

LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 19TH January
2012.



Present: Cllrs. Atkinson (Vice-Chairman), Sue Beer (Chair), Corkery, Pat Fishleigh, Hamilton, Hassall, Heard, Loraine Kindley, Pru Phillips, Smith and Stevens.

DCC Cllr Robinson; TDC Cllr Pennington. PCSO McGovern.

Apologies: Cllr 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.

1152 - Registration of Members Interests: No additional registrations were required.

TDC Cllr Pennington advised that he was conflicted on the subject of the Atlantic Array, and would leave the room when the matter was discussed.

1153 - To confirm Minutes 1136-1151 of 8th December 2011. *(previously dispatched)*

Cllr Atkinson advised that Item 1137 should read Miss Badcock, not Mrs. And Cllr Fishleigh advised that, in Item 1141, it was Cllr Beer who had approached the owner, not herself.

After alterations – Minutes Proposed as correct by Cllr Stevens.

S: Cllr fishleigh.

All agreed;

Minutes signed by Chair.

1154- Matters Arising – Not Covered by Agenda:

Broadband – Devon & Somerset Funds. The Clerk had contacted Sean Kearney at TDC to ascertain the situation on application of these funds in our area. Mr Kearney advised that he was to attend a meeting on this subject on January 20th and would give us feedback after the event. He was very interested to learn that we had undertaken a survey and asked that his results be sent to him; this action was agreed by Members.

1155 –Planning Applications:

a) None.

Notifications:

- **1/1094/2011/FUL & 1/1095/2011/LBC– Middle Langdon, Littleham – conversion of Garage to holiday let.** TDC advise Approval granted.

The response from Nigel Marshall, Planning Enforcement TDC, by e-mail: Re Mahoney's Site: "The enforcement notice at Mahoney's Transport requires that he removes the caravan and ceases the residential use of the land. I visited the site yesterday and can confirm that the notice has been complied with." dd 13.1.12.

Re Edge Mill Nursery, Road Access: "The permission which approved the access is 1/0585/2011. Condition 4 does require details of the planting of the Devon hedge bank to be submitted for approval. I've spoken with the agent who submitted the required details to Mr Lowery for his approval but has heard nothing back from him. I will carry out a site visit and will then write to remind Mr Lowery of the condition." Dd 3.1.12. and "I will write to Daffy Lowery to remind him of the landscaping condition on his site.2 dd 13.1.12.

Cllr Hassall asked that we respond to NM requesting that as the Conditions have not been complied with, Planning Permission has not, therefore, been Granted and the owners should be required to commence re-instatement of the site immediately.

TDC Cllr Pennington suggested that members might give thought to future uses of the Mahoney's site for when Mr Mahoney retires.

1156 – Atlantic Array: [TDC Cllr Pennington left the room]. RWE had sent a large scale map of the cable route through Littleham; copies tabled, and one will be placed in the Village Hall. The Clerk had written to John Hart, Leader of DCC, as requested; responses had only been received – to date- from DCC Cllr Alison Boyle and TDC Cllr Jane Whittaker. The Clerk was asked to chase a response from leader John Hart.

The Q&A's compiled by DCC Cllr Robinson following a meeting at Bideford Town Hall in December had been distributed. Cllr Beer asked who had convened the meeting, and why wasn't an invitation sent to this

Parish? Cllr Robinson apologised, as he should have checked that LLPC, and indeed all his Parishes, had been invited.

1157 – Highways.

A response had been received from Julian Roskilly following the questions posed at the last meeting: “I’ve not had a chance to look at the Old Rectory Yet, but did note on the Abbotsham x to Littleham road that several of the drainage points need to be cleared, which I will get the Parish Lengthman to undertake on his next visit. Surface dressing wouldn’t affect the Camber particularly as it is only a thin layer of tar and chippings that reflect the existing levels. I did note the tyre marks from several agricultural vehicles across verges and this will never help aid the exit of water from the Highway as it tends to destroy any existing easements, (again for the Parish Lengthman to clear as appropriate).

Which lane at Landcross do you mean? There is no traffic orders for Landcross that I am aware of other than for the 30mph speed limit and the No Entry from the A388. Parking problems if causing an obstruction are a Police matter in the first instance and it is very unusual for the Highway Authority to make an order to prevent parking on rural lanes. Can you give me any more details on the type of the problem please?”

The responses are noted. The Clerk is asked to chase on the road repairs to subsidence in Church Lane, Landcross. PCSO McGovern advised that he had attended various problems caused by excess water on the highways; he is aware of the parking/obstruction problems at The Lane, Landcross and will organise a letter drop; though with no width or parking restrictions in force it is difficult to police. Cllr Beer thanked him for his help.

1158 - District & County Councillors’ Reports.

