

LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2011 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

Present: S. Kourik (Chairman), Mrs S Dyke (Deputy Chairman), D. Bowen, I Homer, H Lantos, W. Orchard, Mrs A. Spurrier and J. Firrell (Parish Clerk & RFO). Also in attendance Cllr R. Coatsworth, Mr Ian Madgwick of DCC Highways and nine local residents.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr T. Bartlett. **Declarations of Interest** – None.
2. **Co-option of additional Councillor:** In order that Mr H. Lantos could play a full part in proceedings, the Chairman brought this item to the front of the agenda. It was proposed by Mrs S. Dyke, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously that Mr Hugh Lantos be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Mr Lantos, having signed the necessary documents, was welcomed onto the Parish Council as was Mr Ian Homer whose first meeting this was.
3. **Democratic Time:** At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs Mary Anderson spoke about her concerns and those of others relating to the entrance to the lane leading up to Charity Farm from Main Street. Large vehicles had great difficulty entering and leaving the lane without damaging the walls either side of the lane or encroaching onto the bank of the stream that flows down Main Street. The Chairman thanked Mrs Anderson for her comments and stated that this matter was part of the meeting agenda under Highway Concerns and would now be discussed so as not to detain other interested parties until later in the meeting.
4. **Highway Concerns:** Mr Ian Madgwick of Dorset Highways had kindly agreed to address the meeting over growing concerns of heavy and large vehicles transiting the Bride Valley and on the matter of the Four Meads Farm planning application for a large grain store. He also agreed to comment on the Charity Farm/The Orchard issue raised by Mrs Anderson. He had looked again at the entrance to the lane and agreed that a larger entrance in the form of a bell mouth would indeed help matters. During the course of the planning application for the new house at The Orchard, although the PC had asked for a bell mouth to be considered, it was apparently vetoed by the conservation officer because it would have meant disturbing an ancient wall. Mr Philip Fry, whose company CG Fry & Son had built the house and was in attendance at this meeting, indicated that he was willing to look at the situation again and if necessary approach WDDC again for a change of heart. The PC welcomed this contribution and the Chairman stated that the Parish Council would avidly support such a move and Mr Madgwick indicated he would also support it.
5. **Four Meads Farm** – The Parish Council has expressed considerable concern in its response to WDDC over the impact the necessary heavy vehicles being used to transport the grain to and from the store would have on the local environment and safety on the roads. The location of Four Meads farm was on a particularly dangerous bend in Litton Lane and although the applicant had indicated a willingness to look more closely at what needed to be done to ensure greater safety, there was a feeling amongst the council that more needed to be done, perhaps in the form of additional signage. Mr Madgwick stated that as a result of the PC's response to WDDC he had looked at the situation again but remained of the opinion that if planning permission was granted, there would be little or no additional dangers at that point and to a great extent it was for drivers to take extra care when in the vicinity of the farm. The applicant had by agreement with a farmer neighbour cut back the hedge on the opposite side of the road to the farm at the point in the bend and certainly visibility had improved. The applicant (Mr James Wild) was in attendance at the meeting and answered questions put to him by the Parish Council. It was agreed by the PC that most of their concerns had been addressed and they concurred that the strong objection to the planning application based on traffic concerns could be removed. **After note:** The Clerk informed the planning department and Cllr Bartlett of the decision by the council to remove their objection.

