

## LITTON CHENEY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of Litton Cheney Parish Council held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at Litton and Thorner's Community Hall, Litton Cheney.

Present: W. Orchard (Chairman), S. Kourik (Deputy Chairman), Mrs D. Cheater, I. Homer, Dr. H. Lantos and Clerk J. Firrell. Also in attendance were Cllr R. Coatsworth Cllr J. Russell, CSO Jane Goodwin and four local residents.

1. **Apologies:** C. Franklin and Mrs A. Spurrier. The Chairman informed the meeting that C. Franklin had resigned from the Parish Council citing personal reasons. The Chairman thanked Chris for his efforts during his relatively short time on the council. The Parish Council would now seek to fill the vacancy having first informed WDDC.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
3. **Democratic Time:** The Chairman offered those present the opportunity to speak on a subject that they wished to bring to the notice of the Parish Council. He emphasised the need to restrict any offering to three minutes. Mr Andy King in his role as Chairman of the Litton Cheney Allotment Association requested that the council considered a request by an allotment holder to erect a greenhouse on an allotment. The Allotment Association rules stated that such a request had to be brought before the Parish Council for a decision. The Chairman of the Parish Council indicated that this would be considered and a response given within a short period. After note: This request has been turned down on a vote of 4 against and 3 for, the Chairman having the casting vote. The main objection was that it would set a dangerous precedent. Mr James Williams felt that the meeting agenda should be more detailed. He made several observations regarding footpaths and material matters. He also wondered if DCC had taken any action with regards to repairs to the drain in School Lane. The Clerk indicated that repairs had been undertaken by DCC and the water no longer ran down into Main Street. Mr Williams was thanked by the Clerk for gritting the bottom of School Lane during icy weather to enable the school bus to access the school. We awaited the decision of Dorset Highways as to whether the salt/grit bin would be designated as a strategic bin and therefore refilled at their cost.

Mr John Firrell used Democratic Time to step out of the confines of Parish Clerk to sing the praises of the many local volunteers who have over many decades given up their time, toiled without reward, were prepared to put their head above the parapet and labour for the common good, often within suffocating rules. Long may it continue! Community Support Officer Jane Goodwin thanked the Parish Council for giving her the chance to speak about the Neighbourhood Watch system, and the need, and hopeful recruitment of a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. An interest had been expressed and would be pursued. There had recently been some police activity in the area, unusual for Litton Cheney, and CSO Jane was hopeful this increased activity had now come to an end. CSO Jane Goodwin once again thanked the Parish Council for listening, and took her leave of the meeting.

4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016:** Proposed by Dr H. Lantos, seconded by Mrs D. Cheater and carried unanimously that the Minutes represented a true reflection of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting:** Magna Green – The Clerk had been

informed by our legal advisor, Humphries Kirk, that the lease would shortly be ready for signing. It had been decided by Magna to complete the widening of the path before handing over the land to the Parish Council. The path had now been widened and the lease should be in place by 31<sup>st</sup> March. Defibrillator – S. Kourik updated the council on this matter. A location had now been finally agreed for the defibrillator opposite the bus shelter, to the right of the gate by Court Cottages and the machine would shortly be installed over the coming weeks. It was accepted this was not the ideal position but the telephone kiosk could not be used while it still contained a telephone and owned by BT. It was possible in time the defibrillator could be re-located if and when the kiosk became available and once mobile coverage was established in the village. It might also be used as a library. Mobile Phone Mast – Further to the news from Oliver Letwin MP that EE would be upgrading their mobile mast to the east of the Bride Valley which would provide greater coverage in the valley itself, EE had also contacted the Clerk and would be forwarding information regarding a system that would be complementary to the upgrading of the mast, and provide coverage in not spots. A meeting with EE would shortly be arranged so that a better understanding of what was possible could be obtained by the Parish Council.

6. **DCC/WDDCC Overview:** Cllr. Ron Coatsworth confirmed that his Divisional Fund would fund the installation of the defibrillator but sadly there would be no further money available. Money at County level was extremely tight, with less money being fed down from central government. Council Tax would increase by 4%. Cllr. John Russell confirmed that money was tight at District level too. The Local Plan which had been adopted in October 2015 would shortly be reviewed with regards to ensuring a continued supply of building land over the next five years. Boundary planning was being undertaken and it was anticipated there would be affordable housing issues come 2020.