TDC Cllr Pennington – advised that the joint Chief Executive agreement with Teignbridge will terminate in March this year, this will reduce travel time for Officers. Further opportunities to work with neighbouring authorities will be explored. The Planning department at TDC had been under scrutiny and several changes will be implemented. The proposed Boundary changes, aligning us with Bude, if implemented, would open up further possibilities. Cllr Hassall stated that he has some concern that “local knowledge” and ease of communication may be lost of the Planning departments of Torridge and North Devon are merged. Cllr Smith asked Cllr Pennington to take action on fencing which was blocking the pavement in Bideford, opposite the former ATS tyre depot. Cllr Pennington was aware of this, and would chase the appropriate authorities.

DCC Cllr Robinson gave his report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. [Appx. 1] he also advised that he would raise the fencing issue at Bideford with Highways. Cllr Beer raised the issue of obtaining DCC funds for Grass/verge cutting to be transferred to this Parish [as mentioned in his Report for Instow]. Cllr Robinson will ask Julian Roskilly for some indicative figures. Cllr Fishleigh advised that there were problems with trees planted on the road verge from Landcross junction [opposite Church Lane] on to the Monkleigh road. The trees had been gifted by DCC – but had never been managed, and were now overgrown. These may cause problems for the Parish if it were to take on such responsibility from DCC.

1159 – Emergency Plans. Cllr Hamilton advised that he had not been able to complete the Plan. Cllr Beer and the Clerk will now take up this matter as Cllr Hamilton is likely to be working in Australia for the next few months. He asked if he needed to resign his position on the Council – Cllr Beer responded that this was not necessary, his place as a Councillor would be kept open until his return. The Clerk confirmed that Councillors should attend at least 1 meeting in any 6 month period, but this could be extended at the Councils discretion.

This course of action was voted upon. P: by Cllr Beer.

S: Cllr heard.

All agreed.

1160 - Jubilee Tree – Cllr Kindley reported that the felling and clearance had been completed. After discussion it was decided not to take any action on stump removal at this time. The situation would be monitored. Cllr Beer thanked Cllr Kindley for her help with organising the felling and removal of the tree.

1161 – Queens Jubilee Nomination. Cllr Beer explained that there was an opportunity to thank a member of the Parishioners who had given to the community over the past 60 years, who would be nominated to attend at Exeter Cathedral for tea with the Bishop. Cllr Beer suggested that Miss Aileen Badcock [aged 80] of Culver Cottage, Littleham be nominated, with Mrs Violet MacDougall of Heale Coach House, Littleham – as a second choice if Miss Badcock declines, or is unable to go. The cost - £5 per head would be met by the Parish Council.

P: Cllr Beer.

S: Cllr Corkery.

All agreed.

Cllr Beer will progress the nominations.

1162 - Finance & Insurance:

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

Bank balance: £3578.80 as at 20th December 2011. The DCC Locality Budget funding from Cllr Robinson of £1400 had been received. Cashbook details tabled, and bank statement[s] signed by the Chair.

Payments: None required.

- b. Other Financial or Insurance matters: It was agreed that there was no need to replace Cllr Hamilton as signatory on the Bank Mandate. Cllr Beer confirmed that the new storage shed had been insured via the Village Hall policy; a request for a grant from the Village Hall will be made in due course.

Proposed: Cllr. Smith.

S: Cllr Atkinson.

All agreed.

1163- Correspondence Requiring Attention:

- a) CCD: Neighbourhood Plans: as a consequence of the new Localism Bill Parish Councils have the right, but are not obliged, to create a Neighbourhood Plan for development. Local Planning authorities are obliged to support such action, but no details yet exist. Such a plan cannot prevent development that is included in the Local Plan [TDC], but can identify a need for more development, suitable sites and style. Cllr Pennington advised that he would be receiving training on the Localism Bill and would give feedback to the Members. Noted.
- b) TDC have sent a copy of the full Electoral Register dd: 1.12.2011, with an update 13.12.2011. Cllr Atkinson took details of new Littleham parishioners to whom he will send a Welcome Pack.
- c) TDC sent Agenda for the Torrington Area Advisory Group [TAAG] meeting on 24th January.
- d) Letter from David Brown, Chair of Great Torrington Local Community Partnership [GTLCP] – they are close to securing funding for a part-time co-ordinator to assist the LCP's and member Parishes to form strong working partnerships. They ask individual Councillors to become more actively involved, and to inform GTLCP of addresses or e-mail details to receive information direct. Details of activity to date and an Agenda for the next meeting on January 26th also enclosed.
- e) DCC Cllr Robinson stated that he had been impressed with the groups work at High Bickington; and that there were formally 3 LCP's but the Bideford one discontinued; perhaps the Co-ordinator will be a catalyst to re-energise it? Cllr Hassall asked if anyone knew what the difference in purpose was between this GTLCP and the TAAG – both promote better working relationships between local Authorities and Parishes. TDC Cllr Pennington believed that there was a danger of diluting the local voice; and that LLPC should concentrate on working with Bideford and Abbotsham.

