

LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 14th MAY 2009

Present: *Cllrs Atkinson, Mrs Beer, Mrs Galvin, Hamilton, Heard, Hassall, Ms Lamb, Stevens, and TDC Cllr Pennington.*

Apologies: *Cllrs Poole, G Smith, M Smith and Devon County Cllr Barton.*

The Out-going Chairman, Cllr Mrs Galvin, opened the meeting.

Members of the Public and Parish Councillors wishing to address the meeting, as Members of the Public, on a specific agenda item, are, in accordance with Standing Order 24 and Paragraph 12(2) of Statutory Instrument 2007/1159, permitted to do so before that Agenda Item. No members of the public were present until 7.45pm.

840 Registration of Members Interests: No additional registrations were required.

841 Election of Chairman & Declaration of Acceptance of Office for 2009/10:

The Out-going Chairman, Cllr Mrs Galvin advised that she did not wish to continue as Chairman for 2009/10.

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Ms Lamb and duly carried, that Cllr Hamilton is elected Chairman of Littleham & Landcross Parish Council for 2009/10 and that Cllr Mrs Galvin is thanked for her four years of service as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Cllr Hamilton completed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked members for their support and then became Chairman of the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

842 Election of Vice-Chairman for 2009/10:

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Hassall, seconded by Cllr Heard and duly carried that Cllr Mrs Beer is appointed Vice Chairman of Littleham & Landcross Parish Council for 2009/10

Cllr Mrs Beer thanked members for their support.

843 Co-option of a Landcross Parish Councillor:

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Hassall, seconded by Cllr Mrs Beer and duly carried that Mr Ian Hopkins of Four Winds, Littleham is co-opted as a Parish Councillor for Landcross.

Cllr Hopkins completed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked members for their support. He completed the Register of Members Interests after the meeting.

844 Minutes 825 – 839 of 30 April 2009:

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Lamb, seconded by Cllr Stevens that Minutes 825 – 839 of 30 April 2009 are approved and signed as a correct record.

845 Matters arising from Minutes 825 – 839: Annual Parish Council Meeting items:

Members re-affirmed approval of the following items, previously considered on the 30th April 2009: -

1. Standing Orders (Minute 830)
2. Emergency Self Help Plans (Minute 831)
3. Review of Risk Analysis Statement (Minute 832)
4. Appointment of a Trustee of Littleham Village Hall & Range Field Charity (Minute 833)
5. Receipt of 2007/08 Final Accounts (Minute 836a)
6. DPFA Membership: Renewal of Subscription (Minute & Min 834).

846 Other Matters arising from Minutes 825 – 839:

(a) **((Min 827(b) Unitary Council for Devon:**

The Clerk reported that the additional consultation period ended today and that the Boundary Committee has been advised that the Parish Council's views remain as previously stated on 14th August 2008. A further response to the Boundary Committee from DAPC was noted.

Minute 846 continued: -

(b) **((Min 827(e) Allotments:**

Cllr Mrs Galvin submitted a Petition for Allotments from Mrs K Behnke and supporters. The Petition was addressed to Littleham Parish Council and co-signed by Lin Clarke, A Warburton, Pat Haddrell, Graham Coles, M Watling, M Jones, M Upton, T Grant and S Percy of Littleham and also C Tozer and S A Tait (both of Bideford). They signed as registered electors of Torridge District. The Petitioners *call upon the Parish Council to fulfil its statutory duty to make available suitable and sufficient allotments to meet the needs of the residents of Littleham.* The petition then outlines the benefits of allotments and points out that *there are no allotment facilities in Littleham and waiting lists are lengthening and causing increasing inconvenience to those waiting.* The Petitioners point out that *if an allotment authority is of*

the opinion that there is such a demand, it is required under Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 to provide a sufficient number of allotments and to let them to persons residing in its area who want them.