7. **Finance Report:** The Clerk & RFO stated that funds as of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 stood at £5491.80. Income since January 2016 stood at £256.81 (Defibrillator fund-raising £111.64, Interest (Jan & Feb) £0.17p and Allotment Rental £145.00) and expenditure £515.40 (J. Williams £37.50, R. Randall (Grass cutting) £390.00, Re-imburement to J. Firrell (Signs) £27.90 and Vision ICT (Website) £60.00. Invoice for payment – The Play Inspection Company £114.00 (incl. Vat). Proposed by Mrs D. Cheater, seconded by Dr H. Lantos and carried unanimously. A Vat refund of £234.65 had been applied for. It was agreed that Charitable Donations would be decided at the May meeting. It was anticipated that by the end of the fiscal year (March 31<sup>st</sup>) funds would stand at around £5300.00. Still to be paid - £90.00 for basketball stand padding and litter bin £75. A cost would be sought to repair the binding on the bus shelter.

8. **Councillors Portfolios:** Highways (S. Kourik) – Several potholes had been repaired but there were still many requiring repair. The BT inspection pit in Hines Mead Lane was frequently flooding and required a permanent solution. Chalk Pit Lane was due to be given a surface dressing in 2016/17. Ashley Chase Travel Plan – This was being regularly monitored and the last few months had seen an improvement in HGV movement control. Playing Field/Allotments (Mrs D. Cheater) – Mrs Cheater was not in favour of the greenhouse and felt it was the thin end of the wedge – see earlier note. It had been reported that there was a considerable amount of garden waste piled at the back of the allotments. Mr J. Williams who was present at the meeting admitted to placing it there and indicated he would remove it soon. Vehicle tyre marks had scarred the playing field surface and efforts should be made to repair this damage by whoever was the guilty party. Mrs Cheater said that Sovereign would make a presentation to the Village Assembly in May on a new scheme for the children's playground. Funding for such a scheme would have to be seriously looked at but Mrs Cheater had this in hand. Neighbourhood Plan (W.

Orchard) – This would be put to the Village Assembly and a definitive decision reached as to whether the village supported the need for a Neighbourhood Plan. It was essential that if the decision is made to move forward on a “plan” that suitably qualified and enthusiastic people were recruited to form part of the project and drive the programme forward.

Superfast Broadband (Dr H. Lantos) – Recent enquiries confirmed that BT were still sticking to their date of 31<sup>st</sup> March when this technology would be made available in Litton Cheney. Footpaths/Rights of Way (S. Kourik) – S. Kourik had met with DCC Rights of Way officers together with Parish Footpaths Officer (Madeleine Hickling). The meetings had been informative and progressive. The cost of resurfacing of The Rocks looked to cost in the region of £3k/£4k but a more definitive costing was expected. It had also been suggested that a handrail should be considered. The footpath behind The Old Rectory could be moved. Further details would be sought.

9. **Review of Parish Standing Orders:** The task had not been finalised to the point where it could be sent out to Parish Councillors for review. The Chairman would progress this matter in the coming days together with the Clerk. Much of the review involved putting in place “orders” that reflected the need for greater transparency as formed by recent legislation. It was also necessary to take out unnecessary verbiage to make understanding of the SO's clearer to all.

10. **Watery Lane Rights of Way Proposal:** S. Kourik stated that Watery Lane has been used for many years as a right of way even though it is not on the definitive map. The proposal was to make a claim to DCC that it should be included on the definitive map as a footpath. A pack supplied by DCC Rights of Way outlines the procedure and provides a quantity of evidence forms for users of the track to complete. It will be necessary to show that Watery Lane has been used as a footpath for a continuous period of no less than twenty years and that there has been no evidence of a landowner of any section of the track objecting to its use as a right of way. The lower section of the track has no known owner though further up a section is owned by Mrs A. Spurrier (not at this meeting). Proposed by S. Kourik, seconded by I. Homer and carried unanimously.

11. **Planning Matters:** Tree Works – Townsend Barn – This was dealt with via the Parish Council's tree works procedure. 1 Court Cottage – Extension of conservatory area – awaiting decision by WDDC. The Parish Council raised no objection. Tree Works - The Old Rectory – This matter was referred to the WDDC Planning Committee who had approved the applications subject to certain conditions.

12. **Correspondence not dealt with as part of the Agenda:** None

13. **Date of Next Meeting:** Annual Meeting & Village Assembly – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7 p.m. S. Kourik tendered his apologies in advance.

14. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9 p.m.

J. Firrell  
Parish Clerk