

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the  
Litton Cheney Parish Council  
Held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
At LATCH, Litton Cheney**

Present: S. Kourik, D. Bowen, I. Homer, Dr. H. Lantos, W. Orchard and Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance Cllr R. Coatsworth and 10 local residents

1. **Apologies:** Mrs S. Dyke and Mrs A. Spurrier.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** Mr F. Spicer requested that the Parish Council confirm its continued support for affordable housing. With a considerable degree of regret it remained an unresolved issue, one that would not necessarily be resolved via the Local Plan currently being scrutinised by a government inspector. The Chairman re-affirmed the Parish Council's support for affordable housing but indicated that at the moment it was status quo. Cllr Coatsworth stated that the adoption of the Local Plan was likely to be delayed by six months because it appeared WDDC had not allowed for sufficient new housing so it was "back to the drawing board".
4. **Token of Appreciation:** The Chairman spoke in appreciation of the work undertaken by Robert Dewar as the council's internal auditor over the last 8 years. Robert had now decided to stand down from the role but the council wished to mark his departure with the presentation of a garden centre token, Robert being a keen gardener. To considerable applause Robert accepted his token and gave a short speech thanking the council for its generous gesture.
5. **Approval of the Minutes of the Village Assembly held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013:** Proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by Dr H. Lantos and carried unanimously that the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting which primarily centred on a presentation given by Martin Crabb of Ford Farm on the art of cheesemaking.
6. **Matters arising:** None.
7. **Chairman's Annual Report:** The outgoing Chairman, S. Kourik presented a review of the last fiscal year, April 2013 to March 2014. Planning – Whilst there had been a reasonable trickle of planning applications two stood out as being of more public interest than most, Charity Farm (Barns) and Moxom's Yard (redevelopment). Charity Farm had received approval for two barns, one retrospectively and another new one within the farmyard. The Parish Council had highlighted its concern over the lack of landscaping on site which had been a condition of previous planning approvals. A condition of the present planning consent is that a landscaping plan had to be presented to WDDC within two months of the date of planning approval. The Parish Council would be monitoring the situation closely. A new scheme had been proposed for Moxom's Yard and this would be discussed separately by the council later in the meeting. Potholes – As with elsewhere in the county and indeed the country, potholes were and continued to be a problem. Cllr Coatsworth stated that the government had provided additional funds for road repairs but had demanded that the money be spent by July. It was hoped the situation would improve in due course. HGV's – Larger than ever vehicles were appearing on local roads with many being totally unsuitable for the narrow lanes in the Bride Valley. Hines Mead/Cow Lane had been adversely affected and was awaiting more permanent repair. Playing Field/Allotments – Particular attention would be paid to this area as it was on show to the public at large. Lengthsman – As village lengthsman James Williams was in the audience, the chairman asked him to inform the

meeting of his work around the village. James touched on the work tending to grass verges, The Rocks, Church Path, footpath signs, play area and keeping the village tidy. Superfast Broadband – Whilst Litton Cheney was not part of the next tranche of bringing superfast broadband to the village, there remained the possibility that it could happen. Watch this space – and hope. Mobile Coverage – Recent events have suggested it seems likely that a mobile phone mast may be erected on land owned by John Cooper. This was a step in the right direction and seemingly a suitable and practicable place to locate it. Dog Fouling – Still a problem and more vigilance was required. The message had to be – clear up after your dog wherever you are. Thank You – The Chairman thanked his fellow councillors for their endeavours during the year, and also those of the clerk, internal auditor and county and district councillors. \*Mr F. Spicer from the floor and on behalf of local residents thanked the Parish Council for their work during the past year. At this point most people departed from the hall.

