

**LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT**  
**LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> September**  
**2011.**



**Present:** Cllrs. Atkinson (Vice-Chairman), Sue Beer (Chair), Corkery, Pat Fishleigh, Hamilton, Hassall, Hopkins, Loraine Kindley, Pru Phillips, Smith and Stevens. TDC Cllr Pennington. DCC Cllr Robinson.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Hassall & Heard. &.

*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.*

**1105- Registration of Members Interests:** No additional registrations were required.

**1106- To confirm Minutes 1089– 1104 of 28<sup>th</sup> July 2011.** *(previously dispatched)*

Proposed as correct by Cllr Atkinson.

S: Cllr Smith.

All agreed; signed by Chair.

**1107-Matters Arising – Not Covered by Agenda:**

a-New Councillor Training. No response from TDC. Clerk to chase and arrange. Alternative training with DALC was tabled, but dismissed for cost and travel reasons. TDC Cllr Pennington will also chase on behalf of the Parish – he suggests that we contact Judy Phillips.

**1108- Planning:**

**Applications: 1/0742/2011/FUL Alverlin, Littleham – extension over garage.** The Application was circulated between members prior to this meeting, and there having been no Objections TDC were advised accordingly on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2011. The decision is hereby ratified for public record that the Application be Approved.

**P:** Cllr Sue Beer.

**S:** Loraine Kindley.

All agreed.

**Other matters:**

- a. **1/0660/2011/FUL: Field 4609, East Furlong, Littleham – erection of agricultural building.** TDC notify permission Granted.
- b. **1/0588/2011/FUL: Cornerways, Landcross – erection of double garage.** TDC notify permission Granted.

**1109- Highways.**

- a) **Snow Wardens. Discuss the adoption of this scheme.** DCC Cllr Robinson reminded Members that the intention was to have one point of contact for each village for Highways in times of ice/snow problems; the Warden would also control stocks of grit deposited with the communities. After discussion it was decided to ask Cllr Heard [Cllr Hamilton will speak to him] if he would be Warden for Littleham; Cllr Pat Fishleigh agreed to be Warden for Landcross. Decisions on secure storage [5 tons to each Community] and “spreader” machinery will have to taken in due course.

- b) **Flooding at Edge Mill.** Cllr Corkery spoke with the land owner to trim the respective hedges; this will be done.
- c) **DCC sign/parking outside Pendower, Littleham.** DCC Cllr Robinson passed on a response from Julian Roskilley [Neighbourhood Highway Officer , Bideford North, East & Northam Wards]: "I had a look at that layby in Littleham. The sign is very badly faded, but would have no legal authority and thus we would not be able to enforce the parking there. Although a repaint wouldn't go amiss. The overgrowth is primarily from the neighbouring house, I can start the hedge notice procedure, but the Parish may wish to have a quite word instead." It was decided to take no action at this time and monitor the situation.
- d) **Pillmouth Cottage.** Road subsidence repair. Cllr Pru Phillips advised that no work had been carried out to date; there was now a crack in the road surface and the matter was therefore urgent. DCC Cllr Robinson agreed to chase the matter at Highways.

**1110- District & County Councillors' Reports.** DCC Cllr Robinson's report had been distributed to Members prior to the meeting [Appx 1]; in addition to his Report he added that he required the Councils response to DCC's proposals to reduce street lighting in Littleham between the hours of 1230 - 0530am. There were no objections raised.

TDC Cllr Pennington reported: that TDC had raised objections to Government on the proposed closure of Swansea Coastguard station. After declaring an Interest Cllr Pennington advised that following the public meetings by RWE nPower on the Atlantic Array he had received an unprecedented number of calls voicing concerns – especially on the cable route from Cornborough to Alverdiscott, and the effects it would have on adjacent land/buildings. TDC had been advised that Council Tax and Business Rates were to be devolved to Local Authorities which is causing concern regarding resources available and the costs at the local level to administer this. There had been praise for the Refuse Teams – not so for Planning. Discussions continue on merging both of these Departments with North Devon Council.

**1111-Update on Broadband Survey.** Cllr Smith had amalgamated the responses from the Survey – the main conclusion being that connectivity speeds were poor. He had written to Brian Richardson, Regional Director Service Delivery UK South suggesting that existing infrastructure could easily accommodate the introduction of fibre optic cables. Response received:

"Dear Mr Smith. Thank you for your email of 9 September regarding your concerns about Broadband speeds in Littleham and Landcross. I have passed your letter to the General Manager for Wessex, Pat Garland, and he will be in touch with you as soon as his initial investigations are complete. If at that stage you think a meeting between you would be beneficial, Pat would be very happy to arrange at your convenience. Pat's contact details are:

Tel: 01977 594321 pp HWF135, PO Box 200 London N18 1ZF"

Cllr Smith also reminded Members to keep on to their Providers regarding this as they will then push BT into action. The Clerk is asked to pass on the survey results to North Devon+.

