

LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT LITTLEHAM  
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7th AUGUST 2008

Present: Parish Cllrs Atkinson, Mrs Beer, Mrs Galvin(Chairman), Hamilton, Hassall(Vice-Chairman), Heard, Poole, G. Smith, M. Smith, Stevens and Devon County Cllr Barton.

Apologies: Parish Cllr Ms Lamb, Cllr Poole and TDC Cllr Pennington.

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.

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

751 Minutes 729–741 of 12 June 2008 & 742-749 of 17 July 2008:  
RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr M. Smith seconded by Cllr Heard that Minutes 729 – 741 of 12th June and Minutes 741 – 749 of 17th July 2008 are approved and signed as a correct record.

752 Matters arising from Minutes 713 – 728:

(a) (Min 731a) Landcross Parish Councillor Vacancy: Co-option of a Parish Councillor: Nothing to report.

(b) (Min 7131b & c) Unitary Council for Devon & (Min 747)Torrington Area Advisory Group:

Members considered correspondence from Devon C.C, The Boundary Committee for England, North Devon D.C. and Mrs Alvis of 1 Boundstone Cottage, Littleham. Cllr M. Smith reported on discussion of this matter at the Torrington Area Advisory Group meeting on 22nd July. He pointed out that the unitary proposals were unlikely to generate savings for five years, because of severance costs and when savings accrue they will probably result in a reduced Central Government grant. He saw merit in retaining the status quo, if this was still possible.

Cllrs Hassall and Heard felt that there was need for more local representation, if a Devon Unitary Council is established. Cllr Hassall urged members to press for “Planning” to continue to be administered from Bideford. Members noted that DCC already effectively provide 85% of services throughout the county. Several DCC services are personal and require provision to individuals (e.g. Education, Social Services) and this is achieved.

The Chairman saw effective Local Community Boards within the Unitary Council as a way forward. Cllr M. Smith suggested that the Boundary Committee should learn from experiences in Cornwall, Shropshire, Norfolk and other rural unitary areas.

Members then voted: - 4 votes for “status quo”, 4 votes for a Devon Unitary Council with Community Boards and 1 member abstained.

All members voted against a separate Exeter Unitary Council being established; this would be the least favoured option. The Parish Council is unanimous that Exeter is our “county town” and an inseparable integral part of the existing administrative county.

Members then voted on which Community Board area would be most suitable for Littleham and Landcross, based on the scant information available. The vote was: - Bideford 5, Torrington 2 and 2 members abstaining due to insufficient information. Members were unanimous in expressing grave concern over the undue haste being applied.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council responds to the Boundary Committee for England, expressing the views recorded above and that Mrs Alvis is thanked for her letter.

(c) (Min738a) Postwatch & The Post Office; Post Office Closure Programme, Devon: Letters from Postwatch and the Post Office were received and noted. Although Devon C.C. had indicated that Buckland Brewer Post Office might not be designated as an "Outreach Post Office", the Post Office has rejected arguments put forward by DCC. Members noted that DCC are considering the feasibility of subsidising the "shop" element of some village Post Office stores affected by loss of business due to Post Office closure. Whether Buckland Brewer will benefit if this scheme is applied, is not yet known.

(d) (Min 740) Public Notice Boards:

Mr Tony Brend has repaired both Littleham notice boards.

RESOLVED, that a letter is sent to Mr Brend to thank him for carrying out the repairs.

(e) (Min 748) DCC Footpath 7, Littleham Public Footpath Diversion Order 2006: The Clerk reported that Minute 748 of 17 July 2008 requires amendment. Two Footpath Orders have been displayed on Littleham Public Notice Board, but only one is referred to in Minute 748. Notice of Confirmation of DCC (Footpath Nos. 7 & 8, Littleham) Public Footpath Diversion Order 2006 (published 25.06.08) became effective on 9th July 2008. Notice of Confirmation of DCC (Footpath Nos. 7, Littleham) Public Footpath Diversion Order 2006 (published 23 July 2008) becomes effective from 11th August 2008.

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr M. Smith, seconded by Cllr Atkinson, that Minute 748 of 17 July 2008 is amended to read that Devon C. C. has confirmed DCC (Footpath Nos. 7 & 8, Littleham) Public Footpath Diversion Order 2006 and DCC (Footpath No. 7, Littleham) Public Footpath Diversion Order 2006, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. These orders come into force from 9th July and 11th August 2008 respectively and the Parish Council agrees that the amended routes determined by these Orders are correct.

