

## LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Litton Cheney Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall Litton Cheney

Present: W. Orchard (Chairman), S. Kourik (Deputy Chairman), Mrs K. Brooks, I. Homer, A. King, Dr H. Lantos, and J. Firrell (Clerk). Also in attendance Cllr R. Coatsworth and one local resident.

1. **Apologies:** Mrs A. Spurrier, Cllr J. Russell and Mrs M. Hickling (Parish Footpaths & RoW Officer).
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **DCC Overview:** This item was brought forward at the request of Cllr Coatsworth as he had a further engagement to attend. He wished to bring to the Parish Council's attention the consultation that was currently being carried out regarding the reshaping of the various councils in Dorset with the aim of bringing 9 councils down to 2. Both councils and individuals were encouraged to have their say, and recommend which permutation they preferred when combining the various areas currently covered by district and unitary councils. I. Homer had recently attended a workshop hosted by the DAPTC and held at LATCH which was convened to discuss this very issue. In excess of 40 people from various town and parish councils had attended. It appeared that the exercise was finance driven and although a particular permutation had been recommended it was not known at this point which "scheme" would be favoured by most councils. Cllr Coatsworth also made mention that in time to come more tasks would be delegated to town and parish councils to carry out without it seemed the necessary finance to do so, leaving it for the council to either increase its precept and/or find volunteer labour. At this point Cllr Coatsworth left the meeting.
4. **Democratic Time:** The Chairman in introducing this item made it clear there was a time limit of three minutes for any one individual who wished to speak. Mr J. Williams in his three minutes covered various subjects including a leaking BT manhole cover, seat belts on the school bus, a reference to the need for more transparency, lengthsman's duties and referred to the setting up of a six-a-side football team who would wish to use the village playing field, and the possibility of creating a community garden. The Chairman indicated that whereby relevant items would be duly noted, he suggested Mr Williams should use a less didactic tone in his presentation when addressing the Parish Council.
5. **Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016:** For clarification purposes it had been pointed out in Democratic Time that at the July meeting, during the report on the Playing Fields/Allotments, whilst Mr King had recommended that the goalposts be removed, it should also have mentioned that replacements would be installed of a suitable size and type. Proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by Dr H. Lantos and carried unanimously that the Minutes of the Meeting were a true reflection of the event, and therefore approved.
6. **Matters Arising from the previous meeting not covered at this meeting:** On the

question of whether the Finance Report should go out with the agenda in advance of a meeting, the Chairman felt this was unnecessary, there being sufficient information via meeting minutes for those interested enough to look, or enquire. Charity donations made by the Parish Council accounted for 4% of the total precept and were donated to charities (Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and Bridport CAB) whereby it was considered there was a very real prospect that residents of Litton Cheney might have use at some point of these services. Planning Applications – Although there was no legal requirement to do so it had always been the intent to show current planning applications in the appropriate section of the village website. This had lapsed but has now been resumed. It was emphasised that information on planning applications past and present could be very easily found on the Dorset for You website. Triangle Tree – The WDDC Arboricultural Team had confirmed that the tree situated at the “Triangle” was past its best and should ideally be replaced. Discussions were now taking place between members of the Litton Cheney Social Committee who had offered to pay for a replacement tree and the Parish Council as to the way forward, what type of tree and the possible replanting of “Triangle” area. It was suggested by I. Homer that a sample be taken of the soil to see if this had a relevance to the health of the present tree, and how it might impact on the health of any replacement. Bus Service Review – This consultation has now been completed and the resulting report could be found online at Dorset for You. The Chairman had forwarded the view of the Parish Council indicating the detrimental effect the loss of the 210 bus service would have throughout the Bride Valley. It is believed several individual submissions from residents of Litton Cheney and the Bride Valley had also been sent. Scouts – Litter Pick: It was agreed by a majority show of hands that £50 should be forwarded to the Bride Valley Scouts for their litter picking efforts – with thanks.