6. **Other Highway Concerns** – There was concern generally about the increasing size of vehicles coming into the valley and, although it was accepted that economy of scale dictated that such things would happen, we may well be coming to a time when there were designated routes for heavy vehicles. The Chairman raised the matter of the junction with the A35 at Bredy Hut which in fact is outside the jurisdiction of the Parish Council, being in the Parish of Long Bredy. Coming from the direction of Dorchester there were two roads turning to the left at Bredy Hut. One was to allow traffic coming off the A35 to traverse down to Long Bredy or Litton Cheney, and the second was for vehicles coming up from the valley. It was noted that often vehicles coming from Dorchester overshoot the first road and go down the second, despite there being a No Entry sign in place, although not particularly well placed. Mr Madgwick opined that the layout of the junction was certainly not orthodox and he was willing to take it up with the Highways Agency who controlled trunk roads in the county. The Clerk would send an email highlighting the situation. **After note** – done. The Chairman thanked Mr Madgwick both for his time and expertise, at which point Mr Madgwick left the meeting.
7. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th of September 2011:** Proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by D. Bowen and carried unanimously that the Minutes represented a true reflection of the meeting.
8. **Matters arising:**
- High Speed Broadband** – The Chairman would be attending a WDDC meeting on Thursday when this would be discussed.
- Phone Kiosk** – The Clerk explained that the kiosk had been placed on the waiting list to be painted by a BT contractor. We may have to wait more than year and for health and safety reasons we were not allowed to carry out the job ourselves. The Clerk would be contacting BT to find out why such a silly rule existed.
- Queen's Jubilee** – It was clear that there should be a coordinated effort on behalf of the village, harnessing the energy and ideas from the various groups in the village. Ideas as to what form the celebrations should take will be sought.
- Church Path** – The Clerk said that progress was being made and the village lengthsman had convinced a number of householders to cut back their greenery and debris or employ someone to do it for them. The situation would be monitored.
- The Lake** – As Mr Andy Romans was present, the Chairman asked him for an update. Mr Romans stated that he currently had someone staying on site and who was both monitoring usage and acting in a security capacity. There did not appear to be a problem currently and the council hoped that would continue for the foreseeable future.
9. **Finance Report:** The Clerk & RFO presented the finance report. The Annual Report had now been approved by the external auditor BDO. As a result of the audit the PC Accounts would be carrying a fixed asset value of £9095 which represented the purchasing value of capital items purchased by the PC. This was a new requirement brought in after the last round of council audits. Two invoices were approved for payment: BDO (Audit Fee) £90 and Village Lengthsman £120. Proposed by Mrs S Dyke, seconded by Mrs A Spurrier and carried unanimously. The internal auditor Mr Robert Dewar had distributed a Risk Assessment Report indicating that a review of risks were due. This Review will be part of the agenda for the January 2012 meeting and councillors were asked to consider the contents of the internal auditor's report prior to that meeting.
- Precept** – Some discussion took place as to whether the precept needed to be increased to take account of any contribution the council might wish to make towards high speed broadband in the county. There also needed to be an updating of the clerk's salary amount which had not been done since the present clerk, J. Firrell, took up the post. Since taking up the post the clerk had assumed the duties of RFO. It was decided that an additional council meeting might be necessary to decide the amount once the meeting on high speed broadband had taken place on 10th November. **After note:** It appears that there will be no requirement for additional monies to be paid by parish councils for the year 2012/13. It was therefore decided that the precept would remain at £3000 and the increase in the clerk's salary would be met

from reserves. It was however highlighted that the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute towards the cost of high speed broadband should it be necessary in time to come.

10. **Councillors Portfolios/Briefs:** W. Orchard suggested that his brief of Highways & Traffic had already adequately been dealt with earlier. D. Bowen said there was little to report on the playing field. There was to be an Allotment Association AGM later in November and he was looking to replace the nets and goal posts presently in place at the playing field. He would report to the council in due course on costs involved. Mrs S. Dyke appraised the council on the meetings she had been attending regarding affordable housing and sustainable development. All the meetings were involved ultimately in creating a Local Plan. Other meetings were planned and she encouraged other councillors to attend a number of these meetings. Cerne Abbas and Sherborne were being used as pilots for a Neighbourhood Plan. There would be much more to come on this. The Chairman, S. Kourik, updated councillors on the state of footpaths around the village and currently all seemed to be ok.

11. **Planning Applications:**

Summer Hill – single storey extension to form swimming pool enclosure, modify vehicular access and boundary walls. It was decided that this matter would be dealt with in the normal way with completion of the planning form which councillors forwarded to the clerk. This would give new councillors experience of the system.

Community Hall – extension to eastern end to provide additional storage. The PC had applied for this and were therefore not in a position to make comment to WDDC.

Garden Close – Removal of hedge to gain access to old orchard. The PC had already forwarded a comment stating they had no comment to make at this stage. Mr Philip Fry, whose company CG Fry & Son had made the application, explained the reason for the application. It was possible that when the new house was sold the new owners might require additional land. If that was to happen there would then be no other access to the land hence the need for access from Garden Close. He indicated via a diagram how this would work. He also commented that he hoped that, in the future, building development would be allowed on the vacant plot.

Four Meads Farm – This matter was dealt with earlier. **After note** – Planning approval has now been given.

12. **Correspondence:** Most correspondence had been dealt with as part of the agenda. Several letters had been received about meetings and seminars and these had been distributed to councillors.

13. **Any Other Business:** New Councillors Meeting would be held on 23 November. Mrs Dyke raised the subject of PV panels and suggested that little thought had been gone into before allowing installations to take place as permitted development, i.e. no planning permission required. Some of the installations were totally out of place in a Conservation area and Area of Natural Beauty.

It was confirmed the PC would deal with the question of donations at the meeting in January. It was agreed we ought to get involved with the scheme that offers a free Christmas tree for a few hours volunteer work.

The Chairman, S. Kourik, raised the subject of councillors being in attendance at the monthly Village Cafes on a rotational basis. This was agreed and would be implemented commencing with the Village Christmas Café on Saturday 3rd December.

The Chairman invited Cllr Ron Coatsworth to address the meeting. The subject he raised was one of considerable concern, that of wheelie bins and recycling bins. The matter was being discussed at county and district level and it was highly possible unless, hoards of people spoke out against it, that it could be implemented in the future. Cllr Coatsworth distributed several information sheets to councillors.

14. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 10th January 2012, 7.30 pm

15. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.05 pm.

John Firrell

Parish Clerk
Litton Cheney Parish Council