**1112- Parish Plan:** Review the Welcome Booklet. Cllr Atkinson has contacted Morris Poole on this matter and will progress, reporting back at the next meeting.

**1113- Jubilee Tree** – parishioners comments. Letters received from Mr & Mrs Behnke, Altimira Cottage; Anne Davies, Hunca Munca and Graham Wood, Boundstone Cottages. They all suggest that the Jubilee Tree has now outgrown its site causing problems with overhanging branches and possible structural damage through the root system. After discussion it was decided to have the tree felled which would avoid any further problems for Parishioners properties, and possible liability on the Council. The Clerk is to approach Western Power to carry out the felling as the tree is adjacent to power cables; letters in response, advising this decision are to be sent.

**1114- Finance & Insurance:**

- a. Report on Bank Balance and Authorisation of Payments.

Bank balance: £3301.61 as at 20<sup>th</sup> August. Cashbook details tabled, and bank statement signed by the Chair.

Payments: £60 to Audit Commission; £34.92 Clerk admin expenses.

Proposed: Cllr. Sue Beer.

S: Cllr Hamilton.

All

agreed.

- b. Other Financial or Insurance matters: Community First Insurance asked if the Council is a Registered Employer. We are not – TDC have the Clerk on their books as “Employer”; and the Parish Council is exempt as the pay threshold is a min. of £503 pm. Response has been made by the Clerk.
- c. Annual Review – Clerks Remuneration. The Clerk left the room during this discussion. On his return it was recorded that the salary be increased to NALC Salary Point 16 - £8.545 p/hr, backdated to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 in accordance with the Contract of Employment. TDC to be advised.

Proposed: Cllr Sue Beer.

S: Cllr Hamilton.

All

agreed.

**1115 Correspondence Requiring Attention:**

- a) Proposed Closure of Swansea Coastguard: TDC had sent a letter and copy of a presentation given to their Members regarding the proposed closure. It was resolved to support the TDC opposition to this proposal on the same grounds, the Clerk is to advise Ken Miles, TDC Solicitor accordingly. Individual Council Members are asked to sign the on-line petition against closure [www.saveswanseacoastguard.co.uk](http://www.saveswanseacoastguard.co.uk) and to promote the same action from Parishioners.
- P: Cllr Atkinson. S: Cllr Pat Fishleigh. All agreed.
- b) Letter from Stevens re Rectory Woods: Letter received outlining the problems of “trespass” in rectory Woods from the owner Brian Stevens of “Milners”, Choep Road, Northam. There is a bridlepath adjacent to the woods and there is evidence that mountain bikes and horse riders have

been taking to the woods. This causes concern for the owners in case of accident and possible litigation – and on Insurers advice have taken steps to secure the non-public area, and erect suitable notices. He does not expect the Council to take any action but ask that the letter is recorded.

The Clerk is asked to pass a copy of the letter to Anne Davies to place in the Crosslet magazine; and to respond to Mr Stevens advising the action taken.

Cllr Stevens declared an interest – the owner of the woods is his brother; he abstained from the vote.

P: Cllr Hamilton.

S: Cllr Sue Beer.

All agreed [Cllr Stevens

abstained]

- c) Jubilee Woods Project: information noted, no action as an area of 60 acres was required.
- d) Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm – Public Consultations. Cllr Sue Beer has spoken to the RWE representative – Robert Thornhill – and challenged him as to why Parish Councils had not been consulted – especially Littleham which will be substantially affected by the cable laying operation. Mr Thornhill has agreed to attend a meeting of Parishioners if it is organised. County Cllr Robinson had attended a consultation meeting at Huntshaw the previous evening, and confirmed that Parish Councils were not on the list of “Official consultees”. It was agreed that Cllr Sue Beer would organise a meeting at the Village Hall, and send fliers for this with the Crosslet magazine. Cllr Atkinson, with Cllr Smith, would organise a “pre-meeting” of Councillors to put together a list of questions to be posed on the night, and suggested that recompense for the Community [over the life of the project licence – 25 years] -should be discussed.

**1116-Other Correspondence received:** TDC agenda for TTAG meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>, and Minutes for June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**1117-E-Mail correspondence received:** TTVS- update for Members: RSN – News Digest [x4]: TTVS – Training & Events Bulletin x3: TTVS – Funding News x2: TTVS re Asda Community activity: TTVS – Healthcare briefings: TTVS – vacancies, Directors & staff: TTVS – VCS Mentoring Pilot Scheme: TTVS – Snippets Bulletin x3: DRCC – Sport England funding: TDC – Jubilee woods: Dev& Cornwall Police – Authority Matters: Grt Torrington Local District P’ship: Invite to next meeting: TTVS- training & County Rep vacancy: DCC – Emergency Planning newsletter: TDC: Atlantic array consultation events: CCD – Events & e-bulletin: TTVS – AGM: DCC – Tough Choices, public events:

**1118-AOB.** Cllr Loraine Kindley advised that the Devon bank near Mt Pleasant had been repaired; but since destroyed again by traffic. Cllr Pat Fishleigh advised that recent hedge cutting had not been “deep” enough, leaving obstructive growth in place on footways etc. DCC Cllr Robinson will take up these matters.

