

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the
Litton Cheney Parish Council
Held on Tuesday 14th May 2013
At Litton and Thorner's Community Hall
Litton Cheney**

Present: Mrs S Dyke, H. Lantos, Mrs A. Spurrier, W. Orchard and Clerk J. Firrell. Also attending 14 village residents and Cllr R. Coatsworth.

1. **Apologies:** D. Bowen, I. Homer and S. Kourik.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** Sir Chris Coville asked if an update could be given regarding neighbourhood planning and the situation at Moxom's Yard which had been the subject of a special village meeting in 2012. Mrs Spurrier explained the latest position which remained far from clear with regards to current legislation and the Local Plan. The PC had not been informed yet of any application to develop Moxom's Yard or any change of ownership. Mrs Dyke also said she and Clerk J. Firrell had attended a meeting held with MP Oliver Letwin about neighbourhood planning. The impression given was the government thought it was all going swimmingly but in reality it was not. Cllr Coatsworth indicated there was a possibility that redundant farm buildings could be converted to other uses but again this was as yet unclear. Whilst things had moved on since last year, probably in the right direction and it remained possible that brownfield sites would be included within the Local Plan, much remained unresolved. Mr G. Anderson asked if any progress had been made with installing relevant signage on the A30 above the village on the use of headlights during periods of poor visibility. This would be re-visited with Dorset County Council.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Village Assembly held on 8th May 2012:** Proposed by W, Orchard, seconded by Mrs A. Spurrier and carried.
5. **Matters Arising:** None.
6. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th March 2013:** Proposed by Mrs A. Spurrier, seconded by H. Lantos and passed unanimously.
7. **Matters Arising:** Village Property Inventory – This would be carried out by Cllr I. Homer so that an accurate picture could be arrived at on the condition of village furniture and equipment held on the inventory of the Parish Council currently valued in excess of £9,000.
8. **Election of Chairman:** It was proposed by Mrs S. Dyke, seconded by H. Lantos and carried unanimously that S. Kourik be re-elected as Chairman.
9. **Election of Vice- Chairman:** It was proposed by H. Lantos, seconded by W. Orchard and carried unanimously that Mrs S. Dyke be re-elected as Vice-Chairman.
10. **Review & Portfolios:** Mrs S. Dyke reviewed the past fiscal year (written notes had been provided by Chairman S. Kourik) highlighting the concern with Moxom's Yard and the onset of a new Local Plan (yet to be finalised by WDDC). **Potholes** – there continued to be concern expressed by many that the quality of the pothole repairs being carried out locally and in the county generally was of a poor quality, resulting in further remedial work being required at a later date. Residents were actively encouraged to report potholes via the Dorset For You website or Connect Dorset call centre. The more reports, the more it would be pushed up the Concern of Dorset agenda. **Village Lengthsman** – During the past year a temporary lengthsman had been employed but our regular village lengthsman had now returned so local residents can expect more regular attention to areas of need. **Notice Board** (Village Playing Field) – a new notice board had been purchased and would be installed shortly. **Allotments** – Generally well supported with several new allotmenters joining during the year. **Super Broadband** – This was an initiative being piloted by DCC for the county as a whole. LCPC actively supported the initiative given the area generally is not well served by current arrangements. Tenders were being reviewed currently and more news could be expected in

due course. **Donations** – This had been reviewed by the PC in the light of the need for increased expenditure in other areas. The timing of donations had been shifted to the new fiscal (April) to allow for the increased precept to take account of increased spending. **Noisy Events** – There had been several cases where events had taken place in the village vicinity that had created an unacceptable noise level during unsocial hours and behaviour likely to be considered a breach of the peace. The PC would be taking a hard line on this issue, supporting police and enforcement action where relevant. The out of sight and out of mind approach was not good enough. Residents and visitors to the area deserve their rights to peace and quiet and any social gatherings should be administered in a responsible and considerate manner. **PC Minutes** – it had been suggested at the Annual Meeting in 2012 that the PC Minutes be published on the village website – that was achieved shortly afterwards and the website remains a popular source of information – well done the LC Web Group. **Cllr R. Coatsworth** – Congratulations were offered to Cllr Ron Coatsworth on his recent re-election and thanks paid to him and Cllr Tom Bartlett for their support over the past year. **Parish Councillors & Clerk** – Thanks were given by Chairman S. Kourik (read out by Deputy Chairman Mrs S. Dyke) to his fellow councillors and to Parish Clerk John Firrell for their efforts and dedication during the last twelve months.

11. **Annual Finance Report:** Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer J. Firrell presented a statement of account in advance of the compilation of the Annual Report. Carried forward funds to 2013/14 were £3985.16. The intent was to ensure the equivalent of one year's precept be kept in reserve at the end of each year. As time wears on there will be the need to maintain village assets at increased costs and over the last few years there had been a need to dip into the parish reserves which had been sensibly built up in previous years. An increase of £250 had been applied to the village precept and it was indicated it may be necessary to further increase it in the coming fiscal 2014/15. Present funds stood at £5610.16 which included the first installment of the precept but invoices to the value of £463 (donations, lengthsman and hire of hall) approved at this meeting would need to be placed against this. The Annual Report would be submitted to the external auditor BDO by the end of June.
12. **Planning Applications Pending & Outcomes:** **Bride Valley Nurseries** – The Appeal submitted by the applicants had been upheld by the Planning Inspector and permission had now been given for an eco-timber three bedroomed residence to be built on the site. **5 Malters Cottages** – Retrospective planning permission to install solar panels on the roof of the garage. The application was supported by the PC with Cllr I. Homer declaring a personal interest. **Myrtle Cottage** – Removal of an internal wall within a listed property. Supported by the PC.
13. **Correspondence:** None. Dealt with within the overall agenda.
14. **Any Other Business:** **Charity Farm** – concern was expressed at the amount of hard core that was being deposited in areas within Charity Farm. There was also a need to attend to unauthorised signs within the village curtilage and the continued presence of a yurt and resident/s at the lake. In the interest of resolving the various issues on a conciliatory note a letter would be sent to Andy Romans prior to further action being considered. **Fingerpost** – Mr F Spicer raised the subject of the rusting fingerpost residing on the sharp right hand corner in Chalk Pit Lane. He felt it could if properly “adjusted” be put to better use at the entrance to School Lane. It would be followed up.
15. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 9th July, 7.30 pm – LATCH.
16. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.05 pm.

J. Firrell
Parish Clerk.