

# LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting of Litton Cheney Parish Council held on Tuesday 12 September 2017 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

Present: Bill Orchard (Chairman); Kathryn Brooks, John Firrell; Andy King; Steve Kourik; Hugh Lantos; Bella Spurrier; Maggie Walsh (Clerk). Also in attendance: Councillors John Russell and Ros Kayes and 6 local residents

1. **Apologies for absence:** none
2. **Declarations of interest:** none
3. **Democratic time:** James Williams raised a number of issues. New nets were required for the large goal posts and there were numerous rabbit holes and mole hills on the playing field: as a result it was not currently being used for football. He asked councillors to publish a report detailing what funds were ringfenced for the playground and how they would be spent. At the last meeting, it had been claimed there was little funding available for footpaths, however, he believed funds could be obtained from various sources and mentioned the Loders Health and Footpath project to replace styles with gates. He asked if an X51 bus timetable could be displayed at the bus stop - JF undertook to do this.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 July:** it was proposed by John Firrell, seconded by Andy King and decided unanimously that these be approved.

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 18 May re Charity Farm:** it was proposed by Steve Kourik, seconded by Hugh Lantos and decided unanimously that these be approved.

5. **Matters arising from previous meeting not otherwise on the agenda** - none.
6. **DCC/WDDC overview.** Councillor Ros Kayes reported that the Local Government Review of devolution was gathering pace. Following concerns raised by the Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP) she was attempting to provide a list of services that might possibly be devolved.

She planned to spend some time looking at potholes and asked that, in addition to using the online facility to log their location, she be notified about any potholes causing concern.

Cllr Kayes invited JF to attend the Town Council's Community Bus Group meeting as he had been investigating potential replacement buses in Litton Cheney. One option may be to set up a bus club; this enabled fares to be charged to those holding concessionary charges and would also enable a timetable to be published. Cllr Kayes clarified that money paid to local authorities by central government for concessionary travel, although ringfenced to transport, was not ringfenced to concessionary travel and that Dorset County Council paid bus operators considerably less per journey than other councils in the south west.

Councillor John Russell explained that the West Dorset District Council Planning Committee had decided, contrary to the case officer's recommendation, that the Charity Farm planning application could be approved subject to satisfactory completion of a S106 agreement and further work on affordable housing need. He could not speak on behalf of the planning committee, but his personal view was that it is important to invest in villages so they do not die and that new housing is needed as West Dorset do not have a 5 year housing land supply and there are significant financial implications if applications are refused and subsequently go to appeal. Bill Orchard clarified that the parish council, whilst it had concerns about some aspects of the application, had not objected to the Charity Farm proposal, but were concerned that approving this application contrary to local planning policy\* might set a precedent and open the floodgate for further applications. [\*i.e. that, except for affordable housing, there should be no new dwellings in villages without a development boundary.] Cllr Russell said that any future applications would be determined on a case by case basis.

Cllr Kayes highlighted that the local authority have an empty homes policy to get empty homes back into use but felt that the main problem was the lack of new affordable homes being built.

7. **Finance report:** RFO Maggie Walsh reported that parish funds currently stood at £7,981.20.

Approved spend since the meeting of 11 July was £766.20: of this £358.84 was approved at that meeting (playground equipment) and £383.35 had been paid to the clerk. Income since 11 July was £0.21p interest.

Invoices requiring approval - £172.75. It was proposed by John Firrell, seconded by Steve Kourik and carried unanimously that £137.75 be paid for DAPTC subscription. It was proposed by John Firrell, seconded by Andy King and carried unanimously that £35.00 be paid for attendance at DAPTC Clerks course.

After allowing for the clerks salary for the remainder of the year and the second half of the precept due in October (approximately £3,600), this left an available balance of approximately £9,200 which included the balance of £1111.11 ringfenced for the playground. There was also an additional £19 VAT to be reclaimed.

MW had received notice of completion of audit from the external auditors. No matters had been raised. A public notice would be published shortly.

8. **Councillors' portfolios:** Highways/Transport (Bill Orchard): Erection of the site accommodation for the works proposed by Wessex Water were due to commence on 15 September. Additional unexpected work had been identified so works would now continue into 2018. Wessex Water were mindful of the impact of construction traffic within the village and BO had received a copy of their traffic management plan: lorries under 7.5 tons would approach down Whiteway; anything larger would use Chalkpit Lane as it could not manage the sharp turn into the site from Whiteway; there would be no articulated trailers. Wessex Water had undertaken to notify affected resident as part of their travel plan.

