

**LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON**  
**THURSDAY 14th March 2013.**



**Present:** Cllrs. Atkinson [who acted as Chair for the meeting], Corkery, Pat Fishleigh, Hamilton, Hassall, Hopkins, Heard, Pru Phillips, Smith and Stevens.

TDC Cllr Pennington [from 7.45pm]. DCC Cllr Robinson.

**Apologies:** Cllr Sue Beer.

*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.*

**1303 - Registration of Members Interests:** No additional registrations were required.

**1304 - To confirm Minutes 1288-1302 of January 24th, 2013.**

Cllr Hassall requested that his name be removed from the last sentence of Minute 1296, as he did not recollect saying this. It was agreed that the point regarding "new road infrastructure" was made, and accordingly the words "It was..." should be inserted instead of "Cllr Hassall...". With that amendment it was proposed that the Minutes were correct.

P: Cllr Fishleigh.

S: Cllr Stevens.

All agreed.

**1305 - Matters Arising - Not Covered by Agenda:**

Cllr Beer had received communication from a Parishioner who wished to remain anonymous drawing attention to the fact that there appeared to be people living in a caravan[s] sited in the field opposite the Old Treatment Works. The first caravan appeared last summer, and the second only recently. It was agreed that this should be brought to the Attention of TDC Planning Department as there was no recollection of any permission being granted for a caravan on this site; and that the Clerk should hold back on this notification for 7 days whilst Councillors attempted to ascertain the ownership of the field.

**1306 - Letter of Resignation from Cllr Loraine Kindley.** The letter of resignation was read to the Council; her decision was made due to changing personal circumstances. She thanked the "friendly, approachable and amenable team", wishing them "positive future outcomes to all their negotiations, hard work and dedication given to the Parish Council".

The Clerk is asked to write a letter of thanks to Loraine, and to advise TDC. Councillors are to consider replacement and offer suggestions at the April meeting.

**1307 - Planning Applications: 1/0053/2013/FUL - South Heale Cottage, Littleham** - erection of garden studio/workshop. The plans had been seen by all Councillors, Approval was agreed with Cllr Hassall declaring an interest and not participating in the vote. P: Cllr Phillips. S: Cllr Heard.

**Notifications:** 1/1075/2012/FUL: Newridge, Littleham - replacement dwelling. Approved by TDC.

Other Planning Matters: it was noted that the light industrial site at the Old Reservoir, Littleham had been sold.

**1308- Atlantic Array:**

- 1) Response to RWE npower letter of January 11<sup>th</sup> 2013. After discussion it was decided that a response was not required.
- 2) Cllr Smith advised that he had been in contact with Geoffrey Cox MP, who was keen to meet with those affected by the cable route, it is thought he is particularly concerned with consequential loss to businesses, but clarification will be sought and proposed dates will be advised. It is expected that Councillors will attend together with invited Parishioners.
- 3) Cllr Smith advised that he was concerned that RWE intended to lay cables in stages, and wished RWE to complete the laying of all necessary cables in one operation, so eliminating any need for major re-access to the Jointing Bays.

He also wanted the cables crossing the Littleham to Abbotsham Cross road to be underdrilled, so that the road would remain fully open at all times. With Council permission he would table these concerns at the next 5 Parishes meeting, as part of their submission to the Secretary of State in due course. Agreed. Cllr Atkinson agreed to attend the next 5 parishes meeting with Cllr Smith as Cllr Beer would be unable to attend. Cllr Pennington expressed concern regarding the already blighted property market that the RWE proposal had created, notwithstanding that at the current time any Searches would not reveal the cable route as a Planning application had not yet been made.

**1309- Highways: letter from Mr & Mrs Knott, The Oaks, Littleham.** Mrs Knott had been involved in a head on collision, just 150 yards from their residence, with a van whose driver admitted travelling on Waggon Road [into Littleham] at a speed of more than 45 mph, and contended that the speed limit was 60mph on that road. Arising from that incident the Knotts request that the Parish Council take up the following issues as a matter of urgency

with the appropriate authorities: the introduction of a speed limit for the narrow lanes around Littleham; investigate why the police were not interested in recording this incident. Cllr Hassall was puzzled at the police response as the last time this was discussed with them they asked that all incidents be reported for statistics to be compiled. DCC Cllr Robinson thought that the limit was in fact 50 on that road, and suggested that the Highways Safety Officer at DCC, Michael Newcombe be contacted. Cllr Hamilton remembered that the Council had sought limits in prior years but had been unsuccessful, and there was the ongoing problem of policing any restrictions. The Clerk was asked to make appropriate contacts and enquiries, and to acknowledge the letter.

**Grit Boxes:** a grit box has been placed near Littleham Court, and Cllr Heard was thanked for his part in this. DCC had confirmed a grant of £180 towards purchase of this and a second box. It was agreed that a second 90 litre box be purchased, and that Cllr Heard would consider placement on delivery. Cllr Atkinson thanked Cllr Robinson for his efforts in obtaining the grant funding; Cllr Robinson suggested that in due course the locations of the boxes should be given to DCC Highways with a request that County maintain them in future.

After discussion **It was proposed to purchase a second 90 litre grit box from Glasdon Manufacturing Ltd.**

P: Cllr Heard. S: Cllr Fishleigh. All agreed.

Cllr Heard has, again, agreed to take delivery of the Box.

**Parking at top of Church Lane** – PCSO McGovern will be visiting houses in the vicinity tomorrow.

**1310 – Discuss purchase of new Parish Notice Boards.** There was concern about the condition of the Parish Notice Boards; the Perspex had discoloured and the backing boards had deteriorated. The Clerk gave examples of costs for new in wood or recycled materials at around £1200. It was decided to ask Mr Brend to give an estimate for refurbishment for discussion at next meeting. Cllr Atkinson to action.

