

**Minutes of the Litton Cheney Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 9th November 2010
at the Litton and Thorner's Community Hall, Litton Cheney**

Present: F. Spicer(Chairman), S. Kourik (Deputy Chairman), Mrs S. Dyke, W. Orchard, B. Prentice, J. Randall, Mrs A. Spurrier and J. Firrell (Parish Clerk).3 members of the public were also in attendance.

Apologies: Cllr R. Coatsworth and Cllr. T. Bartlett.

1. **Apologies** were received from Cllrs Coatsworth and Bartlett.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** Nobody present wished to take up the opportunity.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th September 2010:** Proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by J. Randall and carried unanimously that the Minutes represented a true reflection of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising:** The Orchard - The Parish Clerk had taken up the various issues raised at the last meeting and a response had been received from CG Fry & Son. It was stressed in the response that nothing had been done that was in contravention of the planning approval. An opening was required to gain access to the adjoining land also owned by CG Fry & Son, access that had previously been gained through the building plot. It was regretted that more of the original structure of the existing building could not be incorporated into the new build but this had not withstood other building work in the vicinity and needed to be removed. It was not a condition of planning approval that the old building or parts of it be retained. Tarmacing of track leading to the community hall - The Chairman had written to Magna Housing who had responded by offering support of the idea and limited finance. Other matters relating to this situation was ongoing. Hall Signs - The Clerk had been in contact with DCC Highways and it was clear that this matter was not going to be resolved easily. He explained the response he had received so far which suggested that a number of signs may be required to conform with regulations, and that the posts would need to be able to withstand the extra weight of the "Hall" sign. The clerk would persist. Rocks - A pressure washer had now been requested and the clerk was asked to write to Alan Spring expressing the gratitude of the Parish Council for carrying out "Rocks" maintenance over many years.
6. **Financial Report:** Parish Precept - This year's precept had been set at £3,000 and the council was now asked to decide the precept for the financial year 2011/12. The Parish Clerk as the Responsible Finance Officer presented options and figures. Current funds with deductions for invoices to be approved at this meeting stood at around £6,000. Funds carried forward to 2011/12 were thought to be in the region of £5,000. Expenditure in the coming year looked to be around £3500, with income from allotments of £175. After some discussion it was agreed the Parish Precept remain at £3,000 to meet additional demands on the Parish Council when funding from both DCC and WDDC was not forthcoming. Audit Review - BDO, the external auditor, had now completed their work and the parish's accounts for the year 2009/10 had been approved. Minor recommendations had been made, the main one being that land owned by the Parish Council should be given a monetary value so that the land remained on the books. It was agreed that this value would be £1 for each parcel of land, currently playing field/allotments and community hall. A Risk Assessment would be carried out shortly by the RFO and Internal Auditor, together with S. Kourik, in line with the audit requirement for the coming

year. Invoices - The following invoices were approved for payment:- Play Inspection Company - £99.88; Room Hire (LATCH) - £3.20; Lengthsman - £240 (4 months); Nildram (IT) - £42.30; BDO - £88.13 and St Mary's PCC - £200. Total £673.51. Proposed by B. Prentice, seconded by Mrs A. Spurrier and carried unanimously.

7. **Playing Field/Allotments:** B. Prentice informed councillors of the current condition of the playing field. An inspection of the playing equipment had been carried out and a comprehensive report submitted. The play equipment was deemed to be in a safe condition although minor maintenance which could be carried out by the village lengthsman was necessary, and this would be progressed. The goal posts currently in place were rusty and not in good condition. It was planned to remove them and possibly replace them with a smaller set of posts more suitable for children. Grass levels on the playing field needed to be reduced. Allotments - it was accepted by all that these were now being kept in better condition but grass tidying up was required. Some work on field drainage was also necessary and which may incur some expense.
8. **Village projects for consideration:** The Chairman acknowledged that information on reducing maintenance costs of the churchyard was still required and this would be tabled at the next meeting.
9. **Traffic/Highways/Signs:** Mrs A Spurrier raised the subject of traffic control at the Triangle. Traffic coming out of Watery Lane ran a very real risk of having an accident with traffic coming from Chalk Pit Lane. A "Stop" or "Give Way" would help. The clerk would raise it again with CSO Sarah and DCC Highways. S. Kourik indicated there was a survey ongoing about village signs including finger posts and urged local residents to report damaged signs to either him or the Clerk. He also mentioned that access to the Bride Valley at Bredy Hut was being looked at with the possibility of improved signage to avoid cars missing the first turning when travelling from Dorchester.
10. **Planning Applications:** a) Waterside - Application for change of roofing material withdrawn. b) Beech House - Approved by WDDC. c) Bride Valley Nurseries - Certificate of Lawfulness refused. d) Charity Farm - Holiday Letting Accommodation - Approved in principle. e) Ourganics - Increase in height of barn. Provide ramp. Alterations to fenestrations and change of material. After some discussion, it was agreed to support the application on a vote of 6 for and 1 against.
11. **Correspondence:** None that had not been dealt with at the meeting.
12. **AOB:** The Chairman relayed information of which Cllr. Bartlett had asked him to make the meeting aware. Now that WDDC and Weymouth and Portland Council had agreed to pool resources, there would now only be one CEO and there were significant savings in other areas. Work would start shortly on the Charles Street Project despite some local opposition.
13. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

John Firrell

Parish Clerk