

LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 10th
December 2015.



Present: Cllrs. Atkinson, Corkery, Haddrell, Hamilton, Hassall, Hopkins, C Phillips, Pru Phillips, Smith, Stevens and Whittington.

Apologies: Cllr. Fishleigh.
TDC Cllr Pennington. 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.

1654 - Registration of Members Interests: No additional registrations were required.

1655 - To confirm the Minutes 1638-1649 of the Parish Council Meeting of October 22nd, 2015.

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

1656 – To confirm the Minutes 1650-1653 of the Urgent Parish Council Meeting of November 19th, 2015.

Minutes Proposed as correct by Cllr C Phillips. S: Cllr Stevens. All agreed [Minutes signed by Chair].

1657 – Matters Arising. The Chairman asked that the Council reconsider making a contribution – maybe £100 - to keep the Barnstaple Records Office open. It was agreed to discuss at the next Meeting, and meantime the Clerk is asked to obtain an update on funding commitments to date.

The Clerk advised that BT expected to carry out repairs to the kiosk in Littleham shortly, and that repainting had been placed on the schedule for March- October 2016 [Parishioners Mr & Mrs Percy will be advised of this]

1658 -PLANNING - Applications: None.

Notifications: None.

Other: Edge Mills Nursery: Cllr Corkery has heard from Parishioners that there may be people living in the shed and caravan on the site. The RSPCA have visited the horses, believed to be owned by a Charity for Disabled based in Exeter. The Clerk is asked to refer this information to Planning Enforcement at TDC.

Cllr Hassall has also seen that part of the land, adjacent to the new entrance, is for sale, asking price of £75k.

1659 - Highways: Road Closure Notices – A386 Landcross, south of the junction of A386/A388 is to be closed on January 6th for 10 weeks. This is to effect complex repairs to the retaining wall. The HGV diversion during the closure will be via Torrington, Newton Tracey, Roundswell and Bideford. Councillors asked that DCC Highways be requested to effect repairs to the landslips near Beam Quarry at the same time [Clerk to write]. Speed limits/enforcement at Landcross – a reply has been received from Julian Roskilly [Devon Highways] regarding the costs of purchasing an electronic Reminder Sign for use in the Parish iro £5000, with ongoing costs of insurance, both asset and liability. The Clerk is asked to ascertain if the accident statistics for this stretch of road will warrant discussion at the next SCARF meeting; also to chase progress with PCSO McGovern on setting up a Community Speedwatch scheme.

1660- Procurement of Audit for Smaller Authorities – discuss Opt-Out from the Sector Led Body [SLB] scheme.

The Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 requires that from April 2017 smaller authorities will be appointed auditors through a “sector led body” or opt out and appoint auditors locally. NALC is involved with setting up the sector led body and has issued advice and guidelines which were tabled for Councillors. This Parish Council, with t/o of less than £25k, will still be required to have an Internal Audit, but will not be required to submit accounts to an external auditor from April 2017. However in case of query from Parishioners an external auditor would be available through the scheme. There would be an initial “small fee” to cover costs of setting up the SLB for the

first 5 year period. Should Council wish to opt-out and appoint local auditors the process would include, but not be limited to the following: establish an Auditor Panel; follow statutory appointment process; appoint auditor by 31st December 2016 and provide the SLB with details of Appointee.

After full discussion Cllr Corkery proposed that this Council does not “opt out” of the SLB.

S: Cllr Stevens.

All agreed.

1661 – District & County Councillors Reports. No reports had been received from either DCC Councillor Dezart or TDC Councillor Pennington.

1662 – Finance & Insurance:

- a) Funds available to the Council as at 20th November were £ 6450.13 - cashbook details had been circulated. A payment of £44.34 is requested in respect of re-imbursement of part BT costs for the Clerk. Cllr Haddrell proposed that the bank statement and cashbook be signed, and the payment authorised.
S: Cllr Pru Phillips. All agreed.
- b) Other Financial/Insurance Matters. None.

1663 - Correspondence Requiring Attention: DALC have confirmed that to comply with the new “Transparency” requirements we can continue to publish required items [Agendas, Minutes, Accounts etc] via the Community Website. Our own website is not required. We are reminded that grants are available for any equipment such as laptop, scanner, printer etc to comply with the new requirements. Councillors decided not to obtain a “Parish” laptop. *North Devon & Torridge Local Plan 2011-2131* – the consultation period on recent amendments had closed on December 3rd, 2015. TDC had issued Requisition for the Full Register of Electors; this has been signed and returned by the Clerk and he now has possession of the full list. Councillors were reminded of the restricted use of this information. Letter received from CAB [Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon] asking Council to consider helping support the service; they advised that they had helped 28 clients from the Ward of Monkleigh & Littleham during 2014/15. Noted, but in line with Council Policy no payment will be made. [The Clerk will investigate whether CAB, and the Records Office are eligible to apply for TAP funds].

1664 - Other Correspondence received: - Clerks & Council Direct, November 2015. Devon Senior Voice – Autumn 2015.

1665 - E-Mail correspondence received:

DCC Highways – Annual Engagement Survey: RSN Weekly Digest[x6]: RSN – Rural Vulnerability Service Newsletter [x2]: Torridge Crime Report [x6]: DCC – Community News Roundup [x2]: RSN – Rural Opportunities Bulletin [x2]: Devon Lieutenant – Patrons Lunch: Geoffrey Cox MP – Surgery Dates 2016: NHS NEW Devon CCG Newsletter: HealthWatch Devon – Monthly Bulletin [x3]: Village Green – Winter 2015: DCC Highways – Road Closures [x2]: NDC – Self-Build Housing Register: Government News: DCC Emergency Planning Newsletter: DCC ex Civic Centre solar panels for re-use: DCC – Flood Risk management: TDC – Tesco Local Community Grant Scheme.

1666 - AOB. - Cllr Stevens had contacted County Highways advising that 2 drains were blocked in Littleham which were causing flooding, and if the run-off were to freeze it would cause a traffic/public hazard. The Clerk will contact DCC. Cllr Pru Phillips asked if anyone knew if the lock buildings on the river near Landcross were within Parish boundaries. A wooden “boathouse” has been built, and she wonders if Planning Permission is required. Cllr Hassall believes it is in the Parish, but had not seen any Planning Notifications.

1667 – Next scheduled Meetings: 2015 – January 21st; March 3rd & April 14th.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm.