

LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF 2010 ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 5th MAY 2010

Present: Cllrs. Atkinson, Mrs Beer, Hamilton, Hassall, Ms Lamb, G. Smith, M. Smith and Stevens,

Apologies: Cllrs Mrs Galvin, Heard, Hopkins, Poole and also TDC Cllr Pennington and DCC Cllr Dr Robinson.

Cllr Hamilton, as outgoing Chairman, presided until "Election of Chairman" was considered. He opened the meeting and introduced Mr 'Dane Stanley, who would succeed the current Clerk, Mr Neville Jackson, on 1st June 2010.

Members of the public wishing to address the meeting on a specific agenda item, were, in accordance with Standing Order 24 and Paragraph 12(2) of Statutory Instrument 2007/1159, permitted to do so before that Agenda Item. Two members of the public were present.

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

Cllr Hamilton retired to the body of the meeting and the Clerk administered the meeting for the next item.

942 Election of Chairman & Declaration of Acceptance of Office for 2010/11:

The Out-going Chairman, Cllr Hamilton thanked Members for their support during 2009/10 and advised that, because of other commitments, he did not wish to continue as Chairman for 2010/11.

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Hamilton and duly carried, that Cllr Mrs Beer is elected Chairman of Littleham & Landcross Parish Council for 2010/11 and that Cllr Hamilton is thanked for his service as Chairman of the Parish Council during 2009/10.

Cllr Mrs Beer thanked Members for their support, completed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and became Chairman of the Parish Council.

943 Election of Vice- Chairman for 2010/11:

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

Cllr Mrs Beer thanked Members for their support during 2009/10.

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr M Smith, duly seconded and carried unanimously that the office of Chairman of the Parish Council should rotate annually, so that, in due course, all members experience this responsibility.

944 Approval of Minutes 930-940 of 29 April 2010:

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Ms Lamb, seconded by Cllr Hassall, that, subject to Minute 933b being amended from 5th April to 5th May, Minutes 930– 940 of 29 April 2010 are approved and signed as a correct record.

945 Matters arising from above Minutes 930-940 of 29 April 2010:

(a) (Min 932a) Clerk to the Parish Council :

The Chairman reported that Mr Haldane Stanley had accepted his appointment to the post of Clerk to Littleham & Landcross Parish Council with effect from 1st June 2010.

Mr Stanley attended the meeting, as a member of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Stanley to the meeting and a Contract of Employment was signed by the Chairman and Mr Stanley.

The retiring Clerk advised that this would be his last meeting as Clerk of the Parish Council, after 1st June he would be an adviser & trainer whilst required.

Minute 945 continued: -

(b) (Min 932b) Energy Saving Trust; sign up today, its free:

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Cllr Ms Lamb, seconded by Cllr G. Smith and carried by 4 votes (including the Chairman's casting vote) to 3 ,with 2 abstentions, the Parish Council signs up as Green Community member of the Energy Saving Trust.

(c) (Min 935f) Finance & Insurance: Insurance 2010/11 :

The Clerk reminded members that last year (Minute 810b) he had obtained a quotation from Came & Company, specialist agents for Norwich Union. They had quoted a premium of £262.50. Community First

Insurance quoted £207.38. This year's Community First Insurance premium is £244.94. It includes an additional £21 for recommended Commercial Legal Expenses cover.

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Hamilton, seconded by Cllr M. Smith, that the 2010/11 premium of £244.94, including Commercial Legal Expenses cover, is approved and paid to Community First.

(d) (Min935) Revised Budget 2010/11 & 2011/12 (Appx A):

Members considered a revised presentation of the 2010/11 Budget and 2011/12 Forecast.

RESOLVED that the 2010/11 Budget and 2011/12 Revised Forecast (at Appx A) are considered again before the 2011/12 Parish Precept is agreed in November.

(e) (Min 937): Parish Plan: Gt Torrington & District LCP; Minutes of 25.02.10:

The Minutes of the LCP meeting of 25.02.10 were received and noted. The Clerk had attended as part of his DCC /DALC Working Group involvement and he had also represented Littleham & Landcross.