- 8. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014:** Proposed by D. Bowen, seconded by I. Homer and carried unanimously that the minutes accurately reflected the contents of the meeting.
- 9. Matters Arising:** Mobile Shop: A mobile shop (The Charmouth Dragon) would be visiting the village every Friday and would be located at the White Horse car park from 8.30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Coffee and bacon rolls would be available in the White Horse.
- 10. Election of Chairman:** At this point the current chairman was required to stand down and if it was his wish and that of other councillors, seek re-election. The Clerk indicated that S. Kourik was willing to stand for re-election. It was proposed by W. Orchard, seconded by I. Homer and carried unanimously that S. Kourik be re-elected Chairman.
- 11. Election of Vice-Chairman:** Mrs S. Dyke despite being absent at this meeting offered herself for re-election. Proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by Dr H. Lantos and carried unanimously.
- 12. Councillors Portfolios & Reports:** Highways – W. Orchard had little more to add to that already expressed at the meeting. Dorset Highways (Traffic) were looking at the possibility of erecting more directional signs which hopefully would move HGV's away from narrow country lanes. Village Inventory – I. Homer had nothing relevant to say on this subject. Allotments/Playing Field – D. Bowen indicated that annual fees had been paid and insurance taken out. Maintenance of the play equipment was in the process of being carried out by the village lengthsman as a result of the recent annual equipment inspection. Footpaths/Rights of Way – S. Kourik stated that spring growth had meant that many footpaths were in need of attention. Signs were in the process of being repaired where necessary. Superfast Broadband – Dr H. Lantos indicated we should remain optimistic regarding the earlier installation of superfast broadband.
- 13. Annual Finance Report:** The Responsible Finance Officer & Parish Clerk presented an overview of the annual finances for 2013/14. Current funds stood at £6214.45 which included the first (50%) payment of the precept. Income since March was £2005.23p and expenditure £437.00. Invoices and donations were approved for payment as follows: - Historic Towns Forum (attended by S. Kourik and Dr H. Lantos) £70 (re-imbursed to J. Firrell), Lengthsman £120, Bridport CAB £75, Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance £75, BVN £50 and Zurich Insurance £370.91 (a saving of £236.21 on that proposed by AON, our current insurer). Proposed by I. Homer, seconded by D. Bowen and carried unanimously. Grass cutting at £32.50 per cut was approved. There was no VAT re-imburement outstanding and online banking had been set up. The search continued for a replacement internal auditor. During the

fiscal year 2013/14 £4231.60 was transferred to the new fiscal year. Income amounted to precept £3250, interest £1.02, Vat Refund £351.37 and allotment fees £215. Expenditure – admin £1525.18 including clerk’s salary, insurance, hall hire and misc. Playing Field/Maintenance £1507.00 including grass cutting £325, lengthsman £690, Rocks £397 and play inspection £95. VAT paid out £206.15 and payments to St Mary’s Church £250 and donations £200. The annual report was not yet ready to be presented to the Parish Council but it was not expected to take too long. The Annual Finance report was approved unanimously, proposed by Dr. H. Lantos and seconded by I. Homer.

**14. Planning Applications Pending & Outcomes:** Charity Farm – Approval had now been given for the two barns but conditions had been placed with regards to landscaping which the Parish Council would be watching very closely. Moxom’s Yard – Some discussion took place regarding this application but there was little to object to and the proposed scheme appeared acceptable. It was decided to comment that the Parish Council had no objection to the scheme as proposed.

**15. Correspondence:** None – all dealt with during this agenda.

**16. Any Other Business:** The Chairman invited Cllr Coatsworth to speak on matters affecting this local area. As previously mentioned central government had provided additional funds for road repairs that had to be spent by July. Several personnel changes had taken place at DCC seemingly for the better despite initial reservations by Cllr Coatsworth. £5,000 was being made available to local councils if they could propose an original initiative that would “make a difference”. Considerable unhappiness had been expressed with the way the boundary issue was being dealt with. It would appear that concerns expressed by local councillors had been ignored by the team looking at the various issues. It was indicated to Cllr Coatsworth that the school bus situation at Thorner’s had still not been resolved. He stated he would take this up with the department concerned.

**17. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

**18. Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.**

J. Firrell – Parish Clerk.