

LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Litton Cheney Parish Council
held on Tuesday 9 July 2019 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

Present: Bill Orchard (Chairman); Kathryn Brooks; John Firrell; Andy King; Andrew Price; Bella Spurrier; Maggie Walsh (Clerk).

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declarations of interest:** none
3. **Democratic time:** N/A as no villagers attended the meeting
4. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 May 2019** - it was proposed by Cllr Orchard, seconded by Cllr Spurrier and carried unanimously that these minutes be approved.
5. **Matters arising not part of the agenda:** none
6. **DC overview** – not available as Cllr Mark Roberts was not in attendance.
7. **Annual Finance Report** (Maggie Walsh, Clerk and RFO)
2018/19 – the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been submitted to the external auditors. The auditors had acknowledged receipt and would process it in due course. The period for public inspection had commenced on 17 June and would run until 26 July.
2019/2020 - Parish funds currently stood at £14,175.58. Spend since May's meeting was £699.99 comprising £144.23 DAPTC subscription, £339.76 insurance, £216 clearance works at the Triangle. Income since May's meeting was £5,300.21, comprising £5,300 precept and 21p interest. There was one payment for approval: £35 for the annual GDPR registration (payable by direct debit as this reduced the payment by £5). It was proposed by Cllr Firrell, seconded by Cllr King and carried unanimously that this be approved.
8. **Annual consideration of donations to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, Bridport CAB and Bride Valley News (historically £75 per organisation):** Cllr Firrell proposed that the Parish Council donate £75 to each of these three organisations. This was seconded by Cllr Brooks and carried unanimously. MW
9. **Councillors' portfolios:**
Bill Orchard (Chairman) reported that he would be taking on the Footpaths/Rights of Way/Mobile Phone Mast portfolio previously held by former Cllr Steve Kourik and that the Highways/Transport portfolio would pass to Andrew Price.
Highways/Transport (Bill Orchard): Cllr Firrell had spent significant time trying to reach a satisfactory outcome regarding Dorset Council's and First Bus's intention to route double decker school buses through the village. The PC hoped to arrange a meeting with First's Transport Manager, to which other affected PCs would be invited. Parish Councillors were concerned they had not seen a robust risk assessment that adequately addressed the risks associated with buses along the route and double decker buses in particular.
The PC awaited details from Bridport Town Council lengthsman regarding planned repairs to the stream opposite the Tithe Barn.
Playground/Playing Field/Allotments (Andy King): Cllr King felt the frequency with which playing field grass was cut could be reduced and that the grass around the boundary of the allotments could be added to the contract: he anticipated that this would reduce the overall annual cost of grass cutting. He would put this on the agenda for the meeting in September. Any resulting savings could then be factored into the 2020/21 precept. **AK/MW**
The hedge between the allotment and playing field would need cutting once birds had finished nesting.
The PC had received 2 quotes of £290 and £216 for repairs to the allotment gates. Subject to lead times being acceptable, the work would be awarded to the cheapest contractor. Repairs to playground equipment were in hand.
Agricultural Liaison (Bella Spurrier): the "Premier Crew" had filled the trench across the field adjacent the playground that had been a risk to livestock.
Planning (Kathryn Brooks):

The following planning matters were outstanding:-

WD/D/19/000958 | Erect two storey rear extension and detached garage | TOWNSEND COTTAGE, 2 CHALK PIT LANE - the original application had been withdrawn as it was not correctly submitted and the new application was under consultation. The Conservation Officer had objected on grounds of the impact of a two storey extension on the existing thatched roof; the risk of damage through water ingress; the raising of the chimney and the proposed wood burning stoves in thatched listed building. The Conservation Officer instead suggested a two storey extension at a distance from the existing structure with a single storey link, so that the old and the new were not in juxtaposition. The Parish Council had not raised an objection to this application. An update was awaited from the case officer.

WD/D/19/001128 | Erection of agricultural storage building (Retrospective) | CHARITY FARM, MAIN STREET - No objection from Natural England or Environmental Health. The Parish Council had registered concerns regarding continued development of barns on the site, feeling this to be undesirable in a central village location. An update was awaited from the case officer.

WD/D/19/000916 | Compliance with conditions | CHARITY FARM -This application dealt with pre-commencement conditions relating to materials, landscaping and boundary treatment associated with planning permission for 7 dwellings. A new plan had been submitted since the last meeting showing the missing Holm Oak. An update was awaited from the case office

The following applications had been decided since the last meeting:

WD/D/18/002298 | Erection of extension and alterations and construction of a new bridge and vehicular access | THE MILL HOUSE, MAIN STREET - Approved

WD/D/19/000570 | Convert outbuilding to self-contained unit (without compliance with conditions 3 & 4 of planning permission 1/D/11/000368 - to remove the restriction to holiday use & allow for use as a residential dwelling) | FAITH HOUSE, MAIN STREET - Approved

WD/D/19/000630 | Erection of first floor extension to office building, construction of additional car parking facilities & the erection of a small storage building | FRYS, MAIN STREET - Approved with the condition that the new car parking area is completed before the extension work commences.

WD/D/19/000516 | Installation of 2.no dormers to front elevation | GLEBE END, HINES MEAD LANE - Approved

Risk Assessment/Transparency Code/Annual Report: one of the Parish Councillor positions remained vacant and so this portfolio was currently unallocated. The Privacy Statement and Data Protection and Email Polices were however due for review and approval. The clerk would circulate annotated copies to Parish Councillors for review and agreement at September's meeting. **MW/ALL**

Village Fabric/Maintenance/Devolved Services (John Firrell): The "Premier Crew" of volunteers continued to do sterling work and had completed most maintenance tasks.

The PC was finalising its response to a DAPTC survey about works it undertakes on behalf of the community it serves. There was currently a large vacuum between the new unitary authority and parish and town councils and BLAP and DAPTC were jockeying to fill this role.

DCC had undertaken to improve the way it worked with local councils. Cllr Firrell believed that DCC did not currently have sufficient staff to respond to local councils. DCC was currently consulting on the programme and Statement of Community Involvement for the new Local Plan – it was important for Litton Cheney PC to be involved and all parish councillors were urged to read both documents and send comments to the clerk for collation and submission. **ALL**

Cllrs Firrell and Orchard had met with DCC Countryside Team regarding the slippery surface of The Rocks. They believed the problem was caused by water running down the slope being impeded by a submerged concrete drain and proposed installing a French drain diagonally across the path to remedy the situation. Meanwhile the Premier Crew would continue to clean the surface. The giant hogweed had been treated and was dying.

- 10. Correspondence not dealt with as part of the agenda** – Lyn Lacey's four year term as Trustee to the Litton Cheney Trust would soon end. It was proposed by Cllr Firrell that she be nominated for a further period of four years. It was seconded by Cllr King and carried unanimously that she be appointed.

- 11. New planning applications for consideration at the meeting** – there were no new planning applications for consideration.
- 12. Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 10 September 2019 – apologies Cllr Price
- 13. Meeting closed**
Maggie Walsh - Parish Clerk