

**LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON**  
**THURSDAY 20th September 2012.**



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

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Pat Fishleigh, Hamilton & 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.*

**1247 - Registration of Members Interests:** No additional registrations were required.

**1248 - To confirm Minutes 1243-1246 of September 10th, 2012. (previously dispatched)**

Minutes Proposed as correct by Cllr Atkinson.

S: Cllr Corkery.

All agreed: Minutes signed by Chair.

**1249 - Matters Arising – Not Covered by Agenda:**

- a) **Broadband Improvements:** The Clerk had received correspondence [e-mail] from Tom Dixon at DCC. It is hoped to appoint a Supplier this Autumn, detailed planning will then take place over the winter to deliver superfast broadband to 85% of premises, and minimum 2Mbps to 100%.

**1250 -Planning Applications:**

**1/0737/2012/FUL: Edge Mill, Littleham** – conversion of former pump room to studio/shed. [Cllr Corkery declared an interest and left the room]. After discussion the matter was put to the vote “Refusal on the grounds that the applicant doesn’t own the access and it is only pedestrian, not vehicular [as stated in the application] and the accommodation website suggests usage other than that stated on the application.

For– 6. Abstained-1. Against-1. [Cllr Corkery returned after the vote]

**1/0805/2012/FUL: Littleham Cross “reservoir”**- Conversion of water reservoir to light industry, new access parking and cesspool. After discussion and vote it was decided to Refuse permission on the grounds that: none of the Council’s former reasons for refusal had been addressed; the website for the applicant business shows sale of whitegoods to be collected which equals “Retail”; whitegoods for reconditioning contain hazardous substances – disposal of which is not addressed. Vote: For Refusal- 6. For Approval – 3.

[Cllr Smith left the meeting at 7.58pm].

**Notifications:**

**1/1053/2012/FULM: Atlantic Village** – redevelopment of car park to retail facilities. TDC advise that permission has been Granted.

**1/0516/2012/FUL: Moor Park, Littleham:** extensions/alterations. TDC advise that permission was Granted.

**Other items:** Linden Homes proposals for development south of Clovelly Road [adjacent to Parish boundary]-our Interest has been Noted by TDC.

**1251 – Atlantic Array:** a) **Letter from Nick Harvey MP;** the letter was tabled and contents discussed, the Council was pleased to note that he showed continued interest and would keep us informed. b) **Consider actions following recent meeting with John Hart, Leader of DCC:** Cllr Atkinson couldn’t understand why Cllr Hart could not change the composition of the working Group, given that he had set it up. Cllr Hassall reminded us that the Working Group has no “powers” and had done little to date. The impact of the Onshore works by RWE would be major and over a considerable time, so the Parishes involved should meet to discuss ongoing responses to the Developers. It was agreed to write to Cllr Hart thanking him for meeting with us, and re-stating our demands for: direct representation for the Parish on the working Group Response [preferably through our elected County Representative; that the meetings of the Working Group be open to the public; that he clarifies which issues might be Confidential [as stated in the Terms of reference for the Working Group; that Parishes are consulted, and invited to contribute, by DCC before any future responses are made to RWE. It was decided that Cllrs Beer and Smith would represent the Parish Council on proposed meetings between the affected Parishes and TDC Councillors. The Clerk advised that there was an online petition gathering momentum to oppose the Atlantic Array - Councillors may wish to consider signing.

Cllr Robinson advised that he was putting together a Question and Motion to the Full [County] Council rather than approach the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as suggested by John Hart, as he thought this would be a more effective approach on the matter of future communication with Parishes. Cllr Robinson also commended this Parish Council for its actions to date, he was not aware of similar from the other affected Parishes.

**1252 – Highways: Parish Footpaths & Rights of Way** – consider updates needed on currently Registered Routes.

Cllr Robinson reminded the Parish that if any routes were missing they should be registered or they may be lost in future. An extract from the County map showing Footpaths & ROW had been circulated. It was decided to contact DCC to confirm what classification the “pink dotted” routes, being former highways now held – footpaths or bridleways?

**1253 - District & County Councillors' Reports.** DCC Cllr Robinsons report had been distributed prior to the meeting –see Appx 1. He also introduced Clive Burnage, Co-ordinator of the Greater Torrington Local Community Partnership [GTLCP] which covered 27 Parishes and meets every 2 months to discuss common problems. It was formed following the demise of the Market & Coastal Towns Initiative, as were other LCP's [eg: Holsworthy, DAWN] which have, to date, been less active. Clive tabled a resume of the work currently being undertaken and considered – see Appx 2. The recent Localism Bill encouraged Parishes to put together a Neighbourhood Plan – however evidence to date suggests that the cost of this would be prohibitive for most Parishes; maybe by sharing costs a Plan could be submitted to TDC. Cllr Hassall reminded the Parish that a Neighbourhood Plans could be ignored by District Councils if they were contrary to their own strategic plans. Cllr Pennington was requested to ask TDC for sight of the Draft District Strategy [where it impacted on Littleham & Landcross] so that input could be made by the Parish.

