

LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th September 2011 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall Litton Cheney

Present: Mr S. Kourik (Chairman), Mr D. Bowen, Mr W. Orchard, Mrs A. Spurrier and Parish Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance Cllr R. Coatsworth and three village residents.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mrs S. Dyke, Cllr T. Bartlett.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared.
3. **Democratic Time:** Mrs C. Gross requested that local residents attend to their dog mess in the village and in fields. Mrs A. Spurrier highlighted that there was a danger that farm livestock could pick up diseases from such deposits. It was agreed that more communication should be displayed about this hazard on the website and notice boards. Last time this was raised several years ago a vet gave a presentation on the dangers of dog mess being left in areas where farm livestock are grazing.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th July 2011:**
It was proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by Mrs A. Spurrier and carried unanimously that the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting and should be approved.
5. **Matters Arising:** Litton Lake – Since the last meeting, whilst there had not been a repeat of the previous debacle, there were still numerous occasions when loud music and noise emanated from Litton Lake late at night and into the wee small hours. Andy Romans had indicated many of the people were there without his knowledge or permission. Pat Bowcock who lives in the adjacent property had suffered considerable disruption and it was agreed that action should be taken to ensure this situation did not escalate and indeed was brought under control. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr W. Orchard would arrange a meeting with Andy Romans to discuss what action could be taken to improve security and return the lake to its true purpose, that of providing good fishing to anglers. If this approach does not improve matters, further action would be considered, the council being determined to resolve this matter before it became unmanageable for either party. After note: The meeting has taken place and councillors will be informed of the outcome in due course.
6. **Finance Report:** The Clerk/RFO presented his report to the council. Council funds currently stood at £7790.04. This included donations of £2542.06 made by various parties towards the Hall access drive so was somewhat inflated. A further contribution of £847.35 was due from DCC and this payment had been hastened. Since the last meeting expenditure of £120.15 had been made to DAPTC and £23.89 to Mrs S. Dyke (Village Assembly expenses). Income over and above donations was a further 17p (Interest). It was proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by D. Bowen and carried unanimously that invoices for C.G. Fry for £5084.14 (hall access drive) and £120 (Village Lengthsman) be paid. In addition to the awaited donation by DCC, a further £847.35 would be re-imbursed via a Vat repayment. Once the second half of the precept was paid in October, funds would stand at around £5770. The External Audit has almost been completed by BDO but as a result of a change in the regulations for town and parish councils, council property which previously may not have been carried as an asset, other than for insurance purposes, would need to be accounted for. On that basis an adjustment had been made under the guidance of the Internal Auditor (Robert Dewar) and the Total Fixed Assets and Long Term Assets carried by the council now stood at £9095. Because the thatched bus shelter and notice boards had been “donated” by the village in 1982, the value of these two items are not included.

7. **Co-option of additional Councillors:** Mr Ian Homer had both volunteered and agreed to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Proposed by D. Bowen, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously. One vacancy remained on the council and the Clerk would be approaching a further person with a view to them being co-opted. After note: Mr Hugh Lantos has kindly agreed to serve on the Parish Council and would be formally proposed for cooption at the November meeting. At that point the Parish Council would be fully complemented.

8. **Councillors Portfolios/Briefs:**

Highways – W. Orchard, whose brief this is, will speak with the Highways department about making the makeshift lay by half way up Whiteway into a proper tarmaced lay by.

Playing Fields & Allotments (D. Bowen) – The allotments are currently all allocated and there is now a waiting list. The Allotment Association would be holding an AGM in November. The rusting goal posts are in need of attention and new nets required. Costs would be sought and hopefully approved. A playground inspection was due and the Clerk would arrange. A quote of £150 for work to be undertaken to clear ditches and cut back hedging had been submitted by R. Randall and this work was approved at the price quoted.

Affordable Housing – Mrs S. Dyke had submitted a report in her absence and this was read out by the Chairman, S Kourik. A reappraisal was required over affordable housing and who the housing would serve, and access to transport services. There was little doubt the brownfield site (Moxom's) should be used in the first instance together with some private housing. Possibly self-build should be considered and there would be a need to fully understand the new planning framework that was currently under consultation by government. Cllr Coatsworth was asked if the lifting of the moratorium on building within the development envelope was likely in the coming months. He thought not yet, although he stated that it was plain common sense that the brownfield site should be considered first were that to happen. There would be a further distribution of portfolios including risk assessment and transport at a future meeting.

9. **DCC request for super broadband funding:** A letter had been received from DCC requesting councils include in their 2012/13 precept an amount that could be put towards matched funding that DCC would be applying for to provide super broadband facilities to Dorset. Whilst support was forthcoming for the scheme, the council believing there was a definite need for super broadband in the area, some confusion existed as to how much the amount should be. The Clerk would enquire and report back.

10. **Traffic/Highways/Signs:**

Concerns over access to and from track (The Orchard) – A site meeting with Highways was required, the current situation being totally unacceptable. The Clerk would request a site meeting.

Excessive plant overgrowth on Church Path and Redway – This too was reaching unacceptable levels and represented a safety hazard on Redway for cyclists and pedestrians. The lengthsman would be asked for follow up and if this did not succeed Highways would become involved possibly charging individual householders for the work undertaken. After note – Redway has been cleared but Church Path remained both a hazard and eye sore.

Large Vehicles – There have been several instances lately of large vehicles attempting to transit through the village. The Clerk would contact known companies and local residents would be asked to identify offending companies. It was confirmed that Ford Farm direct their vehicles via Bredy Hut and down Cox's Lane.

Signs – S. Kourik had discussed this matter at some length with Richard Stubbs at DCC. There was no easy answer and further discussions would take place. The fingerpost (in Dorset livery) on Chalk Pit Lane would be removed and sadly could not be used for the hall sign at School Lane. The directional sign in the hedge (near the entrance to Watery Lane) would be removed at some point being out of sync with other signage. The point was made

that the same applied to the YHA sign, and it was possible that this could be changed for a brown sign.

11. Planning Applications:

Summer Hill – Approval had now been given and work had begun

Charity Farm – Holiday Letting Accommodation. This had now been approved with conditions including payment of premiums to support local infrastructure. The council agreed that WDDC should be approached requesting that premiums paid by local applicants should be available for use within the local vicinity.

12. Correspondence: All had been dealt with within the agenda.

13. Any Other Business:

Bus Service – Due to a change-over of bus companies this was in chaos. Within the village, both the service and the conduct of bus service employees were in question. In the wider area the local press reported that there was widespread disruption. Cllr Coatsworth suggested that the council write to David Coates at DCC. The bus service was still subsidized by DCC so there was no excuse for poor or inadequate service.

Waste Station – Cllr Coatsworth stated that a decision had been made that the waste station would now be built just off the A35, beyond Groves Nursery and the Crown roundabout.

Day Care Centres – Cllr Coatsworth indicated that much thought was being given to how these were administered either by the local authority or by private companies.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th November, 7.30 pm

15. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.05 pm.

John Firrell
Parish Clerk
Litton Cheney Parish Council