The Orders divert part of Footpath 7 to run from the highway, at the field boundary with No. 1 Red Cottages, down the field boundary, then along the boundary with the churchyard to a point marked "D" on DCC map-drawing ED/PROW/05/11c of June 06. Footpath 7 then continues from the point marked "D" on the DCC map-drawing, along a line eastwards in the field north of the churchyard to a stone stile (marked "F" on the DCC map-drawing). Footpath 7 then joins Footpath 8, from the stone stile as far as a gate into the churchyard. It then runs east, to the south of St Swithun's Church, through the point marked "E" on the DCC map-drawing and continues east through the lych-gate onto Church Lane.

A footpath line from the highway opposite Panoramic House to a point marked "D" on the DCC map-drawing and a footpath line from Point "D" through part of the churchyard, to the west of St Swithun's Church (marked "D" to "E" on the DCC map-drawing) are extinguished.

The Order effective from 9th July 2008 also amends the route of Footpath 8, below the church.

(f) TDC; Licensing Act 2003: Review of Statement of Licensing Policy:  
Cllr Hamilton, as Chairman of Littleham Village Hall Committee, has responded to Torridge D C.

753 Planning Matters:

(a) Planning Notifications:

Approval Notification was received for Application 1/0548/2008/FUL, Edge Mill, Littleham.

(b) Planning Application 1/0757/2008: Altimira Cottage, 2-3 Mt Pleasant, Littleham, (Mr J Behnke):

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Hamilton, that the Planning Application 1/0757/2008, in respect of provision of a roof-window at Altimira Cottage, is recommended for APPROVAL, subject to the design not permitting neighbouring gardens to be overlooked.

(c) TDC: - The Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for S. West 2006-2026 - publication for consultation and Govt Office S. West; Proposed Changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy for S. West, further consultation :

Copies of this correspondence had been delivered to members before the meeting and the Parish Council has received the supporting documents on a CD. The Chairman summarised her thoughts after viewing the CD and accessing web pages relating to this topic. She particularly drew attention to Section 5 of the consultation document. Page 189 had been deleted from the latest version and she felt that this issue, which refers to retaining self-sufficiency in villages, is important and relevant to the future of rural communities and should be part of the final document.

The Parish Council has until 17th October 2008 to comment on the proposed changes and members were asked to present written comments to the next Parish Council meeting on 2nd October 2008, on the Govt S. West response-forms already issued to members.

754 Highways and Footpaths:

(a) Hoopers Water to Moorhead Cross road (Min 683b):

A letter was received from Mrs M. Melville of Moor Park, Littleham, enquiring about progress on restricting heavy vehicles, coaches and other haulage traffic from using the road between Hoopers Water and Moorhead Cross. A copy of a letter to Mrs Melville from DCC was also considered. Mrs Melville had written on behalf of her neighbours. DCC recommend the Parish Council to contact the local companies causing disruption on this narrow road. They point out that there are "Unsuitable for Heavy Vehicles" signs at Hoopers Water, Orleigh Cross and at Abbotsham Cross, advising drivers not to use these narrower roads. A Traffic Regulation Order would be required before enforcement could occur and a direct low key approach from the Parish Council could be more effective. Parish Councillors disagreed with DCC's recommendation. The Parish Council has no powers to enforce considerate driving on county highways and it was thought that letters

sent either by DCC of the Police Authority would carry more weight. County Cllr Barton advised that he would contact Mrs Melville to discuss her concerns.

RESOLVED, that Mrs Melville is thanked for her correspondence and advised that the Parish Council now consider this matter to be a DCC or Police Authority issue.

(b) Bridleway at Edge Mill Quarry:

Cllr Stevens declared an interest and after addressing the meeting, as a member of the public, in accordance with Standing Order 24 and Para. 12(2) of S.I.2007/1159, left the meeting.

The Parish Council has received complaints that riders are unable to access the public bridleway through Edge Mill Quarry. This bridleway leads to Footpath 8 and Littleham Church and it is alleged that riders are being told by quarry personnel to go to the Littleham Rectory Drive gate, on the Class III Yeo Valley road, to access the bridleway. The Chairman and Cllr M. Smith visited the quarry and both found that there is adequate access for riders and no evidence that the bridleway is blocked. Members pointed out that diversion of the bridleway to the Rectory Drive gate onto the Class III highway is not advisable because of the proximity of a blind bend.

RESOLVED, that the complainant is informed of the Parish Council's findings and advised to contact Mrs Alison Smith, Devon CC Footpaths Officer (Torridge), County Hall, Exeter, if future difficulties arise.

