllr John Russell and one local resident.

1. **Apologies:** Mr J Firrell, Mr I Homer. The Chairman welcomed Mr A King onto the Parish Council, who had been co-opted in place of Mrs D Cheater.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** The Chairman offered those present the opportunity to speak on a subject that they wished to bring to the notice of the Parish Council. Mr James Williams felt that there should have been an opportunity for democratic time at the last Parish Council meeting, rather than include this time in the Annual Village Assembly. The Chairman responded that, as stated at the meeting, it was felt sufficient opportunity had been given at the Village Assembly, however he took the point. Mr Williams also referred to the making of charitable donations by the Parish Council and asked if there was any rule relating to the percentage of the Parish Precept which could be given to charity. He asked when the Annual Village Assembly minutes would be available and the Chairman advised that these would be published shortly. Mr Williams queried why current planning applications were no longer shown on the website, and the Chairman responded that he would look into this. Finally Mr Williams asked if the Finance Report could be available as part of the Agenda in advance of the meeting. Again, the Chairman agreed that this would be looked at. The Chairman reminded Mr Williams that he had exceeded the 3 minute rule for speaking and asked that in future Mr Williams put his points in writing and submit them to the Chairman to give some opportunity for prior consideration. There was no requirement to respond to points raised at the meeting, as Mr Williams was aware.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>h</sup> May 2016:** Proposed by Dr H. Lantos, seconded by K Brooks and carried that the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising:** Tree at the Triangle - Ron Martin had not yet inspected the tree, so no decision has been made on replacement. Magna Green – the lease had been agreed and signed. It was noted that the Section 106 monies amounted currently to £4330.40.
6. **DCC/WDDC Overview** Cllr Ron Coatsworth commented that the local bus route was under threat in the current review of services. Cllr John Russell advised the meeting that the consultation into combined authority working (at county level) had ended, but it was not known when the results would be available. The cuts to village bus services were likely to have an effect on planning applications as the sustainability of a village was reduced if a bus service was withdrawn. He also advised the meeting that the integration of the district and county councils was due to be in place by the end of the year.
7. **Finance Report** – The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer's report as of 4 July 2016 was presented to the meeting. The account stood at £6,000, with income since May being £0.21p of interest. Expenditure was £1164.71 (Clerk's salary £173, BVN donation

£75, DSAA donation £75, Bridport CAB donation £75, Hire of Hall £54, Magna Green lease £240 (£40 VAT), Printing £9.95, Insurance £387.76, Lengthsman £75.

Invoices requiring approval for payment DAPTC annual subscription £135.38, Village Lengthsman £75 and £66.99. Proposed by Steve Kourik and seconded by A King and carried unanimously that these invoices be approved for payment.

Scouts' Litter Pick – The Chairman asked the meeting to consider what level of donation should be made following the Scouts' litter pick round the village. The efforts of the scouts were much appreciated and the Parish Council's thanks had been conveyed by email by the Clerk. The matter would form part of the next Agenda.

Approval for the works to the playing field ditches etc by Russell Randall in the sum of £330 had been agreed by councillors by email to expedite the work. Formal approval by the meeting was proposed by S Kourik, seconded by A King and carried unanimously.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Parish Clerk is entitled to receive a pay increase, with the current pay for a clerk at SCP 18 being £1004.29 pa (an hourly rate of £9.299) (1 April 2016). The Clerk has however chosen not to take any increase since his appointment in 2008, when the salary was £692 pa. At 1 April 2012 the salary was recorded at £963.25 (an hourly rate of £8.919). It should be noted that should there be a need for a new clerk the 2016 or then current rate would be applicable.

