

LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Litton Cheney Parish Council
held on Tuesday 8th September 2015
at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall
Litton Cheney**

Present: S. Kourik (Chairman), W. Orchard (Deputy Chairman), Mrs D. Cheater, I. Homer, Mrs A. Spurrier and Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance Cllr J. Russell (Ward Councillor), Cllr R. Coatsworth (WDDC & DCC) and 8 local residents.

1. **Apologies:** C. Franklin and Dr. H. Lantos.

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None declared.

3. **Democratic Time:** The Chairman reminded those who might wish to speak during Democratic Time that they would be allowed three minutes to make their point or express a view. In the event no one took the opportunity to speak on this occasion.

4. **Outline Planning Application for two dwellings on land close to Barges Close:**

An application (WD/D/15/001674) had been submitted by CG Fry & Son and before the Parish Council deliberated on the application, the Chairman invited anyone attending the meeting to speak on the subject bearing in mind the three minute rule. Several of those attending chose to speak and covered areas of concern such as “the wrong type of housing”, the need for more modest housing that allowed young families to grow into, that the area in question had become a wildlife refuge and now represented amenity value. Other issues discussed included increased traffic in Barges Close (point of access) in an area used as a “safe” play point for children, impact of the development within a Conservation Area and AONB and the need for archaeological and environmental assessments.

Members of the Parish Council had attended a site visit arranged by the developer prior to the Parish Council Meeting so that they could fully appraise themselves of the situation and therefore ask relevant and pertinent questions at the time. After all those at the Parish Council Meeting who wished to speak had been given an opportunity to do so, the Parish Council deliberated and came to the unanimous decision to object to the planning application. The decision was based predominantly on the fact that the type of housing proposed was inappropriate from that thought to be required in the village, that the site itself was unsuitable for housing per se and other concerns expressed had significant relevance. Proposed by W. Orchard and seconded by Mrs D. Cheater and carried unanimously. At this point a number of local residents attending excused themselves from the meeting.

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th July 2015:** It was proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by S. Kourik and agreed by those who had attended the meeting that the minutes reflected a true record of proceedings.

6. **Matters Arising from the previous meeting not covered at this meeting:** Radio Mast – This continued to be delayed for reasons not relayed to the Parish Council. Our local MP had been informed of the circumstances and it was hoped he might be able to

influence progress. Mrs A. Spurrier would also speak with John Cooper who owned the site. Magna Green – another area of slow progress despite our legal representative chivvying up Magna's legal department. Defibrillator – There was a need to decide a location for the machine and after some debate, and subject to confirmation that the chosen site could support a defibrillator set up, it was decided that the bus stop would be the preferred location.

7. Approval of Minutes of Parish Council Meetings held on 1st and 17th June to discuss the Charity Farm Planning Application: Proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by I. Homer that the two sets of minutes were a true reflection of the meetings which resulted in the council's submission to WDDC. Carried on the votes of those councillors who attended the meetings.

8. WDDC Overview: The Chairman welcomed Cllr John Russell to his first meeting as our Ward Councillor and his return from illness. Cllr Russell thanked the Parish Council and stated he looked forward to playing an active part by picking up on matters of interest as a result of his attendance at meetings and hopefully being kept informed by other means. Cllr Ron Coatsworth expressed his hope that the new Waste Amenity Site in Bridport would open as projected in October. Asked by the Chairman what would happen to the old site in South Street, he indicated that it would probably be identified for residential development but it was early days.

9. Finance Report: The Clerk/RFO presented this report. Funds stood at £8359.16 as a result of the second half of the annual precept being received. Taking account of funds held for the village defibrillator, available funds stood at £7428.16. Since July income was £1837.09 (£1800 precept, £37 Local authority grant, £0.09p interest, and expenditure £221.93 (Lengthsman £90 and DAPTC subscription £131.93). Invoices requiring approval – Village Lengthsman £165 and R. Randall (Stream clearance) £132 incl Vat. It was proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by Mrs D. Cheater and carried unanimously that they be paid. A payment receipt for purchase of new basket ball stand padding for £90 remained outstanding and would be provided by W. Orchard.