The Parish Council accepts that both the Parish Council and the District Council have powers to provide allotments, but Members question the feasibility of the Parish Council acquiring land, developing a site, establishing statutory allotments and administering the venture when every £200 spent adds £1 to each Littleham and Landcross householder's Council Tax bill. The Parish Council has assisted other voluntary groups in Littleham to become independently established and this could be a cost effective practical way forward. The Parish Council has offered to assist those wanting gardens and those wanting help with gardens to be "*matched up*", but Cllr Mrs Galvin's article in Crosslet brought no response. The alternative might be that a Littleham Allotment Association is established and suitable arrangements made between the Association, or individual members, and owners likely to agree to allotments being established.

RESOLVED, that the matter is referred to Torridge D.C, who are thought to have powers when the Parish Council is unable to provide a site.

(c) **Min 827f) Jubilee Tree, Littleham:**

Western Power Distribution's contractors will contact the Parish Council by 29th May to arrange a convenient time to complete any work required.

Cllr Hassall has taken a close look at the tree, which he describes as a young lime tree in healthy condition and Cllr Poole arranged for Mark Harding (a tree surgeon) to visit the site and advise the Parish Council. Mr Harding met Cllr Mrs Galvin (then Chairman), Cllr Hassall (then Vice-Chairman) and the Clerk on site before this meeting. He recommends that after Western Power Distribution has attended to the tree, it is either pollarded or that the branches are reduced, so that the tree can be maintained by local volunteers in future. He outlined costs and recommended the community to arrange for local volunteers to offer parking and clear fallen branches and debris after tree surgery.

Members asked who was responsible. It is thought that as the Silver Jubilee Committee was wound up long ago and household deeds forbid the adjoining owner from interfering with the tree that only the Parish Council is left to act, unless local volunteers again raise funds for the tree.

RESOLVED, that no further action is taken until Western Power has carried out trimming.

(d) **(Min 827g) Biodiversity Audit Report:**

Several electors drew attention to inaccuracies in the draft reports and nine comments were received from Parish Councillors. Cllr Hassall has several observations to make and he will respond before the 29th June deadline date. Responses should be sent to Craig Dixon at Devon C.C., County Hall, Exeter, or by E-Mail to craig.dixon@devon.gov.uk.

Parish Councillors noted the Tom Hynes, Devon Coast & Countryside Officer would be Guest Speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting that followed and he would speak about the Biodiversity Audit.

Minute 846 continued: -

(e) **(Min 837a) The power of the Community (Sustainable Communities Act):**

Littleham Village Hall Committee has requested Geoffrey Cox MP to pursue ways of increasing the number of Temporary Events Notices from 10 to 25 per annum, to enable Village Halls to more effectively raise funds to enable halls to function as the centre of their community. The Parish Council is requested to propose this amendment to national legislation under the Sustainable Communities Act "Proposal Scheme". Mr Cox has replied advising that he has written to the Minister concerned and that he will contact the Village Hall Committee when the Minister replies.

RESOLVED, that proposals previously referred to in Minute 837a are formally submitted to Torridge D.C, subject to the previous wording in respect of increasing the number of Temporary Events Notices being amended to that in the letter now received from Littleham Village Hall Committee.

(f) **(Min 837g) Rough Sleepers Survey:** None reported.

847 Planning Matters: Planning matters arising from previous Minute 828:

(Min828c) The Parish Council's complaint regarding Planning Application 1/0356/2009/AGR has been registered as TDC Official Complaint 574. TDC has promptly replied stating that because of time constraints imposed by legislation, "*there are times when a decision will be made without the comments of the Parish Council.*" If the Councillors remain dissatisfied then Official Complaint 574 can be referred to a higher level. A letter from DCC also advised that *the works at Edge Mills Nursery are an agricultural notification and as such, the Highway Authority has no ability to condition, recommend refusal of or accept through the planning process.*

Cllr Mrs Galvin reported receipt of a Planning Notification from TDC approving the Agricultural Planning Application 1/0356/2009/AGR for Edge Mills Nursery. She also reported that TDC Cllr Barton was continuing discussions with TDC officials to avoid future conflict between the District Council and the Parish Council. The Chairman reported that the site was now being advertised for sale with planning permission for two agricultural buildings. A copy of the newspaper advertisement was circulated amongst members.