TDC Cllr Pennington reported: this was the wettest year he had known, and this had affected the condition of the highways, who he commended on trying to do their best with limited resources. TDC continued to work towards integration of services with NDC. District Councillors were undertaking “Localism” training – he hoped to understand the principles and opportunities this may bring. Officers were dealing with the transfer of many current Benefits payments to District Councils [from central Government] which may see changes in employee numbers.

**1254 - Finance & Insurance:**

Report on Bank Balance and Authorisation of Payments.

Bank balance: £3426.84 [with Funds available at £3334.34] as at 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012. Cashbook details tabled, and bank statement[s] signed by the Chair.

**Payments:** £144 to Audit Commission [it was noted that the increase on last year was because we had received in excess of £5000 in income last year]. £94.70 expenses to the Clerk.

Proposed: Cllr. Atkinson.

S: Cllr Kindley.

All in favour.

**Other Financial or Insurance Matters:** The audit for y/e 3/12 had been approved by the Audit Commission; statutory Notices re viewing the Accounts have been posted. Letter received from Audit Commission confirming that Grant Thornton UK LLP had been appointed as External Auditor, to carry out a “Limited Assurance Audit” for this Council from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 for a period of 5 years. It is noted that Councils with income of up to £10k will not be charged for the Audit services.

**1255 - Correspondence Requiring Attention:**

- a) Letter from Clive Burnage, Co-ordinator TALCP – Parish Plans update – to be passed to Mari Galvin for action. Details of the Town and Parish Fund. Introduction of the Torridge Area LCP – Online Forum.
- b) Letter from TDC re Torridge Town & parish Fund. Funded by £1 from DCC and 10p from TDC per head of Electoral Register; can be applied for to fund co-operative ventures between Parishes & Towns Councils. A one year trial period ending March 2013, help with capital & revenue costs for solutions to local issues, empowering and enabling communities. Cllr Pennington advised that the cost of Administration of this fund to TDC had yet been determined.
- c) TAAG – notice of meeting 26<sup>th</sup> September on Localism Act; and next meeting 23 October. Noted.

**1256 -Other Correspondence received:** GTLCP-Agenda for 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> July: Clerks & Councils Direct, Sept 2012: s West Ambulance newsletter 24/7: DPFA – summer newsletter and Notice of AGM 28<sup>th</sup> September at Haldon Racecourse.

**1257- E-Mail correspondence received:** DCC Community News 9/12: RSN Digest[x3]: TTVS-Snippets [x3]: GTLCP Agenda 27/9 & Minutes 6/12: progress update- Connecting Devon & Somerset: NDC – Torridge Community Partnership – Open Events: DCC – road closures for Tour of Britain Race:

CCD – Village Green[x2]: Town & parish News – Peter Jeffs: Police Matters – 9/12: NDC- Building Communities Workshop: DALC Newsletter 9/12: DALC – Emergency Planning Newsletter: TDC- Housing renewal Policy: CCD –Rural Futures:

**1258-AOB.** Cllr Kindley advised that there had been a spate of vandalism in Littleham – picnic table damaged. Cllr beer advised that there had been 6 attempted burglaries, mostly sheds/garages in Landcross in one night. In both cases PCSO McGovern had been advised. He had commended the use of “alarmed padlocks”.

**1259 - Next Meeting: October 25th, 7.30pm.**

**LLPC Minutes 20.9.2012.  
Appx.1**

**Report to Littleham & Landcross Parish Council for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012.**

**1/ Introduction of Clive Burnage.** With Madam Chairman's permission I would like to introduce Clive as Great Torrington Local Community Partnership Coordinator. I will leave Clive to explain his role and to take questions.

**2/ Pothole near Orleigh Mill.** As I write, I understand from Julian Roskilly that he has raised concerns with management about the tawdriness of the response to the many requests to have this originally minor problem attended to. I understand that remedial works have been initiated. As I travel with John Hart from Frithelstockstone on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> we will pass this location. If by then no effort has been made to carry out the works, John will be shown the site.

**3/ 4/ Atlantic Array – Update.** I am sure that this council and its individual members have responded to the Draft Environmental Statement. For information I show below some extracts from my own submission. Devon County Council has also responded, and, if the parish council wish, I can forward a copy to the parish clerk for further distribution. I trust that the parish council have indicated to RWE that

they wish to be regarded as an interested party, which will enable them to respond to all future documentation.

