

LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 9th July
2015.



Present: Cllrs. Atkinson, Corkery, Fishleigh, Haddrell, Hamilton, Hassall, C Phillips, and Whittington.
TDC Councillor Pennington
PCSO's McGovern and Liz Rendell.

Apologies: Cllrs. Hopkins, Pru Phillips, Smith and Stevens.
DCC Cllr Dezart. .

In accordance with Standing Order 28 the Chairperson may adjourn the meeting at his/her Discretion to allow any member of the public wishing to address the meeting, for up to 3 minutes, on a specific agenda item.

1600 - Registration of Members Interests: No additional registrations were required.

1601 - To confirm the Minutes 1592-1599 of the Parish Council Meeting of June 11th, 2015.

Minutes were Proposed as correct by Cllr Hamilton. S: Cllr Haddrell. All agreed [Minutes signed by Chair].

1602 – Matters Arising. The Clerk confirmed that the main hall had been booked for future Meetings to allow use of the screen and internet access.

1603 -PLANNING - Applications: None.

Notifications: 1/0495/2015/FUL – **High Park House, Littleham** – conversion of outbuildings into 5 units of holiday accommodation – TDC Approved.

Other: *Edge Mills Nursery:* response from Nigel Marshall [TDC Enforcement] had visited the site. He confirms that the new access position is in accordance with approved plan. The access then turns left, not right, onto the site but planners and Highways consider this acceptable, and safer than existing access. Although the application stated that the oak tree would be retained, to obtain the 90m visibility splay this was not possible. The tree was not protected, and removal did not require consent. The original field gate access will be closed and replacement hedge provided. The matter has been discussed with TDC Development Manager, Dave Green, who agrees that although there are discrepancies between the approved details and what has been provided, it is not expedient to take action.

Cllr Hassall requested that we remind TDC of Planning Condition 398.3A [Nov 2011] which gave a time limit for closure of access and hedge replacement; and also can the current usage of the buildings at this site be checked.

Land at Shutta Farm: the original application for this development included reference to a payment of £8000 as a contribution to a new roof for the Village Hall. The development, by a Mr Lowe, is proceeding, and Cllr Hamilton, as Trustee for Littleham Village Hall and Range Field Charity had been in contact with him on this matter. A report of the communications was tabled, concluding in an offer to gift the piece of land on which the bus shelter stands, and fund the costs of new “Littleham Village” signs, including planters.

After discussion it was agreed not to accept this offer as The Parish Council would be taking on commitment of ongoing costs to maintain the land and signs. The Clerk is asked to respond to Mr Lowe.

1604- Highways: Notice received from County Highways that there would be a Temporary Speed Restriction of 30 mph to extend the current restricted area at the junction of the A386 with the A388 from June to November to enable inspection works to be carried out.

Cllr C Phillips declared that there was a problem with traffic not obeying the current restrictions and requested that flashing reminder signs be put in place on both roads approaching the junction and to slow traffic through Landcross. Clerk to write to DCC Highways. On this subject PCSO McGovern advised that he would set up a Community Speedwatch scheme, which although not enforcement, uses speed radar equipment and covers the giving out of warning letters.

1605 – District & County Councillors Reports. No report had been received from DCC Councillor Dezart who is still recovering from a road accident.

TDC Cllr Pennington gave his report: he referred to the recent demise of the Waste Collection Company who collected recycling waste in the Torridge area. This collection service has now been taken “in-house” and collections will resume next week. He praised the Council officers who have put together this new service, sourcing vehicles etc in a matter of days to minimise disruption. Costs will be marginally higher than the former SMR service. Linden Homes the developers of land south of Atlantic Village have submitted a re-design for the Abbotsham X roundabout which will have an impact on the road to Littleham; it may be that with right of way for increased traffic from Atlantic Village direction, the egress to the A39 will become more difficult. Cllr Pennington advised that the Local Plan should be finalised by September.

PCSO’s Report: the 2 minor crimes in the Parish – theft and damage to property are still under investigation. The PCSO team had attended the Village fete to give crime prevention advice, and to encourage people to embrace the Farmwatch Scheme. Following contact from Cllr Smith regarding fly tipping, material found at the site had led to identification of the culprit and the issuing of a £75 fine. Cllr Corkery wished to congratulate the Police on prompt attendance following a panic button alarm at his home – though it was found to be a fault in the system.

