

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Litton Cheney Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 13th November 2012
At Litton and Thorner's Community Hall**

Present: S. Kourik (Chairman), Mrs S. Dyke (Deputy Chairman), H. Lantos, W. Orchard, Mrs A. Spurrier and Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance Cllr R. Coatsworth and three local residents.

1. **Apologies:** D. Bowen and I. Homer.
2. **Declaration of Interest:** Mrs S. Dyke – 8.c), Holm House. S. Kourik – 8.d), 8 Baglake.
3. **Democratic Time:** Mr F. Spicer requested that the Minutes of the last meeting be amended to reflect the fact he was asked to draft a letter to WDDC rather than offered. The Chairman said this would be dealt with under Item 4 – Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting, and the Clerk had already drawn up draft wording in readiness for the amendment. Mr Spicer requested that the PC consider financial assistance towards the maintenance of St Mary's churchyard. The Chairman indicated this would be dealt with in Item 6. – Finance Report, when the Village Precept for 2013/14 would be discussed.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th September 2012:** It was agreed a different form of words would replace the entry in the last minutes which read – “**Democratic Time:** Mr F. Spicer offered to draft a letter to local councillors concerning the DLP. This was accepted – proposed by D. Bowen, seconded by H. Lantos and carried unanimously”. It would now read “Mr F. Spicer suggested a letter be written to the local authority highlighting what had been discussed under Item 2. This was agreed and Mr Spicer was asked if he would be prepared to draft this letter, to which he agreed. A letter was subsequently prepared and final contents agreed by the Parish Council. It was sent to Cllr Tom Bartlett with copies to various members of West Dorset District Council.” Subsequent to this amendment it was proposed by H. Lantos, seconded by Mrs A. Spurrier and carried unanimously that the Minutes of the Last Meeting be approved.
5. **Matters Arising:** Item 2. – Ref: Draft Local Plan, the Clerk informed the meeting he had been told by Cllr Tom Bartlett that there was no apparent reason why Mr Gordon Moxon could not submit a pre-planning enquiry now which would begin the process of discussing the subsequent development of Moxon's Yard. There were various options open once matters were underway and dependent on the outcome of discussions. There was in effect no need to wait for a new Local Plan to emerge before taking action. It was for Mr Moxom to take the initiative if he so wished. Mrs S. Dyke raised the issue of the trees within the Moxom Yard site and said every effort should be taken to retain these trees within any new development. The Tree Officer, Ron Martin would be asked to advise on this matter when he visited the village to inspect the central tree on the triangle which was showing signs of age and ill-health.
6. **Finance Report:** Parish funds currently stood at £5200.73. Income since the last Meeting in September was £1500.17p represented by the second half of the precept (£1500) and bank interest (17p). Expenditure was £233 made up of £60 for village website and £173 for clerk's salary. The amount paid to the clerk would be adjusted in December to reflect an increase agreed by the PC for the year 2012/13. The Clerk reported to the meeting that he had contacted HMRC to register for PAYE now required by HMRC since 1 April 2011. Forms would be sent allowing the registration to take place. After note: forms have arrived. Invoice for £144 (BDO Audit Fee) was approved – Proposed by H. Lantos, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously. The fee was an increase on last year because the PC's transactions fell within the £5,000 to £10,000 in the fiscal year 2011/12. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the amount

of financial assistance for St Mary's churchyard. The principle of providing financial assistance to St Mary's was agreed but a decision needed to be made on how much. Finance information was provided and it appeared that the average annual cost of maintaining the churchyard was in the region of £840. It was finally agreed that a payment of £550 would be made in this fiscal year towards the upkeep of the churchyard. Proposed by H. Lantos, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously. Village Precept – The current precept was £3000 and this had been unchanged for the last three years due to prudent use of funds and the wish to maintain the status quo. After some discussion, it was agreed to raise the precept by £250 to £3250. This represented just over £1 extra per council tax payer in the village in a year and was considered by the PC to be adequate enough to maintain the village finances at a reasonable level without any significant impact on resident's pockets. Village Lengthsman – It was not known when James Williams would return to the fold but there were a number of pressing jobs around the village that needed attention. The Clerk suggested the PC use the services of Tony Humphries as a temporary lengthsman. He was well qualified to carry out the required jobs and duties until James returned. It was agreed. The Clerk would check out possible DCC help with funding of lengthsman.

7. **Councillors Portfolios:** Highways/Traffic/Signs – W. Orchard brought Councillors up to date on this subject. On reporting a situation to WDDC a response can normally be expected within 2 days. Hines Mead Lane had been reported both for its flooding potential due to block gulleys and potholes. Four Meads Farm area was also in disarray due to constant flooding and many potholes. Affordable housing and sustainable development – Mrs S. Dyke had nothing to report on this matter. Super Broadband – H. Lantos indicated that positive moves were being made in this area with regards to funding but it was important that local residents register an interest. A note would be placed in January's BVN. Paths – S Kourik stated there was little change since his last report. He had hoped having spoken with a colleague at DCC that some attention would have been paid to The Rocks but as yet nothing.

8. **Planning Applications:-**

- a) Bride Valley Nurseries – at the time of the meeting no decision had been made but since then we have learned that WDDC have refused the application.
- b) Barges Cottage – Approved by WDDC.
- c) Holm House – The PC would support this application.
- d) 8 Baglake – Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of annexe as a dwelling. Appl. No. 1/D/12/001511. S. Kourik whose property this is explained the situation regarding this application and then took no further part in the decision making process. Mr & Mrs Kourik bought the property in 2001 believing planning permission had been granted for a change of use from playroom above the garage to a dwelling. Unfortunately the previous owners had never applied for this and this is why the Kouriks are applying now. Despite council tax being applied to the property as a dwelling, council records still show the garage as having the playroom above it rather than a dwelling. In order to correct the "paperwork" the current owner of the property has to apply for a certificate of lawfulness and this he has done. After some discussion the council saw no reason to comment adversely on this application and accepted the circumstances as stated. The intent is to use the "dwelling" as a holiday let.

9. **Correspondence:** None. All relevant paperwork having been dealt with in other sections of the agenda.

10. **AOB:** Water Seepage – School Lane, Mrs S Dyke asked if the constant run of water in School Lane had been reported and if it had not, perhaps Wessex Water should be alerted. The Chairman invited Cllr Ron Coatsworth to update the meeting on local matters. WDDC had received an award relating to their response to emergency road care during the winter months. Clearly lessons had been learnt from two years ago when it bordered on chaos. The B3157

(Coast Road) was once again the subject of debate due to the high number of accidents relatively compared with the rest of Dorset. He would forward statistics to the clerk (done and distributed to councillors). In some parts of the B3157 there was no centre line although cat's eyes were in place generally. The X53 bus service was being curtailed during the winter months on a Sunday. Cllr Coatsworth had pleaded for the case for extra cash to be applied to keep the service operating but as yet no success. He urged everyone who it affected to write to the local authority expressing their disapproval.

11. **Date of Next Meeting:** 7.30 pm Tuesday 8th January 2013.

12. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9 pm.

John Firrell
Clerk to Litton Cheney Parish Council