

LITTLEHAM& LANDCROSS PARISHCOUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 16th August 2012.



Present: Cllrs. Beer, (Chairman), Atkinson, Corkery, Pat Fishleigh, Hassall, Heard, Pru Phillips, Smith and Stevens. TDC Cllr Pennington. DCC Cllr Robinson. PCSO McGovern.

Apologies: Cllrs. Lorraine Kindley, Hamilton & Hopkins.

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.

1229 - Registration of Members Interests: No additional registrations were required.

1230 - To confirm Minutes 1213-1228 of June 21st, 2012. (previously dispatched)
Minutes Proposed as correct by Cllr Atkinson. S: Cllr Stevens. All agreed: Minutes signed by Chair.

1231 - To confirm that when completing their Register of Interests in July, Members considered, and recorded, the Interests of their "Relevant Partners": All present confirmed.

1232 - Matters Arising – Not Covered by Agenda:

- a) **Daylight Saving – Streetlights, Littleham:** work commenced on August 6th.
- b) **A New Bill to Empower Local Councils:** The Clerk had written to MP's Peter Aldous and Neil Carmichael, as requested. Acknowledgement by e-mail received from the latter.

1233 -Planning Applications:

1/0516/2012/FUL: Moor Park, Littleham: proposed extensions & alterations. Approved with concern regarding the absence of a Wildlife Report.

P: Cllr Atkinson. S: Cllr Phillips. All agreed.

Notifications:

1/0364/2012/FUL: 4, Edge Mill Cottages – retrospective application for hardstanding parking area. Approved by TDC.

1/0366/2012/CPE: Sunset, Landcross – certificate of lawful use as a private dwelling. Approved by TDC.

Proposed Residential Development by Linden Homes, adjacent Atlantic Village: Cllr Hassall raised this matter, whilst the site is outside the Parish boundary he is aware that Council had in the past raised concerns regarding development in that area; as such he asks if the members would like to register an interest with TDC to be given all future information regarding the development. TDC Cllr Pennington advised that the area concerned falls within TDC planning areas for future development. It was decided to register the Council's interest.

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

1234 - Atlantic Array: a) Consider a direct response to RWE on the EIR? b) Proposed joint working with TDC/other parishes : Response received from TDC [Vanessa Saunders]. After discussion on the meeting held with RWE last week it was decided that the Clerk should formulate a response to RWE,

and a copy to be sent to TDC so that it could be incorporated into their Local Impact Report. Cllr Atkinson had prepared [and tabled] a summary of the points he thought should be incorporated into the report. It was also requested that the Clerk ask John Hart [leader DCC] to offer up 3 dates on which he could attend at Littleham to discuss the composition of the AA Working Group. RWE should also be chased for their promised information. Vanessa Saunders has intimated that TDC will call a meeting in September of all interested Parishes.

1235 – Highways: Road Closure Notices – A388.DCC have issued a notice to close: a) Frithelstock to Stibb X. 3rd to 12th Sept. b) Petticombe Manor to Catsborough X – 13th to 18th September. Council asked DCC Cllr Robinson to chase repairs at Ruddabridge where existing water mains are near to surface and in danger of damage. Cllr Beer will chase Julian Roskilly to meet.

1236 - District & County Councillors' Reports. DCC Cllr Robinsons report had been distributed prior to the meeting. TDC Cllr Pennington advised that: there was continuing movements to combine working with N Devon Council. There is increased awareness, and concern expressed by electorate over the proposed Atlantic Array. Central Government have placed requirement on District Councils to implement reforms of the Council Tax Rebate – aimed at ensuring as many as possible pay a minimum of 30% of their Council Tax. There should be more co-operative working between Councils, at District and Parish level to achieve improvements under the new Localism Act.

1237 - Finance & Insurance:

Report on Bank Balance and Authorisation of Payments.

Bank balance: £3428.34 [with Funds available at £3396.84] as at 20th July 2012. The VAT refund of 3436.74 had been received. Cashbook details tabled, and bank statement[s] signed by the Chair.

