

## LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Litton Cheney Parish Council  
held on Tuesday 11 September at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

Present: Bill Orchard (Chairman); Andy King; Bella Spurrier; Tessa Mulhall; Maggie Walsh (Clerk).  
Also in attendance: Cllr John Russell, Cllr Mark Roberts and 8 local residents.

1. **Apologies:** Kathryn Brooks, John Firrell; Steve Kourik;
2. **Declarations of interest:** none
3. **Democratic time** the following issues were raised:
  - The allotment fence proposed for replacement was not erected by the Parish Council and the Parish Council was not responsible for maintaining it. Should the PC spend £1,400 of public funds on it?
  - If the fence were not replaced, crops would be eaten and allotment holders would abandon their plots.
4. **Approval of Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 10 July** - it was proposed by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Spurrier and carried unanimously that the minutes be approved.
5. **Matters arising from previous meeting not covered at this meeting:**
  - The nuisance caused by flies had been raised at the previous meeting. The PC subsequently contacted Environmental Health, who said they would investigate if the level of nuisance materially affected villagers' lives. The PC would evaluate the scale of the problem before deciding whether or not to pursue the matter further.
6. **DCC/WDDC overview** – Cllr John Russell reported that the shadow authority had a large agenda to get through. Cllr Mark Roberts added that there was a shadow executive of 20 Councillors, most of whom were “champion” to a particular work stream. An enormous amount of work was required behind the scenes and there was insufficient officer time to get through it all – e.g. around 15,000 staff had to be transferred to the new unitary authority under TUPE rules. There would effectively be a period of limbo between 1 April, when the new Unitary came into effect, and the elections in May. Several authorities had commented on the recent consultation on proposed parish boundary changes – the outcome was yet to be published. The new Chief Executive would be confirmed on 27 September.
7. **Finance report – RFO** The finance report had been circulated with the agenda. Parish funds currently stood at £7,695.19 (£8,276.31 general fund and -£581.12 playground). Approved spend since July's meeting was £966.16 comprising £565.99 clerk's salary and the following invoices approved at the last meeting: £140.17 DAPTC subscription, £35 GDPR registration and £225 donations (£75 each to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, Bride Valley News and Bridport Citizens Advice Bureau). The BVN and CAB had thanked Litton Cheney PC for the donations. Income since May's meeting was 21p interest.

Invoices for approval: there would be an invoice of £95 for the playground inspection once the inspection had taken place and a report received. It was proposed by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Spurrier and carried unanimously that this be approved.

In addition, the Clerk wished to attend a DAPTC course on budgets and precepts at a cost of £40. It was proposed by Cllr Orchard, seconded by Cllr Spurrier and carried unanimously that this be approved.

After allowing for known commitments and income (but excluding any expenditure that might be approved by Parish Councillors for allotment fencing) there was currently an anticipated year end surplus of income over expenditure of approximately £2,200. However, at this stage of the financial year, additional, currently unidentified costs, were likely to arise.

**uncillors' portfolios:** Cllr Orchard reported that, since the last meeting, there had been a change in portfolio arrangements: Cllr Brooks had taken on responsibility for Planning and Cllr Mulhall had taken on responsibility for Risk Assessment, Transparency and Data Protection.

Highways/Transport (Bill Orchard): Together with John Firrell he had met with the Bridport Town Council Surveyor to look at the collapsed stream opposite Charity Farm. The PC felt the stream should be piped at this point to avoid recurrence of the problem, but Dorset County Council were averse to this. Fortunately the summer had been dry but the stream would overflow when rainfall increased and would become a significant hazard when the water froze. Bridport TC would liaise directly with DCC over a permanent solution. Cllr Roberts also undertook to follow this up. **MR**

Meanwhile, temporary repairs would be made until a permanent solution could be found. Costs and specification were awaited.

The weekly Wednesday and fortnightly Saturday bus services would continue until the end of 2018 when it would be reviewed. The PC were grateful to Dorset Community Transport for providing this service. Wessex Water had completed the mains replacement works and left the village.

Playground/Playing Field/Allotments (Andy King): someone had hung a carrier bag for rubbish in the playground and had removed the rubbish. There had been no further reports of dog excrement in the playing field nor had he seen any. If the situation continued, he would propose at November's meeting that the trial arrangements with regard to dogs be made permanent, at which point the signage would be updated. He planned to alter the gate so children using the playground found it easier to open. **AK**

He noted the comments made during democratic time. He had understood that the PC had erected the internal perimeter fence. However, he shared concerns that the allotments would fall vacant if the fence were not replaced, in which event the PC could be responsible for clearing/maintaining the site. At the last meeting, he had reported on 3 comparable quotes to replace the fencing - £4,556, £4,250 and approximately £2,000. Following this he had gone back to all three contractors, only one of whom (the latter) submitted a cheaper quote of £1,450 for an amended scheme which involved folding, rather than burying the bottom of the fence. The work could be completed after September. Cllr King proposed that the PC pay the initial expenditure to enable the work to be completed whilst external funding was sought. This was seconded by Cllr Orchard and unanimously approved. **AK**

Footpaths/Rights of Way/Mobile Phone Mast (Cllr Orchard on behalf of Steve Kourik): Vodafone had indicated their users should have a signal in the next 2 to 3 months.