A number of road markings had appeared around potholes and on a tree within the village. Both Highways and Wessex Water claim not to have made the marks. Highways had visited that day and said the potholes were not at "intervention level" and that it was a criminal offence for members of the public to mark highways.

Playground/playing field/allotments (Andy King): the new swing seats and chains were up and running and the frame painted; the basketball net had been put up and the basketball area cleaned and swept. The slide was damaged and may require attention in the future. Some dangerous tree branches over the playground had been removed.

As of 12 September he was in a position to announce that the Big Lottery Fund had awarded a grant of £6,842 towards the playground, subject to work commencing in November and being completed by March. When added to funds already ringfenced for the playground this left a balance of £4,800 which could come from a number of sources. WDDC held £5,200 in S106 funds on behalf of the village that could be used for the playground, but some of this may be needed for other projects and councillors were reluctant to drain the fund as the playground does not benefit all residents. Within the S106 funds, £2,674.86 was held for parks, gardens, outdoor sport and play areas. It was proposed by Andy King, seconded by John Firrell and carried unanimously that Andy King apply for £2,674.86 from S106 and seek the remaining balance of £2,207 initially from Dorset County Council Activity Fund and/or Wessex Water.

The Chairman thanked Andy, Diana Cheater and the remainder of the team for their work preparing the lottery fund application.

A breakdown of where the playground funds have come from and how they will be spent would be provided (appended to these minutes).

Footpaths/rights of way/mobile phone (Steve Kourik): SK was monitoring works currently blocking the Bridleway at Baglake Farm which he assumed did not have the necessary consent.

He still awaited a recommendation on how to proceed with regard to The Rocks. He would be expecting Dorset County Council to contribute at least half of the cost.

Contractors had been on the site earmarked for the phone mast on Chalkpit Lane and had identified an issue with the cost of providing electricity to the site.

Agricultural liaison (Bella Spurrier) nothing to report

Risk assessment/transparency code/annual report (Kathryn Brooks) KB continued monitoring and confirmed that the website was up-to-date. However a number of Word documents appeared not to be protected. KB will provide examples to JF

Village fabric/maintenance/devolved services (John Firrell). JF had identified a list of required repairs to finger posts around the village and Dorset AONB have offered help. JF has discussed with Highways the possibility of resiting the Chalkpit Lane finger post to reduce the future risk of being beheaded by vehicles. The fingerpost opposite the White Horse also needs repair. There may be some costs for the Parish Council but there are possible other sources of funds/grants available.

The parish council had already obtained permission to remove the Maple on the triangle and the social committee have offered to fund replacement tree and planting. The planting season for bare root trees is approaching and he had obtained a quote of £355 to remove the existing tree and vegetation, grind the stump and fill with top soil. It was agreed that JF would obtain a 2nd quote. (2nd quote of £440 since obtained. Task has since been allocated on basis of cheaper quote discussed at the meeting.)

JF and SK would attend a meeting of BLAP on 20 September. Dorset County Council had responded to BLAP's letter asking a number of specific questions about devolution but their response was not very enlightening and there was widespread concern at the lack of information coming forward.

9. **210 Bus service:** JF reported that the 210 service had ceased since the last meeting. Dorset Community Transport had provided a bus service for a trial period, once a week on Wednesdays. The fare was £3 and passengers needed to book at least the day before. This trial had been extended. Bus users were happy with the service but would ideally like 2 buses a week. In addition Dial a Bus operated every Wednesday - one week out of four to Dorchester and the rest to Bridport.

JF had also established that Blue Bird coaches, who operate the Thorners school run, would be prepared to take passengers back into Bridport after they drop off the children, returning in the afternoon when they collect the children for £75 per day. However they will not handle cash so there would need to be a means by which the village collected fares, which could be used to offset some of the £75 cost. Dorset Community Transport would operate a similar scheme for £80 per trip, charging £5 per return trip, also offset against the £80 cost\*. (\*Thus if 10 passengers each paid £5 there would be a balance of £30 to make up). He was also speaking to Beeline taxis, who drop off at the school, about the fare to take passengers into Bridport on their return journey. JF planned to contact neighbouring parish councils to gauge their interest. The fare would be the same regardless of where passengers boarded the bus.