The next LCP meeting, on 10th June 2010, will be a "Local Community Partnership Relaunch" to revive local engagement and some parish representatives might be invited to make brief presentations on the aspirations/ problems /successes in their parish, in working towards enabling local communities to begin to increase control of their destinies.

Gt Torrington LCP has also asked the Parish Council to complete a questionnaire titled "Review of Parish / Town Action Plans".

Cllr Atkinson had drafted a preliminary response to the questionnaire and the Clerk agreed to complete the LCP Questionnaire and accompany Cllr Atkinson at the 10th June LCP meeting if required.

946 Standing Orders:

All Members have been issued with a copy of Standing Orders, as approved in August 2007.

Members noted that, on 16 August 2007, at Minute 630a, the Parish Council had adopted revised Standing Orders and that, at Minute 929(o) of 4th March 2010, the Parish Council had considered NALC recommended new Model Standing Orders for Local Councils and had resolved that the Parish Council's Standing Orders remain unchanged for a further 12 months (i.e. until March 2011).

Parish Councillors were asked to confirm that this decision still stands.

Resolved, on the motion of Cllr Hassall, seconded by Cllr Stevens, that the Parish Council confirms that the 2007 Littleham & Landcross Parish Council Standing Orders shall remain unchanged until a further review in March 2011.

947 Self-Help Emergency Plans:

Littleham and Landcross Self-Help Emergency Plans have been previously issued to Members.

Cllr G Smith proposed that both Self-Help Emergency Groups should meet half-yearly so that volunteers realise what might be required of them. There was no support for this suggestion.

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Atkinson, seconded by Cllr Hamilton, that the Current Self-Help Emergency Plans for Littleham and Landcross shall continue to apply, subject to the following amendments: -

- (a) Mrs Val Peacock is now Village Hall Contact, in place of Mrs Liz Shakespeare,
- (b) Cllr Hassall is no longer an Assistant Co-ordinator for Landcross,
- (c) Vacancies exist in both villages for provision of a generator in times of emergency,
- (d) that the Co-ordinators obtain volunteer's mobile telephone numbers ;

948 Review of Risk Analysis Statement:

A statement had been circulated to Members and it was agreed that no amendments are required.

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr M Smith, seconded by Cllr Atkinson, that the Parish Council's 2010/11 Risk Analysis Statement is approved.

949 Appointment of a Trustee of Littleham Village Hall & Range Field Charity:

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Mrs Beer, seconded by Cllr Hassall, that Cllr Hamilton is re-appointed a Trustee to Littleham Village Hall & Rifle Field Charity for 2010/11 and that Cllr Hamilton is again thanked for his work as the Parish Council's Trustee on the Charity.

950 Planning Matters:

Cllr Ms Lamb and the Chairman (Cllr Mrs Beer) declared prejudicial interests and both left the meeting after exercising their rights as members of the public, in accordance with Standing Order 24 and Paragraph 12(2) of S. I. 2007/1159.

As a member of the public, Ms Lamb advised that this planning application was similar to that previously approved by TDC in 2006. The previous application had "run out of time" and this was a renewal application.

As a member of the public, Mrs Beer advised that the Parish Council had recommended refusal in 2006 and that neighbours on both sides have again expressed concern over aspects of the proposed extension, especially parking, loss of privacy arising from overlooking windows, demolition of the existing garage and inadequate road access. Cllr Atkinson (Vice-Chairman) presided for the next item.

(a) Min 933b): Planning Application 1/0326/2010/FUL: Demolition of garage, loft conversion, extension including room in roof and conservatory at Horsehoes, LANDCROSS:

A copy of a letter to TDC, from Dr & Mrs Farrimond of Newlands, Landcross, was considered by the meeting. The Farrimonds object, in principle, to the proposed extension and raise concerns over “Insufficient parking provision”, “Side windows and privacy” and perceived, “Inaccuracies in the plan”.