*“In conclusion, this whole project has been advanced in what might be described as the reversal of a logical approach to planning. Beginning with the faux pas of the Crown Estate in setting out their Bristol Channel bid site, contrary to the practice in nearly all the other major sites, within the twelve mile limit; then, in choosing to progress this application, RWE appear to have had insufficient regard to the requirements of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) and, while this does not specifically debar the siting of such major projects within the 12 nm limit, the thrust of this Policy Statement is that such siting is much the exception; finally, RWE have, from the outset, been persistent in planning for an indicated 1,500 MW wind farm, the inference being that they have ignored the need to conduct a site-specific evaluation. For if they had they would have rapidly become aware that the Bristol Channel has merited special designation in the Offshore Energy Strategic Evaluation Assessment (Assessment 2) document by virtue of its being a fairly enclosed area of water that is bounded on three sides by coasts that are mostly of high cliffs being easily accessible along fairly continuous coast paths and containing a huge number of landscape designations, heritage coasts and is an area that contains seascapes and landscapes of great sensitivity. While you quote the project area as representing “the most viable location for the development of a wind farm of this size within the Bristol Channel zone” its litany of harmful effects far outweigh any economic benefit that might ensue. To cite but two areas that contribute to that opinion: (i) the list of harmful effects, as proffered in the DES, does not tell the whole story – their magnitude has been downplayed and, indeed, some may not have been taken into consideration; (ii) in an area so beholden to tourism as its main economy driver, one must draw the inference from your use of data of about ten years of age and which could be regarded as of limited statistical significance due to its scope and data base, that any more up-to-date, more meaningful (in terms of larger turbines as proposed for this wind farm) survey would yield data whose conclusions would not be to the liking of RWE.*

*“Appendix 1 - Land-based anxieties, problems and proposals: -*

- 1/ Why should any Community Investment Package be contributed to South Wales, considering that an infinitesimal amount of offshore work will be carried out in Welsh Waters, while the major economic benefit from the assembling and supply aspects will accrue to Wales and the Welsh ports?
- 2/ How do REW intend to involve the parishes of Torridge (specifically those that will be impacted by the on-shore works) in the compilation of the Local Impact Report in its environmental, economic, social and ecological aspects?
- 3/ Can it be confirmed that the impacted parishes will be allowed sight of and be permitted to comment upon and seek adjustments to the Consultation Report before it is submitted by RWE?
- 4/ What arrangements do RWE intend to make that will enable all the impacted parishes to make submissions for consideration in the creation and disbursement of any Community Impact Package?
- 5/ Can the parishes be assured that there will be no separation of the off-shore and on-shore parts of the proposed development?
- 6/ How do RWE propose to arrange for whatever compulsory purchases may be required – do they intend to involve the impacted parishes councils in this to ensure an equitable distribution?
- 7/ Transportation of equipment. When do RWE’s agents for the transportation of transformers and all other transport needs relating to the building of the facilities at Alverdiscott and the creation of the cable route intend to involve the relevant parish councils with their local knowledge in the arrangements for such transport needs?
- 8/ Will RWE offer the impacted parishes the right to appraise fully their Draft Environmental Statement so that that document can be strengthened by local input and knowledge, and, consequently, will RWE use its good offices to ensure that the voice of the impacted parishes will be heard and allowed by the District and County Councils to inform the Local Impact Report?

9/ The need for actual road closures. Due to the narrowness of most roads under which the cabling will pass (now that RWE realise that they are so narrow that one side cannot be closed off at a time), no consideration has been given to HDD drilling so as to avoid communities being cut off.

10/ The duration of such closures. Surely RWE, from past experiences, could give an idea of the duration of such closures.

11/ The uncertainty over the efficacy of the proposed noise abatement measures in connection with the HDD boring.

12/ The almost “dig another hole to put the spoil in” approach to the disposal of the spoil from the boring across the Torridge River, where transportation problems appear not to have been addressed and which have potential for considerable disruption of traffic flows.

13/ The apparent absence of any concern about the parishes’ wishes in regard to the entity to which the compensatory fund will be entrusted. It appears almost as though RWE will simply hand over the promised fund without assessing what are the parishes’ wishes as to who may be the purse-holders.

14/ The uncertainty as to whether (as now seems likely) that installation will be carried out in phases, and the attendant extension in the length of time of disruption along the cabling route.

15/ Will RWE undertake to ensure that all monies, whether they be by way of an initial contribution or as ongoing-compensatory funding as the project commences to feed into the national grid, be placed in a treasury account. The disbursement of those funds to be in the care of a Board of Trustees whose members are drawn from nominees of RWE, the impacted parishes, the two district councils and the county council, and that the provision of any and all funds that accrue from that account for approved projects be cascaded outwards starting with the impacted parishes, then to the most closely linked other parishes of the two districts, then to the other parishes of Torridge and North Devon.”