There are a brigade of volunteers willing to give villagers a lift to the A35 to catch the X51 if needed.

The issue was raised that 16-18 year olds are now required to stay in compulsory education or training but that there was no school transport provision for them.

10. **Dog waste bins and attacks on sheep** JF had received a number of requests for the parish council to provide dog waste bins and there was a suggestion that, in locations where bins were provided, there was less dog excrement. MW reported that the Dorset Waste Partnership's (DWP) policy was not to provide any new dedicated dog waste bins but instead to move to combined mixed litter and dog waste bins. MW provided their costs for different bin sizes. It was suggested that, should the parish council decide to provide additional bins, these might be filled by those staying in holiday lets. There was also concern that additional bins would encourage villagers to bring dogs into play areas. It was proposed by John Firrell, seconded by Steve Kourik and unanimously decided that the parish council should not provide additional bins for mixed litter and dog waste. The existing bin by the bus stop takes litter and dog waste and is emptied free of charge by DWP.

Richard Cousins had lost 2 sheep to dog attacks around 6 weeks previously. The next meeting would consider what action might be taken, including additional signage, to encourage people to take their waste home with them and to keep dogs on leads where required.

11. **Planning matters:**

WD/D/17/001608 White Cross House - change existing 3 dwellings to 4

WD/D/17/001606 Whiteway - water treatment works

WD/D/17/001626 1 Rose Cottage, Main Street - replacement porch, alterations to existing outbuilding and erect shed and workshop

The Parish Council discussed each of the above three planning applications and in each case decided it would make no comment.

MW reported that since the last meeting, permission had been granted for the Police Phone Mast (WD/D/17/001631). Listed Building Consent had been granted for Charity Farm (WD/D/17/000759- dismantle barn and former bull pen) and that the planning committee had determined that the permission could be granted for Charity Farm (WD/D/17/000758 - erect 6 new dwellings and convert redundant agricultural building to dwelling) subject to the applicant undertaking work on housing needs and satisfactory completion of a S106 agreement pertaining to affordable housing.

12. **Housing needs survey:** at the previous meeting, in light of the decision not to proceed with a neighbourhood plan and, pending the Charity Farm planning application, MW had been tasked with finding out how the parish council would undertake a housing needs assessment, should it wish to do so. MW had spoken with the housing enabling team who indicated that, where parishes wished to undertake a housing needs survey, the housing enabling team would work with them to achieve this. They had provided some example paperwork and guidance. However, since the last meeting, the Charity Farm applicant had been asked to undertake a housing needs assessment to establish whether below market value open market housing was the most appropriate form of affordable housing for Litton Cheney (see item 11). There was some consensus that there was little point in the parish council duplicating this work providing the nature of the assessment met the needs of the village and not the aspirations of the developer. MW was awaiting clarification on exactly what the applicant was required to provide and would report back as and when further information became available.
13. **Correspondence not dealt with as part of the agenda:** none
14. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 14 November 2017, 7.30 pm. Agenda to include initial consideration of precept for 2018-19
15. **Meeting closed.**

Maggie Walsh - Parish Clerk

Playground project - breakdown of costs/income

Appendix

<b>Costs</b>	
Refurbishment of swing seats etc (already complete & paid for)	£358.84
Refurbishment of castle	£100.00
Supply and install refurbished pirate ship and tractor play equipment	£2,437.19
Supply and install new timber basket swing	£2,789.70
Supply and install new rubber grassmat surface to all equipment	£3,775.98
Supply and install 7 new timber sleeper benches	£1,687.37
Supply and install new timber picket fencing to surround play area with pedestrian gate and double access gate	£2,685.00
<b>Total costs still to be paid</b>	<b>£13,834.08</b>
<b>Sources of funding</b>	
Big lottery fund grant	£6,842.00
Private donation	£350.00
Parish Council funds	£500.00
Variety show	£619.95
Litton Cheney village dinner	£540.00
S106 funds held for parks, gardens & outdoor sport	£1,987.37
S106 funds held for play areas	£687.49
Balance of funding required. Whilst confidence is high that this money will be forthcoming, we are not currently in a position to state where it will come from as there are a number of possible sources.	£2307.27
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>£13,834.08</b>