Parish Councillors considered the plans submitted with application 1/0326/2010/FUL and compared them with those submitted with Application 1/1020/2006 in June 2006. They also reviewed their reasons for recommending refusal at Minute 482 in 2006 and noted that this had led to a TDC Site Visit (Mins. 491 & 502) and that had resulted in minor amendments to the initial planning application. They also noted that TDC had approved the 2006 application after minor amendments, such as requiring the use of obscure glass where lack of privacy would be an issue. Several Members commented on inadequacies in the plans now submitted.

RESOLVED; on the motion of Cllr M Smith, seconded by Cllr Hamilton, with five votes for and one abstention, that if: -

- i. The Planning Authority impose similar amendments and conditions as were introduced into Application 1/1020/2006 in June 2006 and
- ii. The Planning Committee arranges a Site Visit before making a decision and
- iii. There is further discussion on sensitive amendments to assuage the concerns of neighbours.

Then the Parish Council RECOMMENDS APPROVAL, but if these criteria are unacceptable to the Planning Authority, then the Parish Council RECOMMENDS REFUSAL on the following grounds: -

- (iv) The current application, as submitted, is unacceptable because the various conditions and amendments imposed when the original 2006 planning application was granted planning permission; do not appear to have been incorporated in the plans.
- (v) Although the existing front garden has been converted to hard-standing, this needs to be clearly indicated as such on the plans, so that it is part of any planning consent. Without this, the plan-drawings do not adequately show parking spaces on this ground and it is likely that the proposed works will not produce adequate off-road parking. The existing garage provision will be lost and the number of vehicles is likely to increase because additional accommodation is proposed at Horseshoes.
- (vi) The planning application does not indicate where obscure glass will be installed to secure privacy, even though the 2006 planning approval had required obscure glass to be installed.

Minute 950 (a) continued: -

- (vii) In view of the above omissions and the inaccurate detailing of the boundary with Newlands, the plans are considered to be inaccurate and lacking in information.
- (viii) The access is exceptionally narrow and the proposed extension could create additional traffic. Commercial vehicles servicing the property already experience difficulty turning and access from the A388 is prohibited. Emergency vehicles have been unable to negotiate Landcross village roads, without parked vehicles being removed and ambulances have been delayed responding to emergencies. DCC and the Police are constantly reviewing complaints about dangerous roads in Landcross. Access to the A388 is steep, very narrow and difficult.

Cllr Ms Lamb and Cllr Mrs Beer (Chairman) returned to the meeting and Cllr Mrs Beer resumed as Chairman.

(b) (Min 933d): Unslightly ground works bordering Church Lane, Landcross:

The Torridge D.C. Planning Enforcement Officer has visited the site and issued a Stop Notice, but works continued. The TDC Planning Enforcement Officer and legal officers have revisited the site and warned the owner that he will be prosecuted if he continues without first obtaining planning permission. All matters relating to this complaint are now being dealt with by Torridge D.C.

RESOLVED, that Torridge District Council is thanked for promptly intervening in this matter

951 Highways & Footpaths:

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr M Smith, seconded and duly carried, that Devon C. C. is requested to promptly replace the left-hand LITTLEHAM sign at the junction of the Littleham to Abbotsham Cross road and the Abbotsham Cross to Atlantic Village road.

952 Correspondence & communications requiring attention:

(a) CCD Rural Housing for Devon: Evaluation of Rural Housing Enabler Programme:

RESOLVED, that Cllr Mrs Galvin is asked if she would complete a CCD Customer Satisfaction Questionnaire in respect of this matter.

(b) DCC Helping you to make work pay: Noted.

953 Correspondence received since the last meeting:

E-Mails of the TTVS May Funding Bulletin and RSN News had been forwarded to Members.
The May 2010 edition of Clerks & Councils Direct magazine was received.

954 Retiring Clerk: Mr Neville Jackson:

As this would be Mr Jackson's last official meeting as Clerk, he was again thanked for his eight years service to Littleham & Landcross Parish Council.

955 Next Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 24 June 2010: 7.30 pm.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.15 pm.