RESOLVED, that the Parish Council remains dissatisfied with the outcome and notes the position.

(Min 828d) TDC cancelled the proposed Consultation Event at Caddsdawn on 21 April due to lack of demand from parish and town councils. Cllr Mrs Galvin & Cllr Atkinson had accepted invitations to attend the 21st May event and they have now been invited to meet planning officials to discuss the LDF and other strategic issues.

RESOLVED, that Cllrs Atkinson, Mrs Galvin and Hassall arrange to meet TDC staff after 2.30pm on 21st May.

848 Highways and Footpaths: Matters arising from previous minutes:

(a) **Parking at Mount Pleasant, Littleham:** TDC have yet to reply.

(b) **30 mph speed Limit Petition, C461 Yeo Valley road:**

DCC Highways have replied, stating that *Police Collision Data to 20 April 2009 does not record any incidents and without this data it is not possible to investigate the causes behind crashes, or justify expenditure or secure funding on traffic calming or road safety schemes ahead of higher ranked sites.* DCC Cllr Barton has visited the main petitioner and he will investigate the matter further. Parish Councillors were advised that the Fire & Rescue Service attended a vehicle accident last autumn and this can be verified from Fire & Rescue Service records and there have also been other accidents.

RESOLVED, that DCC Highways are requested to look further into the need for a speed limit on the C461 and that the petitioner is advised of the Parish Councils comments.

(c) **New Landcross Village Bus Stop Bay for Bideford:**

The Parish Council welcomed DCC Cllr Barton's report that work will commence shortly and they thank him for working to make the A386 at Landcross safer.

(d) **A386 Footpath: Little America to River Yeo Bridge:** Cllr Mrs Beer reported that this section of A386 footpath was overgrown, dangerous and urgently in need of trimming.

RESOLVED, that DCC Highways are requested to promptly attend to this work.

849 Littleham Village Hall & Playing Field: Nothing to report.

850 Parish Plan and Gt Torrington Local Community Partnership:

(a) **Parish Plan Action List; Affordable Housing:**

Cllr Mrs Galvin reported that John Scott of CCD has proposed 22nd, 24th or 25th June as possible dates for the Affordable Housing Survey

RESOLVED, that CCD is advised that the Parish Council prefers 24th June as the survey date.

(b) **Great Torrington & District MCTA Local Community Partnership AGM 16 June 2009:** Noted.

851 Completion of Annual Audit Return Sections 1 and 2:

The Annual Parish Council Meeting accepted the recommendation made in Minute 836b of 30th April 2009.

RESOLVED, that the Final Accounts for 2008/09 as set out in Section 1 of the Annual Return and Statements at Section 2 of the Annual Return are approved and that the Chairman completes the Statutory Statement at Sections 1 and 2.

852 Correspondence requiring attention:

(a) **Digital UK:** Noted

(b) **DAPC Newsletter and DCC Rural Roads Notices:** Noted

853 Consideration of other correspondence received since the last meeting:

A file was made available to Parish Councillors containing correspondence about: -

DCC: Devon Talk magazine; **DHS:** NHS Foundation Trust Member Membership, Information Commissioners Office, NHS Living Options Devon See Hear Centre Support, Information & Equipment, Barnstaple; **Others** Other promotional brochures. Members have also received DCC "In Touch News Round-up" by e-mail.

854 Footpaths Working Group: Cllr Atkinson reported that the Working Group is still working on publishing local routes for circular walks on the Littleham & Landcross Community Web Site.

855 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: 18th June 2009 7.30pm.

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and ended at 7.54 pm.

