

## LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 1st MAY 2008

Present: Parish Cllrs Atkinson, Mrs Galvin, Hamilton, Heard, Hassall, Ms Lamb, Poole, M. Smith and Stevens, DCC Cllr Barton, Torridge DC Cllr Pennington and four members of the public.

Apologies: Parish Cllrs Mrs Beer and G. Smith, Mr Paul Jarrett and Mr & Mrs Chris Peacock.

Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Mrs Galvin, presided and thanked those present for attending.

2008(a) Minutes 2007 (a) to (h) of 2007 Annual Parish Meeting: Approved and signed as a correct record.

2008(b) Matters arising from Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting: There were no matters arising.

2008(c) Chairman of the Parish Council's Report:

The Chairman thanked Councillors and the Clerk for their work. She especially mentioned new Cllrs Greg Smith, Sue Beer, Tina Lamb, Fiona Wilkinson, Morris Poole and retiring Parish Cllr John Bromhead. She then summarised 2007/08 Parish Council business, by referring to the 18 Planning Applications dealt with during the year. Torridge D C allow only 21 days for Parish Councils to consider Planning Applications. This has resulted in several urgent additional meetings being convened.

A T D C statement was circulated. It showed that our Parish Precept was only 1% of the total Council Tax bill and that in Littleham & Landcross, the Parish Council costs average households 27p per week.

Cllr Mrs Galvin then referred to "The things we did during 2007/08". We revised our Standing Orders and Self Help Emergency Plans and assisted development of the Littleham & Landcross Community Web Site.

We assisted Littleham Village Hall and Playing Field where Cllr Doug Hamilton is Parish Council Trustee. The Parish Plan Action Plan Parish is moving forward. And we have notified DCC of several highways' problems and pressed for improvements to A386 at Landcross and in Church Lane, Springfield Lane and between Hoopers Water to Moorhead Cross and where the "top" road meets the A39 at Abbotsham Cross, because of the impact of the new ASDA store. We met DCC and Police representatives in Landcross and hope that several improvements will arise for this constructive site-meeting.

We attended meetings and commented on the proposed Unitary Local Government in Devon.

We have been represented at TDC Torrington Area Advisory Group and Torrington & District MCTA LCP. We supported Cllr Mike Smith's Broadband campaign and responded to a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Strategy enquiry. We commented to the enquiry into Pitch Requirements for Gypsies & Travellers and we were consulted on the TDC Waste Recycling Plan.

The Parish Council excelled in responding to the N Devon & Torridge Strategies & Options Report, Torridge Local Development Framework and Core Strategy & Options Report (considered over three meetings; two of them Special Meetings). Every Parish Councillor received a copy of the over 100page TDC Options Report for (thanks to Cllr Phil Pennington) and we responded in respect of every topic area. The Planning professionals were impressed that a little Parish Council could perform at this level. The Chairman particularly thanked Cllr Chris Hassall for his expert guidance through this complex process.

Residents also created awareness through a Littleham & Landcross Parish Plan Exhibition at the recent N Devon AONB Discovery Day, at The Milky Way.

Finally, the Chairman thanked County Councillor Barton and District Councillor Pennington for attending our meetings. They support us in many ways and their involvement and dedication is much appreciated.

2008(d) County Councillor Hugo Barton:

County Councillor Barton commented on his work as County Councillor and referred to the benefits he gained from regular attendance at Parish Council Meetings. County Councillor Barton is the DCC Executive Support member with responsibility for Children & Young People (Social Care) and Chairman of Torridge Highways and Traffic Order Committee. He is about to become Executive Member for DCC Adult & Community Services and he is also a Torridge District Councillor and Chairman of Planning.