1164-Other Correspondence received: SW Ambulance: newsletter 24/7 Edition 14; Clerks & Councils Direct, Jan 2012; Senior Council for Devon, newsletter Jan 2012.

1165-E-Mail correspondence received: RSN Weekly Digest [x4]:TAAG- Agenda for 26/1; TTVS – Focus Group, State of the Sector; TTVS- training for writing funding bids; DCC- Energy from Waste exhibition; CPRE- Best Kept Village info; TDC- use of red diesel for snow clearance; TTVS, Training & Events[x2]; TTVS- Snippets; TTVS, Funding sources; Peter Jeffs, Town & Parish news; DCC, In Touch; RSN- Govt. Rural Funding Formula Review; DevonRCC, update – Localism Bill; Audit office- Excessive rises in Council Tax, Local Referendum; DCC Planning – advise electronic consultation.

1166-AOB.

- Cllr Atkinson tabled the new Welcome Pack for Littleham.
 - Cllr Loraine Kindley stated that the Littleham streetlights were still on throughout the night; the part-night saving has still not been introduced. DCC Cllr Robinson agreed to take up the matter. PCSO McGovern advised that part-night lighting may have been a factor in the rise of fuel theft and vehicle related crime in Westward Ho! & Northam.
 - Cllr Atkinson asked PCSO McGovern if he was aware of the abandoned car near the entrance to Crealock Arms. PCSO McGovern replied that he was, and that the vehicle was taxed, and he expected that the owner would remove it shortly.
 - Cllr Smith stated that he was concerned at what appeared to be fly-tipping near Abbotsham Cross; Cllrs Heard & Pennington suggested that this was the "tailings" from the recent road works. It was agreed to monitor the situation.
- **1167 - Next Meeting: **** It was agreed to change the date of the next meeting to March 8th. Cllr Atkinson will Chair in Cllr Beer's absence.**
[Scheduled meetings for 2012: 19/4; 17/5 & 24/5.]

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Appx.1

Report to Littleham & Landcross Parish Council, for Thursday 19th January 2012.

1/ Contact with TDC. Towards the end of last year Alverdiscott & Huntshaw Parish Council had held a public meeting about the spate of applications in their area for wind turbines. Despite an invitation extended some time before, both planning officers invited declined to attend. On behalf of the parish council I contacted the district council planners, and last week the parish council meeting in Huntshaw Hall received a very good presentation on many aspects of wind generation and attendant planning matters. The presentation was given by Baerbel Francis, who had done much research for the working group that produced the local guidance document for Torridge, and on which committee I sat. I am sure that Baerbel would be willing to make a similar presentation to this parish council.

2/ Possible sources of funding. As reported in the current issue of "Village Green", the county council have made available a total of £400,000 to be given to the Community Council of Devon to be used for a capital grants scheme for rural communities. It has also been announced in "Village Green" that county will give £1 and Torridge will give 10p per elector for each council. Presumably each parish and town council can seek to draw on those, however small, amounts of funds from next April. The arrangements for drawing down of those funds have still to be worked out.

3/ "Hard Choices" consultation. John Hart, Leader of Devon County Council, was in Great Torrington, on Thursday 17th November. The message effectively is that there will be further substantial cuts in the council's funding for the coming year. Since then I have expressed at Corporate Services Scrutiny (Ref. "Backing Devon – Devon County Council's Strategic Plan, 2011 -2015") my view that there is a bias in favour of the south. While central government restrictions will result in further cuts this year in the amount within which the county will have to operate, I have laid before the relevant cabinet member my arguments as to why I feel that Northern Devon is always at the back of the queue for support. Any additional examples would be welcome to help with proof. My hope is that a dialogue can now ensue that will give cabinet a better idea of the difficulties which confront this area.

4/ Disruption due to flooding. Just before Christmas two incidents of flooding of roads caused disruption: at Little America and at Ridd. I have complimented the road crews called out and others who happened along who worked in difficult conditions to overcome the problem at Little America, which was not, this time, caused by a blocked drain or gully. At Ridd, though off-road, a one-way system had to be operated for a few days. Again, under Julian Roskilly, crews working through the night installed pumps, and prompt action prevented the possible breaching of the Tarka Trail embankment.

5/ Grass cutting by Parishes. Following a question put to me at another parish council meeting, I contacted Julian Roskilly for advice. These are his comments: -

Grass cutting. It used to be a negotiated rate for years then was changed by Rhys to the same rate as SWH. For Instow that meant a doubling of the money overnight for their grass cutting. It is a lot of work for me to do this as it involves a lot of measuring and agreeing areas of grass. I don't mind doing it, but it would be close cut for this year. So any Parish will need to decide quickly if they are seriously interested to start this year. Plus one or two to liaise with from each Parish would be useful as well. These things can tend to throw up ownership queries and the Parish needs to be geared up with their own suitable contractor who ticks all the usual boxes.

Thank you Chairman, Council. Sam Robinson, 21 Bude Street, Appledore, EX39 1PS. sam.robinson@devon.gov.uk
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