10. Councillors Portfolios: Highways/Footpaths/Lengthsman – S Kourik had charge of this portfolio. There was little to report on highways, however, village lengthsman James Williams had put himself forward for consideration in the role of Parish Rights of Way Officer, given he is often to be seen walking the highways and byways of the village and surrounding area. It was considered he was ideally suited for the role and it was proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by I. Homer and carried unanimously that he be offered the role, and as he was present at the meeting he verbally accepted. The RoW Officer would report on matters affecting rights of way to the Parish Council before each meeting. The Clerk would be used as the conduit to convey information and concerns to WDDC/DCC and third parties. Playing Field/Allotments – Responsible Councillor, Mrs D. Cheater. The stream down the right hand side of the playing field had been successfully cleared. There was still some work to do regarding a general tidying up of the area. Dogs continued to be walked in the field when in fact they were not allowed. Several of those present had reason to look guilty. The hedge between the playing field and allotments required attention but there was some debate as to what action should be taken. SK would talk with Andy King regarding the height of the hedge and plans to “lay” it in time to come. Mrs Cheater stated that she had been made aware by several parents that some of the play equipment was outdated and perhaps needed refreshing. With the agreement of the Parish Council she would look at what could be achieved, bearing in mind that there were funds available to the Parish Council including that held by Cllr Coatsworth, S106 and Wessex Water, although some of

that may be required to help fund work required on Magna Green.

Neighbourhood Plan (W. Orchard) – In continuation of that said at the last PC meeting, it was suggested that we might use Lodders Neighbourhood Plan as a template for our own, given their situation was somewhat similar. They had in fact chosen to identify land they as a village would not like developed. More information would be garnered. Although the Neighbourhood Plan would be initiated by the Parish Council, it would be left for a project team yet to be recruited to run. The next move was a mail drop and then a public meeting at which talent for the project team would be sought. Superfast Broadband – Still on course for this year.

11. Wessex Water: Concern continued to be expressed at the amount of extraction being taken from the east end of the village. Wessex Water had indicated they intended to reduce the amount being taken to more acceptable levels. Local MP Oliver Letwin had been alerted to this situation and had asked to be kept informed. Mrs Spurrier suggested Wessex Water should investigate why the water in the western end of the village continued to be of poor and therefore unusable quality.

12. Outstanding Planning Matters: Charity Farm – At the time of the meeting no more had been heard but subsequent to the meeting the Parish Council were informed that the planning application had been withdrawn.

13. Correspondence not dealt with as part of this agenda: Correspondence from BDO - The Clerk used this item to inform the meeting that the external audit report had been received from BDO regarding the annual report and accounts. A clean bill of health had been given with no issues requiring further comment. A notice had been displayed indicating that the requisite financial information was available for public inspection by arrangement with the RFO. Ashley Chase Estates & HGV's – A meeting would be held at the end of September between representatives from Litton Cheney Parish Council, Long Bredy Parish Council, Dorset Highways and Ashley Chase Estates (Cheese Dairy) to discuss the continuing problem of HGV's transiting Litton Cheney.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th November 2015, 7.30 pm – LATCH

15. Handover of Chairmanship: As decided at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May, the Chairmanship of the Parish Council would change after this meeting. The new Chairman would be the present Deputy Chairman, W. Orchard, and the present Chairman S. Kourik would take on the role of Deputy Chairman. Outgoing Chairman S. Kourik thanked his fellow councillors and Clerk for their support during his tenure as Chairman and wished Cllr Orchard every success in his new role. Incoming Chairman W. Orchard thanked Cllr Kourik for his hard work and tenacity over several years and also for agreeing to stay on in the role of Deputy Chairman.

16. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.03 pm

J. Firrell
Parish Clerk