

LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT LITTLEHAM
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 18th JUNE 2009

Present: Cllrs, Mrs Beer (Vice-Chairman), Hamilton (Chairman), Hassall, Heard and, Stevens,
plus Torridge District Cllr Pennington and Devon County Cllr Dr Robinson

Apologies: Cllrs Atkinson, Mrs Galvin, Hopkins, Ms Lamb, Poole, G. Smith and M Smith

Members of the public and Parish Councillors wishing to address the meeting on a specific agenda item, are, in accordance with Standing Order 24 and Paragraph 12(2) of Statutory Instrument 2007/1159, permitted to do so before that Agenda Item. No members of the general public were present,

856 Registration of Members Interests: No additional registrations were required.

857 County Councillors:

County Councillor Dr. Sam Robinson was welcomed to his first Parish Council meeting.

Members also expressed appreciation for the regular attendance and support of former County Councillor Hugo Barton.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cllr Hassall, seconded by Cllr Mrs Beer, that the Chairman should write to former County Councillor Barton to record the Parish Council's thanks for his service to the Littleham & Landcross and for the service improvements achieved in the parish during County Councillor Barton's term of office.

858 Minutes 840– 855 of 14th May 2009:

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Heard that Minutes 840 - 855 of 14th May 2009 are approved and signed as a correct record.

859 Matters arising from Minutes 840 – 855 above of 18th May 2009:

(a) (Min 846b) Allotments:

TDC have advised that the request for allotments in Littleham will be referred to the TDC Members Asset Management Group and subsequently (as required under Sec23, Small Holdings & Allotment Act 1908) the local residents' requests will be taken into consideration in any decision that is forthcoming. TDC Cllr Pennington advised that the District Council is considering the suitability of former TDC land at Northam for public allotments. He also emphasised that public allotments must not be used for commercial growing. DCC Cllr Robinson advised that the County Council would also be reviewing public allotment requirements. The Chairman asked Members to continue enquiring whether any Littleham landowners are prepared to make land available for Public Allotments and a suitable article in Crosslet was suggested.

(b) (Min 846c) Jubilee Tree:

Western Power Distribution's contractor has reduced the branches and pruned the Jubilee Tree.

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Stevens and duly seconded that: -

- **Western Power Distribution is thanked for reducing the branches of the Jubilee Tree and advised that the Parish Council is pleased with the standard of work carried out.**
- **The Parish Council also considers future maintenance of the Jubilee Tree by local volunteers at meetings in either October, or November.**

A letter was received from Westree Company of Salisbury, setting out details and terms for Tree Survey work was noted.

Minute 859: continued: -

(c) (Min 846d) DCC Parish Biodiversity Audits for Littleham and Landcross:

Cllr Mrs Galvin has e-mailed Parish Councillors, setting out notes on the Littleham & Landcross Biodiversity Audit Report. She has also contacted Craig Dixon of DCC and awaits his response. The Chairman read Cllr Mrs Galvin's notes outlining local action suggestions, including setting up a Working Group with representatives of the Parish Council, Littleham & Landcross P.C.s and interested members of the local community. Cllr Mrs Beer suggested that the Wild Life Group should be encouraged to play a prominent role in this work and the Chairman agreed to raise this with them. He also pointed out that the draft report recommends additional tree planting in Littleham Churchyard and at Littleham Playing Field. Landcross P.C.C has yet to respond to the Draft Biodiversity Audit Report.

RESOLVED, that Mrs Galvin's notes are referred to the next meeting, when progress on the Littleham & Landcross Draft Biodiversity Audit Report can again be reviewed and that the Clerk

asks Martin Beagley of TDC for a copy of the Tree Preservation Order Map for Littleham and Landcross.

(d) **Power of the Community (Sustainable Communities Act):**

TDC has yet to respond to the four "Proposal Forms" submitted by Cllrs Hamilton and Hassall.

860 Planning Matters:

(a) **Planning Matters Arising (Min 847): Complaint regarding TDC Questionnaires:**

TDC Cllrs Pennington and Robinson confirmed that TDC are addressing the Parish Council's complaint. There have been staff changes and further pressure from the Parish Council is not thought necessary.

(b) **Planning Notifications and Planning Applications:** None

(c) **Parish Consultation at TDC Offices: LDF Core Strategy & Sustainable Communities Toolkit:**

Cllrs Mrs Galvin and Cllr Hassall attended a meeting with Beth Sachs of TDC on 27 May 2009.

Cllr Mrs Galvin has distributed a report on this meeting to all Parish Councillors.

RESOLVED that Parish Councillors are advised to retain Cllr Mrs Galvin useful notes for future reference and that Cllr Mrs Galvin is thanked for her report.

861 Highways and Footpaths:

(a) **Matters arising (Min 848a) Parking at Mount Pleasant, Littleham:**

TDC confirm that the conveyance for disposal of 1 & 2 Boundstone Cottages includes a covenant, "*not to cause or permit obstruction of any roadway or access...used in common with the Council or its successors in title, the owners for the time being of the adjoining or neighbouring dwelling-houses*".

TDC's records do not show whether any earlier covenants were imposed when the cottages were first built and TDC's Solicitor advises the Parish Council to find out about covenants relating to the land before the cottages were first built. TDC's letter states that the Parish Council would have to carry out their own investigations with the Land Registry.

TDC Cllr Pennington advised that, around 1980 when "Ellesae" was built, the hedges were set back in this part of Littleham as a planning requirement. These grass verges are privately owned.

Cllr Hassall stressed that the verges should be retained at Mt Pleasant to keep Littleham's traditional Devon village character.