Payments: £62.50 to A J Brend for repairs to parish Notice Boards.

Proposed: Cllr. Beer.

S: Cllr Smith.

All in favour.

Other Financial or Insurance Matters: Insurance documents now received for period 1.6.2012 to 31.5.2013.

1238- Correspondence Requiring Attention:

- a) Letter from DCC Cllr Sam Robinson re GTLCP. Noted, it is expected that the new Co-ordinator will come to a future Parish Council meeting.
- b) Letter of thanks from Aileen Badcock. Noted.
- c) TDC – Localised Support of Council Tax- Consultation on Changes. This had been mentioned by TDC Cllr Pennington in his report; individual members are to complete the online questionnaire from TDC.
- d) Devon & Cornwall Police Authority – Election of Police & Crime Commissioner. Elections will take place on November 15th – Methodist Hall. PCSO McGovern encouraged all to vote on this important topic.
- e) TDC – Introduction of dog Control Orders. This will see ability to issue spot fines, and improve ability for authorities to obtain control orders for troublesome dogs.

- f) Safer North Devon – invitation to sign up to Community Messaging at www.devon-cornwall.police.uk to help prevent/solve crime in the local area. PCSO McGovern encouraged all to sign-up.
- g) NDVS – encouraging individuals to become volunteer drivers for Community Transport schemes. Contact jo@ndvs.org.uk.

1239 -Other Correspondence received: GTLCP-Agenda for 26th July, Minutes 22/3 and AGM 31/5: TAAG Agenda 17/7 & Mins 17/4: Clerks& Councils Direct: CCD Village Green magazine: TTVS newsletter 7/12: DPFA-newsletter summer 2012: Devon Senior Voice 7/12: Torridge Connect summer 2012.

1240-E-Mail correspondence received: DCC Community Emergency Planning-Newsletter: Torridge CVS – Police Commissioner event, and Volunteer Managers Forum: RSN-m/ship survey: DCC Tour of Britain [x2]: CCD Rural Futures: RSN Digest[x4]: NDVS-newsletter: TTVS-Snippets [x4]: Slee Blackwell- changes to Magistrates Court: Raynor- Atlantic Array bulletin: DALC-footpaths update: DCC Community Roundup:

1241-AOB. Cllr Corkery asked PCSO McGovern if there had been instances of oil thefts from local storage tanks: reply – only 3 or 4 instances in the last 12 mths. Cllr Fishleigh advised PCSO McGovern that she had been unable to obtain information about the owner of a vehicle that had crashed through her fence – even though it was the Police who advised her of the incident. This had made an Insurance claim very difficult. Reply- problems created by the Data Information Acts. Cllr Beer asked all members to sign up to the petition to oppose the Closure of the N Devon Magistrates Court, she would send the link to all. Cllr heard asked Members if they were experiencing slower Broadband speeds ecently. Cllr Smith advised that the matter should be raised with the Service Provider. Cllr Beer advised that Cllr Hamilton would be back at the end of October. PCSO McGovern asked Members to view the website regarding the new role of the Police Commissioner – elections will be held in October.

1242 - Next Meeting: September 20th, 7.30pm.

[Scheduled meetings for 2012: 25/10, and 13/12. For 2013: 24/1, 14/3,18/4, 19 & 23/5]

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

**LLPC Minutes 16.8.2012.
Appx.1**

Report to Littleham & Landcross Parish Council for Thursday 16th August 2012.

1/ TAP. I wish to report on the emerging Town & Parish (TAP) initiative launched by John Hart at county and now being given substance. This new idea, which again is weighted in favour of the south due to its per capita nature (£1.00 from county and £0.10 from district per elector), has, I am informed, got conditions attached. For instance, any project put forward for funding must have at least two entities participating, e.g. two parishes. Bideford is

regarded as one entity. I am not too sure if these joint parishes could be regarded as other than one entity for the purpose of this fund. County councillors are not to be parties to the allocation of funds to proposed developments. I have been assured that the funds will be held in a ring-fenced treasury fund by Torridge, with no involvement of North Devon +. There are presentations to be made, I understand, from early September to explain in more detail what is entailed.

