

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Litton Cheney Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 11th September 2012
At Litton and Thorner's Community Hall**

Present: S. Kourik (Chairman), D. Bowen, I. Homer (for the first part of the meeting), H. Lantos, Mrs A. Spurrier and Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance was Cllr R. Coatsworth, 11 local residents and for Item 2, J. Witherden of WDDC.

1. **Apologies:** Mrs S. Dyke and W. Orchard, and I. Homer for the latter part of the meeting.
2. Jo Witherden, Head of Spatial Policy & Implementation, WDDC was invited to address the meeting by the Chairman. Ms Witherden first of all explained what her job entailed. Primarily her department was responsible for the Draft Local Plan (DLP) and its passage through to the point of examination and onward transmission to central government. In its final form one assumes she would be responsible for its implementation. Ms Witherden addressed the issue that most concerned the residents of Litton Cheney that of development of the brownfield site known as Moxom's Yard. She explained how it could be best addressed. Whatever process was adopted, it was highly likely additional finance from that provided by the local authority would be required to see the process through. It was feasible that this finance could come from the landowner or developer. Questions were asked about defined development boundaries which in the case of Litton Cheney had been withdrawn by WDDC. It was explained that an option was for the Parish Council to define its own development boundary. Some robust Questions were put to Ms Witherden who dealt with them confidently. It did however become obvious that the DLP as it stands is at variance to the guidance and direction given by central government. Whilst the Parish Council were not prepared to champion the development of the site, it was agreed the council would make representation to its ward councillors and other relevant parties within WDDC that on a question of policy, redundant brownfield sites should be given priority when deciding where future development should take place. The Chairman thanked Ms Witherden for attending the meeting and for giving a good account of herself and the difficult task she has to hand.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
4. **Democratic Time:** The Chairman invited comments from the floor on local interest or concern. Mr F. Spicer suggested a letter be written to the local authority highlighting what had been discussed under Item 2. This was agreed and Mr Spicer was asked if he would be prepared to draft this letter, to which he agreed. This was accepted – proposed by D. Bowen, seconded by H. Lantos and carried unanimously. A letter was subsequently prepared and final contents agreed by the Parish Council. It was sent to Cllr Tom Bartlett with copies to various members of West Dorset District Council. Mr Spicer also asked what progress had been made with cutting back the greenery on Redway and School Lane. The Clerk confirmed that he was in discussion with a local contractor (in the

absence of a village lengthsmen) and the work would be carried out shortly. After note – it has been done. Mrs Whillock reported that the small wall at the bottom of School Lane had been damaged.

5. Approval of the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 10th

July 2012: It was proposed by D. Bowen, seconded by Mrs A. Spurrier and carried unanimously that the Minutes were a true reflection of the meeting. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

6. Matters arising: Any relevant matter would be dealt with as part of current meeting's agenda.

7. Finance Report: The Clerk and RFO presented his report. Total Funds stood at £3933.47. Income since July had been £0.08p (interest) and expenditure £544.18p made up of maintenance £164.98, ditching £180, Armed Forces Day flag £78 and DAPTC subscription £121.20. A VAT refund (to date) of £221.87 was applicable and the second half of the precept (£1500) was due in late September. An invoice for website hosting of £60 (incl. Vat) was approved. Proposed by D. Bowen, seconded by H. Lantos and carried unanimously. Copies of the Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests had been lodged with WDDC and a letter acknowledging this act had been received. A submission concerning the Draft Local Plan had been made during the consultation period.

8. Councillors Portfolios: Allotments/Playing Field – D. Bowen stated that the main area of concern was evidence that motor vehicles were being used on the playing fields without authorization. This problem had arisen in the past and a barrier had been considered. It was agreed that costs to have a central locking post installed would be investigated by D. Bowen. In the absence of Cllr Orchard, the Chairman highlighted various points in the village where repairs were required to the roads. Much of the damage had been caused by HGV's. Information would be placed on the village website showing website addresses whereby local residents could report roads unsuitable for HGV's and this information would be used by Sat Nav map coordinators to correct current readings. It was agreed that the repairs carried out in Chalk Pit Lane were pretty shoddy. H. Lantos brought the meeting up to date with the super broadband situation where we needed to express an interest. S. Kourik indicated that he had reported the state of The Rocks footpath and action was expected shortly.

9. Planning Applications: Bride Valley Nurseries – a decision was still awaited. Barges Cottage – Amended plans had been submitted and the application had now been approved.

10. Correspondence: Snow Plan – A lengthy email had been received from DCC indicating that supplies of salt/grit for bins will become liable for charges when bins are refilled and if deemed for community use rather than strategic. The two bins in the village are considered to be strategic and located at the top of Redway and the bottom of School Lane. If the village submitted a snow plan and took custody of a snow plough

blade, in the event of snow they would receive an additional payment of £200 to take account of other costs. **Audit** – Confirmation had now been received that BDO (our current external auditor) had been re-appointed by the Audit Commission to conduct LC's external audit for the next 5 years. After note: BDO have confirmed the completion of LC's external audit and a clean bill of health has been given with no observations made.

11.**AOB:** None.

12 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 13th November 2012

13 There being no further business the meeting closed at 9 p.m.

John Firrell - Clerk to Litton Cheney Parish Council