RESOLVED that: -

- 1. Further enquiries are made to ascertain whether** (even though TDC do not own land at Mt Pleasant) **TDC's Solicitor could make enquiries at the Land Registry on behalf of the Parish Council, for a nominal payment and**
- 2. TDC is asked for advice regarding any planning constraints that apply to greensward verges in the "Ellesae" and Mt Pleasant part of Littleham.**

Minute 861 continued: -

(b) **30 mph Speed Limit Petition; C461 Yeo Valley Road:**

DCC report that they can only investigate collisions that have been recorded by the Police and that Police records do not show a significant number of crashes on the C461. The main criterion for setting up local speed limits is the degree to which the route is built-up and funding can-not be obtained unless this criterion is met. DCC's letter has been copied to Danny Prouse of "Homelet", Whitehall.

DCC Cllr Robinson has spoken to local residents and he intends further discussion with DCC officials.

(c) **Landcross Bus Bay:** DCC advise that construction works for the new bus bay are about to commence.

(d) **386 Footpath Little America to River Yeo Bridge:** The hedge and verges have now been trimmed.

(e) **Flooding on C461 at Edge Mills:** Noted that DCC have dealt with this unexpected blocked drain.

862 Littleham Village Hall & Playing Field:

(a) **DPFA Membership 2009/10:** Renewal of Membership was approved.

(b) **Playbuilder Funding Scheme:** Details have been passed to the Littleham Village Hall Committee

(c) **Littleham Village Fete, 4th July 2009:** The Chairman and Cllr Mrs Beer promoted this forthcoming event.

863 Parish Plan:

(a) **TDC / CCD Housing Needs Survey:**

Cllrs Mrs Beer, Mrs Galvin and G. Smith have arranged to meet John Scott of CCD at Alwington at 7.00pm on 24 June 2009. The Chairman recommended any other interested Members to also attend.

(b) **Great Torrington & District Local Community Partnership:**

The Annual General Meeting will now be held on 16th July 2009. Agenda to follow.

864 Finance & Insurance:

(a) **Authorisation of Payments and Report on Bank Balance.**

RESOLVED, that payment to N.H. Jackson of £356.56 is approved: (1/4 Yr Salary + Back-Pay + Expenses).

A cleared balance of £3,286.00 at 20th April 2009 was noted and the Chairman endorsed the Bank Statement.

(c) **DAPC Membership:**

DAPC is now registered for VAT and the Parish Council's £82 Membership Subscription is subject to VAT. Invoices are being prepared. TDC has already been deducted £82 from the first instalment of the Parish Council's Precept and the VAT element will be deducted later in the year..

CCD invites the Parish Council to purchase additional copies of "Village Green" magazine (£5.50) and subscribe to the Local Council Review (LCR) (£13.50).

RESOLVED, that the position regarding VAT is noted and that no action is taken to purchase additional copies of "Village Green" or subscribe to Local Council Review (LCR).

865 Correspondence requiring attention:

(a) **DPFA Conference 2nd July 2009, Chumleigh:** Referred to Littleham Village Hall Committee.

(b) **Empowering Communities in Devon Conference, Exeter, 22 July 2009:**

This free conference has been specially arranged by DAPC, on behalf of the Devon Local Government Steering Group, to up-date Parish Councils on several important topics, including Community Engagement and a legal up-date on "Duty to Involve", Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and the Power of Well Being.

RESOLVED, that Cllr Mrs Galvin is invited to be the Parish Council's delegate.

(c) **DCC admissions to Schools 2010/11:** E-message from DCC noted.

(d) **TDC Community Grants:** Voluntary and Community Groups have been invited to apply for TDC Community Grants of up to £2000, subject to matched funding. Details have been e-mailed to Parish Councillors. Cllr Mrs Beer advised that the Village Hall Committee were planning to apply.

Minute 865 continued: -

(e) **TDC & DCC Councillors' Local Community Grants:**

Cllrs Pennington and Robinson explained how County Councillors and District Councillors have personal allocations of grant money to distribute within their wards, as has occurred in previous years. Local organisations are advised to obtain further details and the Clerk was instructed to contact Malcolm Harris at TDC for details of the types of project that are likely to be eligible.

(f) **DAPC Invitation to provide copy for Annual Report:** Noted.

(g) **Torrington Town Council: Minor Injuries Unit:** Receipt of a copy of an NHS letter to Gt Torrington Town Council, advising that the Minor Injury Unit at Torrington will be reinstated was noted.

(h) **TTVS Reports:** Receipt of several reports and pamphlets was noted.

(i) **Police Liaison Meetings, June 2009:** Notices had been displayed on Public Notice Boards.

(j) **TDC Notice of Polls for European & DCC Elections:** Notices were displayed as statutorily required.

(k) **Calor Gas Village of the Year Competition:** No action authorised.

(l) **Senior Council for Devon:**

Issue 3 of "Everyone's Tomorrow" was received and circulated amongst Members.

866 Consideration of other correspondence received since the last meeting:

A file was made available to Parish Councillors containing correspondence about RD&E NHS Foundation Trust Express magazine; CCD Village Green magazine; promotional and other items.

On-line Parish Councillors have also received DAPC E Bulletin, Devon Info Servs 708 & 709, DAPC Newsletter, DCC In-Touch June 09; Registration of Common Land, NALC & SLCC Bulletins, English Heritage, Titles used to Honour Military Personnel, BBC Jeremy Vine Show; TTVS & DAPC Training and other e-messages.

867 TDC Quality of Life Consultation Audit Report: TDC Cllr Pennington circulated this report amongst Members and described the conclusions drawn from the statistical information gathered.

868 Date of Next Meeting: 30th July 2009, commencing at 7.30 pm.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.45 pm.