#### 10. **Councillors' Portfolios & Reports:**

Highways/Transportation (Mr W Orchard) - There had been the regular quarterly sub committee meeting to discuss the impact of HGV's accessing Ford Farm and it was agreed that the introduction of the Traffic Management Plan had slightly lessened the impact for Litton Cheney. Ian Madgwick (DCC Highways) had reported to that meeting that the roads in the village generally were in good repair, with some deterioration in the southern part, which the highways officer would inspect with a view to further works being done before the winter. S Kourik reported that he had seen traffic loops in place in the village and there would be a meeting on 28 July to discuss the results. The road from the A35 to Long Bredy Hut would be surface dressed due to its poor condition. S Kourik advised that there were projecting rocks on Redway which Highways had agreed would be dealt with. One of the rocks had been painted with white paint to highlight it to traffic and it was agreed that the Lengthsman would be asked to apply paint to the other two rocks so that drivers were aware of their presence also. Some hedge cutting had taken place adjacent to the road near Church Path and Mr Williams accepted responsibility and advised the meeting that this would be cleared shortly.

Playing Fields/Allotments (Mr A King) - Mr King had had a meeting with Mrs Cheater to discuss possible staging and funding for the playground project. The first element would be the fencing, for which Sovereign had quoted £8k. A local quote would be sought to try to reduce the cost. The existing climbing frame was suitable for refurbishment but the swing would need to be replaced. No replies had been obtained to enquiries for funding. There was a possibility of using Section 106 monies to part fund the project and other options would be looked at. Mr King recommended that the goal posts should be removed and that the surface of the football pitch needed improvement. Quotations will be obtained for appropriate mowing.

Neighbourhood Plan (Mr W Orchard) – The intention is to form a steering group and put in place the terms of reference for the plan. However there had been little response so far to the request for volunteers to help with the plan. It was proposed to leaflet drop the village

in the near future, requesting volunteers and giving a date for an inaugural meeting requesting all those willing to form part of the group to attend

Broadband/Mobile Phone (Dr H Lantos) - Superfast Broadband is now in place and Dr Lantos had received leaflets from DCC to promote the uptake of the service. It was agreed that an insert could be put in the BVN advising residents that the service was available in the village. Email correspondence had been received from EE about the possibility of bringing a mobile phone signal to the village. This would be for EE subscribers only. EE had suggested that a 'community champion' be elected to identify people who might be prepared to have a mast on their house to relay the signal. Mr S Kourik agreed to take the role as champion. Three such masts would be needed, one in the school area, one in the Baglake area and one in the area centred around Chalk Pit Lane. There might be an issue with installing the masts in the Conservation Area. It was agreed to continue discussions with EE.

Footpaths/ROW (Mr S Kourik)– Mr Kourik had spoken to the Parish Footpaths Officer and she had reported that there were no major issues at present. Vegetation growth was rapid but was under control. Mr Kourik reported that all issues, including that of Bridleway 11 had been recorded with the Council.

Risk Assessment/Transparency (Mrs K Brooks) – The risk assessment would be carried out annually, just before the renewal of the insurance premium, to ensure that there were no issues with cover. Any issues identified would be monitored accordingly. Mrs Brooks had been given documents by the Clerk relating to the new regulations on transparency for parish councils and she would report back to the council on any immediate action to be taken resulting from these.

9. **Bus Service Review:** The 210 bus service for Bridport which provides a six day service to Litton Cheney and serves the Lower Bride Valley is under threat from a need to make substantial cost savings. The Chairman had not been able to obtain any formal information from the Bus Company on usage levels, but has carried out a short survey with Villagers, which had demonstrated its vital importance. DCC were looking at the possibility of allowing the public to use the school bus service as an alternative, however there would be no service in the school holiday or at weekends, and the times of the buses were not convenient. The Bride Valley car scheme might be able to be extended to include shopping trips. Councillors would respond to the DCC survey individually and the Chairman would respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

10. **Planning Applications Pending & Outcomes:** 1 Court Cottage – No further progress but WDDC chased. Barn on land adjacent to Four Meads Farm – The Parish Council has objected to this application on the grounds that the size of the field did not warrant the scale of the building, and expressed concerns as to the future use of the building. All tree work applications are complete.

11. **Correspondence:** The Clerk had received letters of thanks from DSAA and from the Bride Valley Benefice for their respective donations from the Parish Council. A letter had also been received confirming the implementation of the Magna Green lease.

12. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 13 September 2016 at 7.30pm.

13. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Cllr Mrs K. Brooks (in the absence of Parish Clerk J. Firrell)

