

Minutes of the Litton Cheney Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 8th March 2011

At Litton and Thorner's Community Hall

Present: S. Kourik (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. S Dyke, W. Orchard, B. Prentice, J Randall, Mrs A. Spurrier and Parish Clerk, J. Firrell. Also in attendance were Cllr R. Coatsworth and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** F. Spicer (Chairman) and Cllr T. Bartlett.
2. **Declarations of Interests:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** Nobody availed themselves of this opportunity.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January 2011:** It was proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by J. Randall and carried unanimously that the minutes were a true reflection of the proceedings.
5. **Matters Arising:** Home Watch Coordinator – This requirement was posted in February's BVN but as yet no one had volunteered. It was suggested that perhaps CSO Pilcher should be asked to present the Home Watch Scheme at the Village Assembly in May. Some discussion ensued about the Farm Watch scheme. Village Web Site – The costs for this had now been finalized at £425 plus Vat. This would be paid by the Parish Council but donations were expected from LATCH and Social Committee. Proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by Mrs A Spurrier, and passed on a vote of 5 for, 1 abstention. It was anticipated the new website would go live shortly after payment.
6. **Financial Report:** The Parish Clerk/RFO presented his report to the Parish Council. Funds currently stood at £5250.40 and during the course of January/February an income of £10.09 had been received (allotment fee and interest), and expenditure made of £947.23 (Playing field maintenance, land registry fee, lengthsman, salt/grit bins and donations). Approval was sought to pay £180 (Lengthsman services (Jan/Feb/Mar 2011) and Parish Clerk expenses of £23.30. Proposed by Mrs A Spurrier, seconded by J. Randall and carried unanimously. The Clerk informed the meeting that it was now a requirement for the Parish Clerk to be registered as an employee and due liabilities extracted or paid even if the amount involved was relatively small.
7. **Internal Audit Review** – This was an external (BDO) audit requirement whereby the effectiveness of the internal auditor was reviewed. Two councillors (Mrs S. Dyke and W. Orchard) offered to be part of the review and would meet with the Internal Auditor and RFO after which a short paper would be produced covering the required 5 areas, and considered at the PC Meeting on 10th May 2011.
8. **Playing Fields/Allotments Reports:** B. Prentice presented his report. Grass cutting was now underway; ditches had yet to be done but were in hand. The village lengthsman would be requested to contact Cllr. Prentice to ensure work was being progressed. He would also be asked to fit a new catch on the east end village notice board. All allotment rents had now been paid and a collective agreement signed by allotmenters. An Allotment Association AGM had been held on 17th November 2010. The condition of the allotment plots was deemed to be acceptable given the time of year.
9. **Parish Council Elections:** Local elections would be held on Thursday 5th May and this would include Litton Cheney Parish Council providing sufficient candidates stand. F. Spicer, B. Prentice and J. Randall had indicated they would not be seeking re-election. The remaining four councillors were handed nomination papers by the clerk who reminded them that they need to be submitted by 4th April to WDDC. Councillors were asked to put forward the names of any person they felt were willing to stand for election or were suitable and therefore should be persuaded to stand. If there are not sufficient candidates, there will be no election, and those that are nominated will automatically serve on the Parish Council.
10. **Tarmacing of Community Hall Access Drive:** Final costs had now been received from CG Fry & Son regarding the community hall access drive. The cost matched almost exactly the budget figure of £5100 made up of 6 parties contributing £850 each. It was agreed by the majority of parties, speed bumps would not be incorporated, any speed concerns being addressed by closing one of the double gates at the entrance to the hall car park. It was proposed by B. Orchard, seconded by Mrs S. Dyke and carried unanimously that in line with the quote received that the tarmacing should

be approved and work started as soon as possible. The efforts of the Parish Council Chairman, F. Spicer to get this project underway with the agreement and contributions of the all parties involved was recognized and much appreciated.

11. **Traffic/Highways/Signs:** Progress was slow regarding the provision of signs for the hall but S. Kourik would continue to chase and seek a meeting with Richard Stubbs, the DCC Highways Officer who responsibility it was. Grit Bins – one was in place (School Lane) and another one to go (Redway). Roadworks – Emergency repairs were necessary to the A35 to repair potholes on the dual carriageway above the village. It was felt that communications from DCC could have been better especially given that on all three roads out of the village onto the A35 there was no right turn towards Dorchester. It therefore was necessary to travel some way towards Bridport before being able to turn around and drive back towards Dorchester.
12. **Planning Applications:** a) Charity Farm – Holiday Let Application was yet to be determined and it was believed a premium was being sought from the applicant before approval would be given. A new planning application had been received subsequent to the agenda being published indicating that CG Fry had asked for planning approval for solar panels to be installed on the roof of the new office building. Councillors were asked to review the application online and respond to the clerk by the date required. In the absence of online facilities, J. Randall was handed the hard copy of the application.
13. **Correspondence:** None other than that discussed at this meeting.
14. **Any other Business:** a) A speaker was required for the village assembly. b) Mrs S. Dyke proposed that the village notice boards be restricted to posters of a certain size and should only be available for events rather than commercial advertising by local companies. She would produce a list of specifications and forward the list to the clerk. Agreed. c) Mrs S. Dyke asked Cllr Coatsworth to explain the situation regarding the new WDDC offices and why WDDC were not considering the recent office of cheaper offices at Poundbury. Cllr Coatsworth explained the process and a schedule of events that had taken place over a number of years. He would forward an exact record and explanation to the Parish Clerk on completion of the meeting (after note: this has been done and distributed). d) S. Kourik indicated that there was the possibility of a small scheme being put in place to improve mobile phone coverage in the valley. Dorbag should be kept informed of matters relating to poor radio and TV reception as they were coordinating Dorset's efforts to get this situation resolved. e) Vice-Chairman S. Kourik wished a vote of thanks be recorded, a view supported unanimously by the remaining councillors, that the village owed much to the three councillors (F, Spicer, B. Prentice and J. Randall) standing down who had given many years of valiant and dedicated service. Thank you. f) Cllr Coatsworth emphasized the need to report derelict fingerposts to WDDC so that they could be repaired as funds had been provided for this purpose. The Parish Council would chase the repair of the fingerpost on the corner of Chalk Pit Lane as one ascends the steep hill half way up the lane.
15. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 10th May – Annual Meeting and Village Assembly. It is also the first meeting after local elections on 5th May.
16. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9 p.m.

John Firrell

Parish Clerk

Litton Cheney Parish Council