

# LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Village Assembly held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall Litton Cheney

Present: W. Orchard (Chairman), I. Homer, Dr H. Lantos, Mrs A. Spurrier, Clerk J. Firrell, County Councillor Ron Coatsworth, District Cllr John Russell, Cllr Michele Warrington (Loders PC) and 40 local residents.

1. **Apologies:** S. Kourik.

2. **Chairman's View:** Chairman Bill Orchard gave a precis of matters that had occupied the Parish Council over the last year. HGV's continued to figure largely (quite literally), and the PC together with Long Bredy PC, Ashley Chase Estates management and Dorset Highways were constantly looking at ways to manage the flow of large vehicles into the Bride Valley. A Travel Plan had been devised and would effectively come into operation once the new storage unit was been completed at Parks Farm in September. Mobile Phone Mast – The PC were currently in talks with EE about the possible installation of mini-masts in the village that would allow for mobile phone coverage. We had received the support of our MP, Oliver Letwin, who had asked to be informed of progress (or not). Superfast Broadband – Otherwise known as “fibre” had arrived in the village and local residents could “sign up” to the service by contacting their service provider. Playground – There would be more on this later in the meeting. Generally – Many of the regular issues continued to rear their heads from time to time – dog mess, litter, poor parking, planning issues and footpath maintenance. In many cases all the PC could do was to urge people to be more responsible and considerate but local residents could all play their part by bringing some matters to the attention of “offenders”, or indeed the Parish Council. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank his fellow councillors and clerk for their efforts and support throughout the year.

3. **Neighbourhood Plan – Was it worth it?:** Councillor Michele Warrington (Chair of Loders Parish Council) recalled Loders's experience with regards to their Neighbourhood Plan culminating in a successful referendum and adoption of the NP. The presentation and details can be found on the Litton Cheney village website. The whole process took five years but it did involve creating a Parish Plan from scratch. It required tremendous dedication and effort on the part of all those involved and it is not an exercise to be entered into lightly. Was it worth it? Only time would tell. Chairman Bill thanked Michele for giving up her time to regale the citizens of Litton Cheney on the trials and tribulations of a Neighbourhood Plan, something that Litton Cheney were about to possibly encounter.

4. **Creating a Playground for 2016 and beyond:** Former Parish Councillor Diana Cheater discussed the thought process that she and several other worthy residents had gone through with regards to revamping the children's playground. Various schemes had been considered and various price options looked into to see what offered the best solution. Funding would be a big issue and this also was being investigated further. It was early days and it would take sometime before matters could be properly set in stone, and she felt we would be discussing this matter in next year's Village Assembly, before perhaps moving towards a proper solution.

5. **Village Defibrillator:** Time did not allow for the DVD presentation but the defibrillator was now in situ opposite the bus shelter. It was registered with South Western Ambulance Service and was now ready for use. It was extremely simple to operate, with no experience necessary and voice activated instructions. Grateful thanks was given to all those who involved themselves in the funding of this facility.

6. **Open Floor:** This was an opportunity for local residents to raise matters/issues that they wished to bring to the attention of the PC and other local residents. Ron Davidson put in a plea for more volunteers to come forward to “staff” village organisations such as the Social Committee. Should this not happen, a number of traditional village functions such as the BBQ and Duck Race would wither on the vine. Several villagers supported Ron's view suggesting that if you were unhappy with a certain situation in the village then offer up your services to help rectify it rather than mutter. Our old friend, dog poo, inevitably rose to the surface again (figuratively speaking!) and once again local residents were urged to pick up after their dogs and also not leave poo bags by the roadside – take them home and put them in your rubbish bin! Other routine matters were raised and dealt with.

7. There being no further business the meeting was closed, and members of the Parish Council moved into their Annual Meeting. Most local residents decamped at this point.

J. Firrell  
Parish Clerk