**1311 – To Approve amendments to Standing Orders #24 & 25.** The proposed amendments to Sections 24 and 25 of the Standing Orders were tabled. The Clerk advised that changes are necessary following the agreement of the new Code of Conduct.

P: Cllr Smith. S: Cllr Fishleigh. All agreed.

**1312 – To discuss the choice of speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting.** The choices are: Tim Stringer, Tree Officer, TDC to talk on tree and landscape topics. Or Mrs Terry Thorpe, Bideford Foodbank on their work in the area. It was decided to ask Tim Stringer to speak; Clerk to contact.

**1313 - District & County Councillors' Reports.** DCC Cllr Robinson gave his report, see Appx 1. TDC Cllr Pennington: – the major news was the closure of Tyco Electronics; the District Council are doing all they can to mitigate the effects of this which may result in possible loss of 300 jobs. He also reminded individuals to respond to the Local Plan, the date for response has been delayed to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Cllr Smith requested that the Parish Council respond to express concern at the proposals for the area south of Caddsdown where several hundred houses are proposed with access from Abbotsham Cross. Whilst outside the Parish Boundary he suggests that there may well be adverse effects on the Parish through “visual detriment”, the density of housing and social consequences, the adverse effect on rainwater runoff created and increased traffic flow through Littleham.

#### **1314 - Finance & Insurance:**

a) Report on Bank Balance and Authorisation of Payments.

Bank balance: £4190.63 as at 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

Cashbook details tabled. Proposal to accept and have bank statement[s] signed by the Chair made by Cllr Fishleigh.

S: Cllr Corkery. All agreed.

b) Payments: £457.20 to Mr Wivell for grass cutting etc. £96 to the Village Hall for hire of room. £177.03 reimbursement to H Stanley for phones, stationery and purchase of Grit bin. P: Cllr Hamilton. S: Cllr Hassall.

All agreed.

#### **Other Financial or Insurance Matters: None**

**1315 - Correspondence Requiring Attention:** **1]** Invitation from Great Torrington Town Council to join them in an application to the TAP Fund to help towards the cost of printing their newsletter “The Crier” – Noted, but no thank you. **2]** from TDC and NDC – Reg. 18: Town & County Planning (Local Planning- England) Regulations 2012 – Notification of Consultation on the draft North Devon & Torridge Local Plan. This document had been distributed to all Councillors with guidance to respond as individuals; the Parish Council will be involved with Part 3 of the Local Plan in due course. **3]** TDC – advice of 5 seats on County Council to fill for Bideford East, Bideford South & Hartland, Holsworthy Rural, Northam & Torrington Rural. Briefing for prospective candidates on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Riverbank House – Noted. **4]** TDC advise Changes to Cardboard Recycling Collections – introduction of dedicated brown bags – Noted. **5]** TDC – notice of TAAG meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 7pm Town Hall Torrington – Noted. **6]** Register of Electors – update – noted.

**1316 -Other Correspondence received:** Clerks & Councils Direct March 13; SW Ambulance Service 24/7 – Edition 17; GTLCP Agenda 28.2.13 & Mins 29.11.2012.

**1317-E-Mail correspondence received:** TTVS-Snippets [x6]:RSN Digest[x7]: DCC Community Roundup, Feb 2013: NHW Forum Weekly Crime Report x 4: Route 38 Academy: GTLCP, Agenda 28.2.2103: Devon Senior Voice – News Feb 2013: DCC Devon Remembers, WW1.

**1318 -AOB.** Cllr Smith advised that he had contacted Julian Roskilly [DCC Highways] regarding the landslip at Whitehall, seeking to have the road re-opened asap; and also has chased the repairs needed at the bottom of

Chapel Hill where the roadway has now collapsed. He also asks if the Council wish him to pursue TDC regarding the flytipping at Cherrytree layby, and at Moorhead [near the old reservoir]. The Chair thanked him for his actions.  
**1319 - Next Meeting: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013. 7.30pm.** [Scheduled meetings for 2013: 16 & 23/5]  
The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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**Appendix 1 to Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013.**

**Report to Littleham & Landcross Parish Council for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013.**

**1/ Grit bins.** Funds should by now be in the parish council's account from my locality funding. The parish councillors to determine the locations of the two boxes. Replenishment to be by volunteers of the Snow Warden scheme initially, though in future winters it may be possible to have the locations entered on the council's GPS for their deliveries of grit.

**2/ Representations concerning excessive speed.** Recall my failure to persuade road safety at county to introduce a 50 mph speed limit along Whitehall (compare this road with the Clovelly Road, where there is a 40mph limit dropping down to 30 mph past the Caddsdawn area. Recall also that I was able to persuade the road safety people to implement a 30 mph limit through Weare Giffard, a long-time wish of the community there. I am happy to support the wishes of the parish council in this regard and to support their application to the road safety people at county.

**3/ Atlantic Array.** To report that an interesting public meeting took place last week at Alverdiscott Hall under the auspices of the "Slay the Array" group. C. 150 attended a well-informed meeting where there emerged the belief that, due to possible financial and other constraints the development of the Atlantic Array may not actually take place. The shortcomings and unreliability of this form of energy capture and the increasing costs being suffered by consumers as a result of subsidies and feed-in tariff payments appears to now be being realised by the Treasury.

(As an aside, another well-attended meeting at St. Giles-in-the-Wood of their parish council with representatives of the E A and the management of Deepmoor and which was attended by this councillor and most of the parish council of Alverdiscott and Huntshaw was notable for the litany of complaints concerning so many aspects of the operation of that facility near Huntshaw Cross.)

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