2/ Localism, Neighbourhood Planning and the new Planning Framework. With the officers of TDC busily working on the NPPF, there is an opportunity that can be missed to ensure that local communities can have a major, genuine influence on what might emerge. This is what I understand as localism: the participation of the towns and parishes in all stages of the process and not simply responding to what has already been decided from on high. Neighbourhood planning can be regarded as a more comprehensive and more broadly-based version of the old Parish Plans, but with the notable addition of the emerging document being a living one with on-going iterations. I believe that, sooner rather than later, all the rural parishes must move so that even before TDC put out their plans for consultation, the neighbourhood voice should be given articulation through the formulation of their own “wish list”. This might well be a way in which Clive Burnage of the Great Torrington Local Community Partnership could help us if only by researching best practice elsewhere where genuine consultations with the communities have been carried out and which have resulted in a meaningful outcome.

3/ Waste Management Consultation. The county council are in the process of consulting on the proposals for the treatment of waste until 2031, and consultation events have taken place in various centres, though Torrington was the nearest they came to these parishes. Whilst some others of the rural parishes have been focused on the emerging proposals for Deepmoor, almost by default the re-emerging plans for an incinerator in the vicinity of Barnstaple is only too real. Bearing in mind that other counties have moved forward to more modern and less problematic methods of waste treatment and my motion is still extant in TDC along those lines, I am not aware that TDC have made any representations either on Deepmoor or on the possibility of an incinerator literally across the fields from our district. On the morning of the Development Management (Plans) Committee meetings of 5th September and 24th October there will be open sessions where interested parties can make representations. I will be speaking against both Deepmoor and any plans for an incinerator.

4/ Atlantic Array – Update. I am sure that the members of this council are as much in ignorance as I am of what negotiations have taken place between Npower and The Nine – the two county councillors from North Devon and one from Torridge and the three each from North Devon District Council and from TDC. Surprisingly I was invited to substitute for a meeting called for the beginning of July only to have that meeting postponed due to the non-availability of a number of councillors. When I indicated that I was free of county duties on Monday 23rd and was available to attend I received quite a terse direction from county that, I quote: “ The situation is that each of the Authorities have made their appointments (which were done through the Leader and Whips) and the three Authorities are equally represented on the steering group. It would be wholly inappropriate for Devon County Council to have more representatives than Torridge or North Devon, which is why we cannot make a further appointment. In any event, it is not an officer decision as to who represents the Council on bodies such as this, but a political one.”

So far, despite a number of requests for the publication of the deliberations of the group no report has issued of which I am aware. In the meantime the parishes of Littleham, Landcross, Alverdiscott and Huntshaw as well as the Bideford Town area are without any public representation on this steering group. [Late news: Vanessa Saunders has finally delivered some files to a list of councillors and councils, including Littleham & Landcross \(though but for copy sent by our parish clerk I would still be as much in the dark\).](#) I did attend the Alverdiscott Hall presentation by RWE, though listening and reading between the lines I get the feeling that all is not well with this project, and there may well be some financial difficulties looming.

5/ Rights-of-Way Proposals. Proposals to modernise the process of recording rights of way have been unveiled by the government. All unrecorded footpaths and bridleways created before 1949 cannot be recorded after 1 January 2026. This 'cut off' date, by which to claim these historical rights of way, was set in the Countryside and Rights of

Way Act 2000. For the full Report see: <http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/environment/rights-of-way-rules-to-be-modernised>

Communities can apply for footpath funding. See below:

<http://www.devonnewscentre.info/community/would-your-community-benefit-from-a-new-footpath/>

6/ Pothole on Monkleigh Road below Nethercleve. As I had already reported this large pothole on two separate occasions I have now asked for an explanation as to why the problem has still not been addressed and why I have not had it explained to me why this is so. Should the problem still persist by the time of this meeting I will raise the issue with the cabinet member in charge of highways.

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