1606 – Finance & Insurance:

- a) Funds available to the Council as at 20th June were £ 5426.58. the cashbook details had been circulated. The balance included the VAT Refund from previous year of £36.44, and the first instalment of the Precept payment of £1102.73 after deduction of 50% of the CTS Grant, and first half salary payments for the Clerk of £699.16. A payment of £43.42 is requested as 1/3rd telephone/broadband costs for the Clerk’s number. Cllr Fishleigh proposed that the bank statement and cashbook be signed, and the payment authorised. S: Cllr C Phillips. All agreed.
- b) The Clerk advised that the Audit Return had been signed off by the Auditors, and that – in accordance with new legislation – the details will be made available – “published” - on the Parish Website.
- c) Other Financial/Insurance Matters. none.

1607 – The Lorry Park at Edge Mill/Bridle Way. Cllr Haddrell raised several items regarding this site. There seemed to be an increasing number of vehicles and more importantly portacabins on site – she raised the question of what the Operators Licence allowed on the site [the Old DCC Road Depot]. The situation is unknown – and the Clerk is asked to investigate through TDC, and possibly Business Rates Office. Also – it is still very difficult to access the bridle way through the site – and this was seconded by Cllr C Phillips. The Clerk is asked to request a visit from the Public Rights of Way officer for the area.

1608 – The Farm “Road” - Littleham, the Archery to Apps. Cllr Haddrell had been asked by Parishioners what the purpose of the road was, and if it needed Planning permission. It was clarified by other Councillors that the road was on private land owned by Mr C Withecombe, and exited onto a private road – so Planning permission was not required; and that the purpose was to provide a direct route for farm machinery, avoiding the village roads. The construction of the road was welcomed by the Council, and the Clerk is requested to write a letter of thanks to Mr Withecombe, his initiative will have a beneficial effect for Littleham parishioners.

1609 - Correspondence Requiring Attention: A letter had been received from Mr & Mrs Pearcy, of Pendower, Littleham, complaining about the state of disrepair of the BT phone box outside Culver Cottage, suggesting that with the increased use of mobile phones the Parish Council might adopt the box, or have it removed. Cllr Corkery advised that with intermittent/uncertain mobile signals in the village the box should remain as a means of summoning help in an emergency. After debate it was decided not to progress with the “adoption” option as this would give ongoing maintenance and insurance costs for the Council, and there is a possibility that a “lease” or permit might be required from DCC who own the land on which the box is situated. The Clerk is asked to contact BT, requesting them to renovate the box at earliest opportunity, and reply to the Pearcy’s.

Letter received by Cllr Hassall from Nick Stansfeld of Landcross complaining that little notice is taken of the speed limits through Landcross on the A386 – is there anything that can be done. This matter had been discussed under “Highways” earlier in the meeting, and the Clerk is asked to reply given details of the actions taken by the Council and the PCSO’s.

Amendments received to the Register of Electors.

Letter from Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue: offer to talk to the Council. The Clerk is asked to ascertain the content of the talk.

I610 - Other Correspondence received: None.

I611 - E-Mail correspondence received: from Charlotte Lockett, of Underwood Wright, Chartered Surveyors requested that she attends a meeting to discuss housing requirements on a proposed development in the Parish, and for details of the Housing survey of 2009. Following discussion the offer to attend is to be refused, the Council will decide on Planning matters when an Application is received. Regarding the Housing survey – it was carried out as part of the Parish Plan in 2008. From Councillors memory there was only 1 person requiring an affordable home; and this would be provided in Alwington [Littleham/Landcross had discussed requirements with neighbouring Parishes].

RSN Weekly Digest[x4]: RSN – Rural Vulnerability Newsletter [x2]: RSN – Spotlight [x1]: Torridge Crime Report [x4]: DCC – Community News Roundup [x1]: CAB – July newsletter: RSN – Rural Housing Spotlight: TDC – Kerbside Recycling[x2]: Fields in Trust – July: Arts Wave Devon, Torrington mtg: DALC – update: RSN – Rural Opportunities Bulletin: NDHT – consultation on future hospital services: TAAG – agenda 28/7.

I612 -AOB. - Cllr Hassall said that he would be attending the next TAAG meeting. Cllr Haddrell encouraged Councillors to sign up to receive updates from the Village website. Cllr Atkinson had received comment from a Parishioner that the bus used for the Bradworthy route was now a minibus, but understood this was under review. He also advised that the local Magazine wished to publish the Minutes – it was agreed that they could take all/extracts from the website.

I613 – Next scheduled Meetings: 2015 – September 10th; October 22nd & December 10th.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.