

LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Village Assembly held on Tuesday 19th May 2015 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall Litton Cheney

Present: S. Kourik (Chairman), Mrs D. Cheater, C. Franklin, Dr H. Lantos, W. Orchard, Mrs. A. Spurrier and Parish Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance Cllr. R. Coatsworth, Trevor Warrick (WDDC) and 35 local residents.

1. Parish Council Chairman S. Kourik welcomed all present. Prior to the presentation on Neighbourhood Planning, the Chairman invited **Mrs S. Dyke** to receive a token of appreciation from members of the Parish Council for her unstinting efforts on behalf of the local community during her almost 15 years as a parish councillor. Warm applause from the audience was followed by a short speech of thanks from Mrs Dyke saying how much she had enjoyed her time as a parish councillor and wish the current incumbents well in their endeavours.
2. Parish Clerk J. Firrell then introduced Trevor Warrick (Spatial & Policy Implementation Manager at WDDC) who gave an excellent presentation on **Neighbourhood Planning** via a PowerPoint screening. Whilst various situations were explained in terms of whether Litton Cheney should consider developing a NP or if by doing nothing local residents could rest assured that being in an AONB and Conservation Area they were protected from unwanted development. Litton Cheney doesn't currently have a defined development boundary (removed in 2006) although that could change via a Neighbourhood Plan. Another disturbing factor was the current lack of a Local Plan in West Dorset. Various procedural delays meant the final version of the "Plan" might not be adopted until late 2015. Because of changes in the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) put in place by the previous government the "old" Local Plan set out in 2006 was null and void. This situation could possibly allow some planning applications to be approved whereas in normal circumstances they would be resisted. Trevor fielded a number of questions from the audience after which the Chairman thanked Trevor very much for the presentation which now enabled a debate to be carried out as to whether Litton Cheney should consider a Neighbourhood Plan. An informal show of hands indicated a 3 to 1 ratio in favour of possibly implementing a Neighbourhood Plan. A copy of the PP presentation can be found on the Litton Cheney website www.littoncheney.org.uk
3. After a short break, the Chairman of the Parish Council S. Kourik used the Open Forum element of the meeting to inform the gathering of various situations affecting the village over the previous 12 months that involved the Parish Council. **At Loggerheads with WDDC?** – After dissatisfaction over a number of years with the performance of West Dorset's planning department and in effect, not being listened to, and planning approval conditions not being enforced, the Parish Council sought a meeting with Dr David Evans, Director of Environment (which includes Planning). The meeting took place in December and action was promised. The Parish Council was somewhat taken aback by the comment made at the meeting that the Parish Council's formally expressed view on a planning application carried no more weight than an individual, despite the fact the council was the democratically elected body representing the views of the local community. To date this issue has not moved forward one iota due to personnel changes at WDDC, one of them being the retirement of Dr Evans. **HGV's** – There existed a long running dispute concerning the transiting of HGV's through the lanes of the Bride Valley, mainly centred on vehicles heading to and from Parks Farm Cheese Dairy. Litton Cheney felt the majority of vehicles should be routed through Long Bredy, thought to be the

traditional route, whereas Long Bredy felt that Litton Cheney should share the load. Both villages were united that in an ideal world HGV's of such size currently transiting valley roads should not be allowed. A Travel Plan would shortly be put in place effectively (we hoped) legislating how HGV's should be controlled and administered by Parks Farm. The Travel Plan was a planning condition on Parks Farm being allowed to build an additional chilled storage unit.

Magna Green – The Parish Council were currently negotiating a 25 year lease on Magna Green (the grassed area fronting Magna bungalows on School Lane). This would allow the green to be used as a public space, possibly as a commemorative green, and prevent it being built on at least for the next 25 years. **Radio Mast** – It was expected that a radio mast would be erected at the top of Chalk Pit Lane within the next three months thereby allowing mobile coverage within large parts of the Bride Valley. It would be compatible with all or most networks. Once in place consideration would be given to having the telephone equipment removed from the kiosk at the bottom of Whiteway and then purchasing the kiosk from BT for £1. It could be used to accommodate a village defibrillator, funds for which are held by the Parish Council.

Superfast Broadband – Fibre Optic broadband was expected to be made available in Litton Cheney at some point during 2015.

4. There being no further business the Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

J. Firrell
Parish Clerk