Planning (Clerk Maggie Walsh on behalf of Kathryn Brooks): there were 5 outstanding planning matters:

- Land adjacent to Four Meads Farm (WD/D/16/001006): the barn erected did not accord with the approved plans and so an application to vary the consent was awaited. **Lan**
- Charity Farm – erection of agricultural building – prior approval (WD/D/18/001183): the building was constructed before prior consent was obtained and so full planning permission was now required. There will be an opportunity to comment once a valid application has been submitted. **Cha**
- Charity Farm – erection of 6 dwellings (WD/D/17/00758): the S106 agreement was still being prepared. No decision could be issued until the S106 is in place. **Cha**
- Parsons Farm Cheese Dairy – effluent lake (WD/D/17/002317): awaiting an update from the case officer. **Par**

- ganics – application to modify S106 agreement (WD/D/18/000124): awaiting an update from the case officer. Our

Since the last meeting, the following applications had been approved.

- The Paddocks, erect garden and utility room (WD/D/18/001240): approved 6 August 5
- ges Cottage, Hinds Mead Lane – erect rear porch (WD/D/18/000424): confirmation of compliance approved 30 July. Bar

Risk Assessment/Transparency Code/Annual Report (Tessa Mulhall): nothing to report.

Agricultural Liaison (Bella Spurrier): nothing to report

Village Fabric/Maintenance/Devolved Services (Cllr Orchard on behalf of John Firrell): several jobs had been completed by volunteers (AKA “the Premier Crew”) – they had done sterling work and their efforts were appreciated. A list of jobs had been sent to the Bridport Lengthsman Team who would carry out the tasks as part of the ongoing agreement with Bridport Town Council. Several tasks relating to repairs to village furniture would be carried out by competent local residents, specialised contractors or suppliers in keeping with the PC’s financial projections. There was still no information about what tasks may devolve to the PC under the new Unitary authority, however, many tasks such as street cleaning and verge clearing seemed to have tailed off. For information, the PC is not responsible for the village website, although it does provide a lot of information. The website is run by the Litton Cheney Web Group who were currently in the process of reviewing the website: it was hoped local residents would consider the changes an improvement.

Village Installation Board update: Several villagers had met to discuss content, construction and location but this would be widened to include additional villagers with relevant interests. It was felt it should include the involvement of Thorner’s Primary School Children.

100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WW1 Armistice update: this event would not be driven by the PC but organised by various organisations in the village including St Mary’s Parochial Church Council, Litton and Thorner’s Community Hall, Thorner’s Primary School, The White Horse, Social Committee, Bride Valley Scout Group and the Parish Council as a collective. A meeting had taken place and planning was at an early stage. Villagers would be kept informed via the village website, Bride Valley News and other appropriate means.

9. **War**
- Memorial**: the Grade II listed WW1/WW2 war memorial needed maintenance as the lettering had faded. The Litton Cheney Trust may contribute and the PC would investigate whether S106 Museum funds could be used. Grants may be available. The War Memorials Trust indicated that paint could be used to highlight the lead lettering. It was possible the work could be carried out by local people with relevant skills. Cllr Orchard proposed that the PC approve the principle of renovating the war memorial, with costs and details to be approved at a later date. This was seconded by Cllr Spurrier and carried unanimously.
10. **Should there be a Village Assembly to establish whether villagers wished to revisit its decision not to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan in light of Cllr Yarker’s comments at the previous meeting?** Cllr Orchard summarised the current planning position with regard to the 5 year housing land supply and the pros and cons of a Neighbourhood Plan. There was considerable debate after which most Parish Councillors felt that there was little credible change/insufficient new evidence to suggest a further consultation would give a different outcome. It was therefore agreed there would be no Village Assembly to discuss this matter.
11. **Correspondence not dealt with as part of the agenda.** There is a WDDC Local Plan Options consultation on the preferred options to meet future growth. Details were on the Dorset For You

website. The consultation ends on 8 October after which all the views would be considered and there would be a further consultation regarding changes made.

12. **Planning Applications pending:** no new planning applications for consideration.
13. **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 13 November – apologies Cllrs King and Mulhall
14. **Meeting closed**

Maggie Walsh - Parish Clerk