7. **Finance Report:** The Clerk & RFO informed the meeting that PC funds currently stood at £5656.45. Since July, income received had been £0.32p (Interest) and expenditure £280.37 (DAPTC annual sub £138.38), (Village Lengthsman £141.99). The following invoices were approved for payment – Village Lengthsman £120.00, Reimbursement to J. Firrell for NP leaflet printing £4.40 and Humphries Kirk (Land Registry Fee) £40.00. Proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by I. Homer and carried unanimously. VAT repayable so far - £140.73. The second part of the precept (£1824.50) would be due in October and an invoice of £330 plus Vat was expected from R. Randall once ditch clearing and vegetation cut back work had been completed in the playing field. The External Audit Report from BDO was expected shortly.

8. **Councillors Portfolios:** Highways/Transport (W. Orchard) – Work has been carried out in conjunction with Dorset Highways and BT on a flooded manhole. Gulleys have been cleaned in and around “Puddlehole”. A further Travel Plan meeting has been held with Ashley Chase Estates, Long Bredy PC and Dorset Highways regarding HGV movements to and from Ashley Chase and its impact as the new storage unit nears completion. A monitoring system set up by ACE does not seem to be working effectively.

Playing Fields/Allotments (A. King) – A further meeting had been held with Mrs D. Cheater on progressing plans for a revitalised play area. The work would be carried out in stages, as finance allowed. Three quotes would be sought for fencing around the play area. It had been suggested that school children at Thorner's be asked what would make them want to come to a play area, and he would approach Mrs Chaffey, Headteacher at Thorner's, to ask if this was possible. Whilst the present goalposts would at some point be replaced, it was possible that smaller goalposts would be installed in their place. The hedge between the playing field and allotments was in urgent need of trimming or layering and this would be left to the Allotment Association to decide what would be best.

Neighbourhood Plan (W. Orchard) – A meeting had been held on 31<sup>st</sup> August for those residents interested in joining a steering group that would investigate the whys and wherefores of a Neighbourhood Plan. In excess of twelve people had volunteered to join this group and an inaugural meeting would be held in the coming weeks.

Superfast Broadband (Dr H. Lantos) – The mobile phone part of this portfolio had now been passed to S. Kourik who would act as the Community Champion and identify areas suitable for link aerials. Superfast Broadband reception was thought to be spasmodic both in quality and speed. The take up so far had been limited and those who had subscribed had yet to see any dramatic change in speeds, and others who had yet to subscribe commented on a reduced reception quality for normal broadband since SFB had been introduced. Dr Lantos would follow up with the Dorset SFB Team. It was also agreed to ask BT/OpenReach to paint the scruffy green box at the foot of Whiteway..

Mobile Phone Coverage/Footpaths/Row/Lengthsman (S. Kourik) – EE had requested that the Community Champion identified properties in the village that would be suitable for rooftop aerials that could provide a link to other similar installations thereby providing an appropriate environment for efficient mobile reception. A number of questions had been levelled at EE and answers were awaited. The village lengthsman had attended to a number of footpaths, particularly around the entrances. Footpaths generally were in reasonable order, with an outstanding query on one that appeared to have gone slightly awry. A hastener had been forwarded to DCC asking for a quote on the cost of coating “The Rocks” with a special substance that would improve the grip on the path especially around wet areas.

Risk Assessment (Mrs K. Brooks) – There now existed a comprehensive list of risk assessments undertaken during the course of the year by the Parish Council which also formed part of the Annual Report. It had been pointed out to the Clerk by the external auditor BDO that although the risk assessment had been carried out in March 2016, within the last fiscal year, it had not been minuted until May 2016.

**9. Planning Matters Pending & Outcomes:** Planning applications currently under consideration by WDDC are – Land adjacent to Four Meads Farm – now approved, The Court House, The Old Post Office and Tree Works at Glebe Cottage. Tree Works at Skep House had recently been approved. All details could be found on the Dorset for You website.

**10. Correspondence not dealt with as part of the agenda:** Notification had been received that the mobile library service to Litton Cheney would be discontinued towards the end of 2016 due to financial cutbacks. Contingency arrangements would be put in place to ensure those who could not get to a static library would be catered for, plus reliance on the good neighbour initiative and home service library. In addition, Litton Cheney's Village Cafe did provide a used book facility. It was possible that in time to come the telephone kiosk when no longer required to have a telephone could be used as a mini-library.

**11. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7.30 pm.

**12.** There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

J. Firrell – Parish Clerk