**1119- Next Meeting: October 20<sup>th</sup>**

[Scheduled meetings: 8/12; [2012]19/1; 15/3; 19/4; 17/5 & 24/5.]

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.

**Report to Littleham & Landcross Parish Council, for Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011.**

**1/ Atlantic Array Concerns.** According to the relevant cabinet member at County Hall, there is an amount of problems to be dealt with in regard to the actual building of the array before the attention can focus on the landing of the power cables. However, since there is quite an amount of hear-say about negotiations and possible deals being done (divide to rule), questions have been put to the Leader of TDC as to what negotiations have taken place with that council, and replies are awaited. My view is that if there is to be a blot on the landscape all the way from Cornborough to Alverdiscott, and the government's obsession with renewable energy will almost certainly see the adventure pushed through, then the best the local community can do is get as good a deal as possible out of it by way of community support funding. Unity is strength. At the first opportunity I will be asking the following questions of RWE: -

- (i) Why the Welsh Grid cannot take the extra load, now that heavy industry such as the steelworks are no longer in use;
- (ii) Will the research findings on the impact that electro-magnetic pulsing has on pelagic fish species be published;
- (iii) Based on the amount of compensation provided for the Fillabrook installations and its small size relative to the Atlantic Array, what amount of compensation is being considered for the parishes directly affected and for the surrounding parishes;
- (iv) What are the dimensions of each of the slabs of foundations that will be laid, and what is the intended final number of turbines planned;
- (v) What proportion of the materials to be installed on those platforms are to be manufactured in this country;

- (vi) How many power stations will be required to operate on free-wheel to be cut in as compensation for periods of high pressure during the winter when calm conditions prevail and energy demand will be greatest;
- (vii) Can we be assured that the agricultural usages of the land under which the 200ft width of cabling trenches will pass will be capable of operating as before without any impediment or hazard;
- (viii) Can we be assured that no works on land whatsoever, other than those that can conveniently be dismantled again, will be undertaken before all the offshore problems have been resolved to the satisfaction of the first tier council and others;
- (ix) How major a leap in terms of technological difficulties due to the more extreme depths, weather conditions, tidal current speed, geology and the sensitive nature of the Bristol Channel seabed does the company expect as compared with their present sites?
- (x) Can we be given, in terms of acreage/hectares, the size of the installations anticipated for the National Grid connection at Alverdiscott, and, in light of the major works required here, why cannot the originally intended landing place at Fremington not be similarly adapted.

**2/ TDC Housebuilding Plans.** I have serious misgivings about the apparent cart-before-horse approach of planning for house-building before addressing the other issues including, e.g., *If localism is to mean anything, the natural unit should be either parish- or town-based. Can someone tell me as to what are the criteria on which, for instance, the 108-house tally for Frithelstock Parish or the 6,285 reported for Bideford has been based? Secondly, these so-called assessments of housing need should form the final stage, and certainly not the first, in the establishment of a core strategy. Infrastructure (which includes, among many others, an adequate roads network; fit-for-purpose water, sewage and other services; educational provision to fit the demand; health and medical care appropriate to the population profile; suitable recreational, transport and telecommunications provision) must be the initial focus in these parts, due to the perceived inadequacy of the present provision of all these, before adding further to the problem. Employment opportunities and demographics need also the closest scrutiny, as should the preservation of our landscapes, way of life and heritage both natural and man-made.* I would welcome the views of the Parish Council.

**3/ Un-announced tree-felling.** I have mentioned to Highways officers the financial loss to this Parish of the un-published closure of the road on the day of the Parish Fête, and hinted at an ex gratia, so far, without response. I keep asking!

**4/ Response from Julian Roskilly re. Parking at lay-by.** Julian report's that he had a look at the lay-by. The sign is very badly faded, but would have no legal authority and thus we would not be able to enforce the parking there, although a repaint wouldn't go amiss. The overgrowth is primarily from the neighbouring house, I can start the hedge notice procedure, but the Parish may wish to have a quite word instead. I can relay the parish council's wish in this matter.

**5/ Loss of the Swansea Coastguard.** With the volume of shipping traffic, much of it heavy vessels that navigates the sea area between the North Cornwall coast and Pembrokeshire in Wales and all the way up to Bristol, this is too important a sea area to be without its own dedicated coastguard. It must be remembered that it is not so many years ago that we lost our own Hartland facility. DCC set up a working group, on which I served, to assemble the county council's response. The focus at that time was on the threatened closure of Brixham (since then confirmed) and the belief that Swansea would not be touched. The DCC response was an emphatic "no". It seems unbelievable that Swansea should be threatened for,

all other hazards considered, the Atlantic Array in itself should pose such a novel hazard and of such vast dimensions that Swansea could not be dispensed with.

Thank you Chairman, Council.

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