Sam Robinson. 21 Bude Street, Appledore, EX39 1PS.

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**LLPC Minutes 20.9.2012.  
Appx 2.**

**Dear Chairman, Members and Clerk of Littleham & Landcross Parish Council**

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to discuss my role as the Torridge Area Local Community Partnerships Coordinator with you earlier this evening. Despite unfortunately being a week early with my previous visit (Cllr Robinson did apologise profusely!), it was good to meet you all and it's always good to hear Cllr Pennington speak too.

**Local Community Partnerships** - I outlined how the Great Torrington Local Community Partnership currently works - ie, it's an organisation which consists of 27 parishes who get together every other month to share experiences and information on how they each try to deliver local facilities and services within their community. It is felt that by working within such partnerships and engaging with other organisations, we can collectively understand and meet the opportunities and challenges which have arisen through the Localism Act. Additionally, we touched on how a combined, coordinated voice is often a stronger, more effective one.

**LCP Framework** - I explained how one aspect of my role is to help develop the framework for communication and sharing of information across the whole Torridge district. I referred to the various existing partnerships and how they are in differing levels of activity at present - part of my remit is to facilitate the development / reformation of those. The idea behind framework is that a number of Parishes cluster together in their immediate locality, with each cluster then being able to exchange what their challenges are and how they are finding solutions with the other areas. TDC, DCC and other voluntary organisations will also be integrated into the framework to develop much better, two-way lines of communication, understanding and support.

**Neighbourhood Planning / Parish Plan Review - Cllr Robinson raised the issue of Neighbourhood Planning and I relayed how that at a recent GTLCP meeting, there was a lengthy discussion on how the Neighbourhood Planning pilots taking place around the country were proving to be very costly and how very few councils would actually be able to afford to do one. It was felt that it would be more effective for parishes to have their reviewed and updated Parish Plans better accommodated and supported by the overall Torridge District Local Plan, which is also currently being revised and targeted for adoption in Autumn 2013.**

**The 'bottom up' approach - Cllr Pennington outlined his views on some of the shortcomings which affect local governance and it was explained that ensuring TDC are able to actually accommodate and recognise Parish Plans as they work through the Local Plan Review. I stressed how important it will be that the information which is coming through from the individual parishes therefore needs to be very well thought out and perhaps with the principals of Neighbourhood Planning as the underpinning. Assisting each other to get to grips with and carry out that process is another benefit of working together within some form of coordinated structure.**

**Town and Parish Fund - Cllr Hassall made reference to the new TAP Fund and how towns and / or parishes will need to work together in order to meet the criteria for that particular pot of money.**

**Atlantic Array - The Clerk inquired as to whether the LCP Framework would be of any use to the parishes affected by the Atlantic Array? I responded by suggesting that had the various partnerships in the different areas Torridge already been in a more active state, then this would indeed be an instant topic of commonality for a number of parishes and the ideal 'forum' for collective discussion would already be in place. However, this is certainly one issue which could act as a catalyst to kick-start a partnership.**

**As you know, I unfortunately had to leave immediately after my slot, but I do hope that there was sufficient food for thought served up from the discussion. I would heartily encourage you to consider the concept of engaging with your nearby parishes and encourage them to do the same at any opportunity you may have. Whether you remain solely within the GTLCP or would rather ignite the interest of and join in with other nearby neighbours is entirely up to you - I will happily help facilitate the process if you feel it would help.**

**I'd just like to flag up once again the online Torridge Area Local Community Partnerships Forum - [www.talcp.org](http://www.talcp.org) - Please do drop by, sign up and feel free to join in or start any discussions!**

**Whilst still at a very early stage of course, it will in time be a very useful central portal, but far beyond being just an information website, it will serve as a great facility for all Councillors, Officers and Community Groups at ground level to interact with each other and share views and experiences with others across the Torridge district. Not only that, it also offers the ability to engage in discussions at anytime outside the bounds of scheduled meetings. The potential is very wide for those who use their imaginations...**

**Finally, just one further reminder that the TALCP Open Events scheduled for the 24th Sept (Woolsery), 29th Sept (Holsworthy) & 4th Oct (High Bickington) have been postponed - largely because I feel having more direct discussions with the Parishes, as we did tonight, is actually proving more beneficial to everyone!**

**It is a pleasure to meet you and I look forward to any comments or response you may have.**

**Kind regards**

**Clive Burnage**

**TALCP Coordinator**

**01805 804534**

**[www.talcp.org](http://www.talcp.org)**