He referred to Local Government review and pointed out that both Devon C C and Torridge D C prefer the Single Unitary Authority for Devon option. He advised that DCC have established a special fund to examine support for rural Post Offices threatened by closure, that DCC, although not a housing authority, is applying the yield from Second Homes Council Tax towards new Affordable Homes and

2008(d) continued: County Councillor Hugo Barton:

they had recently agreed to fund the £46,000 shortfall and secure vital Rural Housing Enabler posts across Devon to identify affordable housing needs in rural areas. He referred to the new £1.2 million Bideford CARC (Civic Amenities Recycling Centre) at Caddsdawn, the New Bideford College Project and finally, proposals for a new Bideford Library, funded in part from sale of Exeter Airport.

Cllr Barton advised that a new sign would be erected on Springfield Lane, Littleham (near The Old Forge) to restrict use by heavy vehicles and that he would meet Parish Cllrs Poole and Stevens to find a solution to the Church Lane parking problems. He advised that the high hedge hazard at

Moorhead Cross had been referred to the local Highway Superintendent, as had the issue of safeguarding verges on the Moorhead Cross to Hoopers Water road, and that £300,000 of resurfacing had been carried out on the A386 at Landcross where rumble strips will be introduced. He explained that there were difficulties in responding to requests for additional bus-bays on the A386 at Landcross, but discussion with bus operators and safety officials continues.

Finally, he presented a £2,000 cheque (from his own DCC Local Member's Fund) towards Paul Jarrett's Littleham Playing Field Equipment Project.

Cllr Poole asked about restrictions in respect of disposing of asbestos at Bideford CARC and Cllr Atkinson commented on the high hedge at Moorhead Cross.

2008(e) Torridge District Councillor Phil. Pennington:

TDC Cllr Pennington described his first year as a Torridge District Councillor. He is one of 20 new councillors and has been allotted special responsibilities in respect of the standards Committee and the Bideford Regeneration Initiative. The standards Board are transferring much of their work to the District Council. Cllr Pennington explained that the Boundary Commission had imposed very tight time constraints on the Unitary Council consultations. He also pointed out recent senior staff vacancies were placing Planning officials under pressure to maintain the high performance standards recently achieved.

He had opposed development of Torrington New Street Car Park and would strive to ensure that Torridge assets were used to the benefit of local people and not sold solely to fund projects in Bideford or Northam. He described Torrington as a thriving town of predominantly local businesses, whereas Bideford centre appears to be declining, because people are attracted to edge of town businesses.

2008(f) Guest Speaker; Mr Ricky McCormack, Head of Operational services, Torridge D C:

Ricky McCormack is TDC Head of Operational Services. His responsibilities include refuse collection, recycling, street cleaning, beach cleaning, car parks and harbours and ports. .

He presented the Chairman with a copy of the TDC Waste Recycling Plan & Waste Minimisation Strategy 2007 -2010 and outlined main features within the strategy. He described how collected plastic is sent to a processing plant in the Midlands and how Waste Paper is recycled at major paper mills in Kent. TDC intends to expand the fortnightly cardboard and garden waste collection and to introduce limited food-waste collection from December. TDC will retain the services of South Molton Recycle Ltd on a revised contract. This should result in fewer left litter complaints. Environmental Crime Enforcement procedures are commencing, with emphasis on education of potential offenders, other pro-active measures and ultimately, prosecution of offenders. Mr McCormack advised that TDC has a duty to meet E. U. Targets. DCC suffers penalties if targets are not achieved.

The Chairman then invited questions from those assembled.

Cllr Atkinson asked, “What happens to the waste taken for composting?” It is sold to farmers to improve the land, but when DCC installs new equipment at Deepmoor, the compost will be of a standard suitable for sale to the local public.

Mr McCormack explained to Mrs Haddrell and Cllr Poole why the Caddsdawn CARC cannot accept food-waste and when and how, with a fortnightly wheelie-bin collection, it would it be advisable to leave food-waste for collection.

Cllr Chris Hassall, Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, gave a vote of thanks to Mr McCormack, on behalf of Littleham and Landcross.

The meeting commenced at 8.00 pm and ended at 9.05 pm.