

# LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Litton Cheney Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall Litton Cheney

Present: S. Kourik (Chairman), Mrs S. Dyke (Deputy Chairman), Dr H. Lantos, W. Orchard and Parish Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance, Cllr R. Coatsworth and R. Dewar (Internal Auditor).

1. **Apologies:** D. Bowen, I. Homer and Mrs A. Spurrier.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** Not taken up.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013:** It was proposed by Mrs S. Dyke, seconded by Dr H. Lantos and carried unanimously that the Minutes were a true reflection of the meeting. The Chairman signed the Minutes on approval.
5. **Matters Arising:** Charity Farm – The Senior Enforcement Officer had visited Charity Farm and confirmed that the “new” barn did not have planning permission. He had contacted the agents, Symonds & Sampson, who had indicated their intent to apply for retrospective planning permission. To date this has not been received. The SEO would be looking at other aspects related to Charity Farm including signage and landscaping. Earlier concerns over a person living in a yurt at Litton Lake had now been alleviated as the person had now left the area. Coomberfield Farm – It would appear that previous concerns about this property had been unfounded but a careful eye would be kept on matters. The Chairman expressed concern over a locked gate for what was a public footpath. At a later visit the lock had been removed.
6. **Finance Report:** This was presented by the Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. Current funds stood at £5463.71. Income since September was £1625.09 (Precept £1525 and Interest £0.09p). Expenditure was £353.00 (Lengthsman £180 and Clerk's Salary £173). A further invoice of £180 for the village lengthsman was approved for payment. Proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by Mrs S. Dyke and carried unanimously. The PC could expect £122 VAT re-imburement from HMRC currently. Internal Auditor Robert Dewar had prepared and distributed a paper indicating movement of funds over the last few years and expected income in the near future. He had done this in readiness for deciding the parish precept for 2014/15. It was proposed that the precept be set at the recommended level of £3500, up from £3250 in 2013/14. Proposed by Dr H. Lantos, seconded by W. Orchard and passed unanimously. This took account of increased costs in certain areas and of the need to be prepared for maintenance of parish assets. It was not known at this point if the local authority would pass on any of the grant money they received from central government. Last year's contribution was £124. The Parish Council thanked Robert Dewar for his assistance and advice.
7. **Councillors Portfolios:** Highways – Cllr W. Orchard reported that potholes were still a major hazard on local roads. Some dialogue had ensued with Ford Farm over HGV's using Hines Mead Lane. Hopefully the problem was now resolved. Allotments/Playing Fields – In the absence of D. Bowen, J. Firrell indicated that an Allotment Association AGM would be held in December but that there was little to report otherwise. Sustainable Development/Neighbourhood Planning – Mrs S. Dyke had attended an event on Neighbourhood Planning and things had moved on since this was last reported on. More funds would be available in February to cover the cost of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan could be of any size (i.e. relating to one site rather than the whole village if that was appropriate). Preferences such as no holiday homes could be stated as part of any development, citing long term wishes such as the preservation of the school and pub. In addition, in normal circumstances 15% of the Community Infrastructure Levy could be put towards local amenities but if part of the neighbourhood plan that could rise to 25%. Mrs Dyke suggested the matter be raised at the January meeting and this was agreed. Broadband – Dr H. Lantos stated that

there was nothing further to report but he was keeping in touch with the DCC project team. Village Inventory – still to be progressed.

**8. Planning Applications: 2 Grove Cottage, Chalk Pit Lane – This**

application which included a garage coming off Watery Lane was supported by the Parish Council but it had been indicated to WDDC that there was increasing concern that the amount of traffic exiting from Watery Lane may encounter problems at the Triangle. Road markings may need to be highlighted or enhanced. After note – Approval has now been granted.

**9. Correspondence: Wessex Water –** An exchange of correspondence had taken place between Sir Christopher Coville and Wessex Water concerning the amount of water being extracted from the east side of the village which had affected water courses and other water holding areas in that part of the village. It was agreed the PC would write to Wessex Water indicating the council's concern and supporting Sir Christopher's stance. Wessex Water had prior to stated that there was a problem with the quality of water coming from the west side of the village and they were trying to establish how to rectify this, but in the meantime needed to extract water from the east side. It was felt that too much water being extracted from the village overall would affect the natural environment and create a long term problem. This would be highlighted in the PC's response. Mobile Village Shop – Correspondence had been received about a new project called the Charmouth Dragon Real Food Shop – a mobile shop that would tour local villages that do not have shops on a weekly basis offering organic produce. It was planned to visit Litton Cheney on a Friday following the same route as the mobile library. More news once known.

**10. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 7.30 pm.

**11. AOB:** The Chairman invited Cllr Coatsworth to bring the meeting up to date with local authority happenings. WDDC had now made a decision regarding the Boundary Commission. As far as Litton Cheney were concerned we would now come under the Burton Bradstock Ward as opposed to Chesil. Coastal Road Signs – there was local concern about the lack of signage on the coast road and other signage in place suggesting to visitors to the area that it was better to go via Dorchester rather than along the coast road thereby adversely affecting businesses along that route. There was also concern about the lack of road markings, plus the closure of the coast road so that Wessex Water could replace rusting pipes in Abbotsbury. Cllr Coatsworth made the point that accidents on the coast road had not increased or become more serious as a result of current policy – this was supported by accident statistics. Bus Route Cuts – Several bus routes destined to be cut have won a reprieve because the information used to come to that decision was flawed. A further review will now be carried out.

**12.** There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.50 pm.

J. Firrell  
Parish Clerk  
Litton Cheney Parish Council