

# **LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE: THURSDAY 10 MAY 2007**

**Present: Parish** Councillors Atkinson, Mrs Galvin, Hamilton, Hassall, Heard, Poole, G Smith, M. Smith, Stevens, County Councillor Barton, District Councillor Pennington + 12 residents.

**Apologies:** None.

**2007(a) Chairman:** Cllr Mrs Galvin presided as Chairman and thanked those present for attending.

**2007(b) Minutes 2006(a)-(f) of 2005 Annual Meeting:** Approved and signed as a correct record.

**2007(c) Matters arising from Minutes of last Annual Meeting:** There were no matters arising.

**2007(d) Landcross: Parish Council vacancies:** Former Parish Councillor Mrs Beer attended and was asked to consider co-option. Cllr Hassall will invite other Landcross residents to consider co-option..

### **2007(e) 2006/07 Chairman of the Parish Council's Report**

The Chairman summarised 2006/07 business and thanked the members of the previous Parish Council for their work and support, with a special mention for those who decided not to stand for re-election. She also thanked County Councillor Barton, who has attended many Parish Council meetings and has given useful advice when asked. She welcomed new Parish Councillors Poole and G. Smith and TDC Councillor Pennington, our recently elected District Councillor.

The Parish Plan had been a major initiative during 2006/07. The Parish has responded magnificently and the Chairman thanked everyone who had contributed or attended meetings. The Action Plan is being implemented and several new societies have been established.

Parish Councillor M. Smith was thanked for arranging meetings about Broadband with senior BT directors. This has resulted in new ducted cabling being laid through Littleham, thereby enabling businesses and households to benefit from much improved communications.

The Chairman referred to the web site that is being developed. She thanked David Hogan and the Littleham & Landcross Web Site Working Group for their efforts.

## **2007(f) County Councillor Hugo Barton**

County Councillor Barton commented on his work as County Councillor and spoke of the benefit he gained from his regular attendance at Parish Council Meetings. County Councillor Barton is the D.C.C. Executive Support Member with responsibility for Children & Young People (Social Care) and Chairman of Torridge Area Highways & Traffic Order Committee. He referred to meetings arranged to enable Landcross students to attend within more appropriate Designated School Areas and also to Devon County Council's massive investment in a new Bideford Community College. This exceptional investment will bring considerable benefit to Bideford and local communities.

County Councillor Barton also referred to the long awaited Bideford Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre (CARC) that has recently opened and to Devon C.C.'s Greening of Devon Initiative.

County Councillor Barton commented on Exeter's bid for unitary council status. Exeter wish to regain the County Borough status that it had until 1974. Devon C.C. opposes Exeter's bid, which D.C.C. forecasts will increase costs and weaken service provision. A smaller Devon C.C. will be less able to achieve economies of scale, or fund major projects, such as the Barnstaple Downstream Bridge. Littleham and Landcross were recommended to write to the Department of Communities and Local Government to record the Parish Council's views on this matter.

County Councillor Barton intends to continue to attend Parish Council meetings to keep the Parish informed. The Chairman called for a vote of thanks to County Councillor Barton.

## **2007(g) Guest Speaker: Torridge District Councillor Phillip Pennington:**

Councillor Pennington thanked electors for turning out to vote in the previous week's elections. There was a 54% turnout and he paid tribute to his opponent, Mr Clinch, and

commented that there had been considerable goodwill during the election. Councillor Pennington assured the meeting that he intended to represent everyone in Littleham & Monkleigh Ward. He pointed out that, although he lives just beyond the Parish boundary, he had long-standing links with Littleham and referred to the days when Littleham had a village school. He commented on population increases within Torridge, the proposed Housing Transfer, the increase in the ratio between elderly and young people in the area, the importance of Housing Benefits and provision of affordable housing. He assured residents that he would do his utmost as their District Councillor and recommended those present to contact him if they had concerns regarding provision of local government services at district level. The Chairman thanked to Councillor Pennington.

#### **2007(h) Questions raised by members of the public:**

**Mrs S. Beer, West Heale, Landcross, asked about provision of refuse sacks and asked why Landcross households did not receive wheelie-bins or green recycling boxes. The Chairman asked whether fortnightly refuse collection was likely?**

County Councillor Barton (who had been a District Councillor before the election and had been recently re-elected in Bideford) advised that, despite opposition, TDC had decided to discontinue provision of refuse sacks, to reduce costs. He also pointed out that the reason why wheelie-bins had not been issued to Landcross households was because finances only allowed delivery to larger settlements. TDC do not plan to introduce fortnightly collections at present.

**Mrs J. Hamilton, Springfield, Littleham, asked why there were no signs advising HGV drivers not to use Springfield Lane? Wide vehicles and long vehicles have difficulty negotiating the bend outside Springfield and her Devon Bank has been damaged on several occasions.**

This matter will be referred to the Parish Council, who will advise the Devon C.C. Local Service Officer (Northern Devon) of their concern.

**Mr I Atkinson, Higher Webbs, Littleham, asked why Littleham still had no street signs? He pointed out that residents on the edge of the village are constantly asked for directions.**

The Chairman advised that this issue had been considered in the Parish Plan and that a "Village Map" was being prepared. This matter will be referred to the Parish Council, for further consideration.

**Mrs J Bowerman, Hollands Court, Littleham, referred to flooding on the highway at the junction of her road and Wagon Lane.**

Councillor Pennington pointed out that, although Hollands Court is in Littleham, the flooding is within the Outer Ward of Bideford. It was agreed that this matter would be referred to the Devon Highways Superintendent. County Councillor Barton advised that DCC lengthsman would be working in Littleham on 11<sup>th</sup> June and he undertook to follow up this matter.

*The meeting commenced at 8.00 pm and closed at 9.05 pm.*