Cllr Stevens was invited to return to the meeting

(c) A39 Road Closure: Diversion via A386 & A388, Landcross: Closure of A39 from Oct 6 to 10th and diversion via Bideford, A386 to Landcross, then A388 to Holsworthy was noted.

755 Littleham Village Hall & Playing Field:

(a) DPFA E- Group:

Correspondence regarding DPFA funding and E-Group participation had been previously sent to Members. Cllr Hamilton has advised DPFA that he will be the E-Group contact and the Chairman had referred funding correspondence to Paul Jarrett, who is championing development of Littleham Playing Field.

(b) DPFA Training Course, Merton 6th October 2008:

CCD and DPFA are organising a course at Merton on 6th October to train in respect of Playground and Recreational Area topics. The Course Fee is £30 and Cllr Poole, has offered to attend, either as a Member of Littleham Village Hall & Playing Field Committee or as a Parish Councillor. CCD advises that the course is open to DPFA or DAPC members.

RESOLVED that Cllr Poole attends this course as Littleham & Landcross Parish Council representative and that payment of the £30 course fee is approved.

756 Parish Plan:

(a) Parish Plan Steering Group:

The Chairman reported on CCD correspondence received and updating of the CCD Communities in Action web-site, to record progress in Littleham and Landcross.

(b) Gt Torrington & District MCTA Local Community Partnership: Minutes and agenda noted.

757 Finance & Insurance: Authorisation of Payments and Report on Bank Balance: The Chairman endorsed a Bank Statement showing a cleared Bank Balance of £2,220.47 at 20 July 2008. Payments of £30.00 DPFA (Course Fee) and Torridge Voluntary Services £5.00 (Annual Membership renewal) were approved.

758 Correspondence requiring attention:

The following correspondence was received: -

(a) DAPC: Governance & Accountability for Local Councils - A Practitioners Guide 2008 (England)

This manual updates the edition previously purchased by the Parish Council. Printed versions of the 2008 Guide can be purchased, or downloaded for free. The Clerk has downloaded the 2008 Edition.

(b) TDC "Towards the Future" Strategic Plan: Receipt of the TDC document was noted.

(c) TDC; BT's Proposal to Realign Payphone Provision (Min 710 of 21.04.08): A copy of TDC's schedule of responses to BT's proposal to realign payphone provision was received. The entry, in respect of Hoopers Water payphone, stated, "OBJECT, Emergency service needed, traffic black-spot / accidents. Mobile phone signal poor". TDC's comments were noted.

(d) Maitland Walker; BT's Removal of public call boxes: Noted, with no action authorised.

(e) TDC: Your free composter awaits:

RESOLVED that TDC is thanked for offering a free compost bin and advised that Littleham Village Hall already has adequate recycling arrangements and will not require the facility.

(f) TDC; Transfer of Local Authority Property in 1974: No action required.

(g) DCC ; Govt White Paper "Communities in Control – real people, real power" : Noted.

(h) TDC: The Senior Council for Devon, "Strength in Later Life": Noted.

(i) CCD cash grants to fund technology (CCD e-mail dated 28.07.08): Noted.

(j) Sustainability Communities Act on L & L Web Site ( D. Hogan e-mail 27.06.08): Noted.

(k) Torridge Voluntary Services:

The Chairman reported on correspondence received from TVS, including renewal of annual membership and an invitation to the TVS and TTVS Annual General Meeting at Hallsannery Centre on 4th October.

RESOLVED, that Annual Membership is renewed.

(l) Stones, Solicitors: Registration of Parish Council land: No action required.

(m) DAPC Democracy Week nominations: deadline 15.09.08. ( DAPC e-mail 25.07.08) and DAPC: "Councillors Make a Difference" Celebration:

RESOLVED, on the motion of the Chairman and with unanimous support, that Cllr Mike Smith is nominated for inclusion in this celebration, in recognition of his perseverance and leadership of the "Broadband for Littleham Campaign".

(n) Plymouth University: Sustainable Parish Project: Noted, with no action authorised

(o) Devon LINK: Launch & Appeal for Volunteers: The Chairman is promoting this project through Crosslet.

(p) Other DAPC Training Courses: Noted.

759 Consideration of other correspondence received since the last meeting:

A file was made available to Parish Councillors containing correspondence about: -  
TDC Register of Electors up-date; DCC Annual Report 2007; Devon Talk magazine;  
Local Councils Update; SLCC Annual Conference; Clerks & Councils Review magazine;  
DPFA Playing Fields magazine; Promotional and Other correspondence.

760 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: 2nd October 2008 7.30pm.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.12 pm.