

LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON
THURSDAY 23rd January 2014.



Present: Cllrs. Atkinson, Beer, Corkery, Fishleigh, Haddrell, Hamilton, Hassall, Heard, Hopkins, Phillips, Smith & Stevens. TDC Cllr Pennington. DCC Cllr
Dezart.

Apologies: None.

In accordance with Standing Order 28 the Chairperson may adjourn the meeting at his/her Discretion to allow any member of the public wishing to address the meeting, for up to 3 minutes, on a specific agenda item.

1416 - Registration of Members Interests: No additional registrations were required.

1417 - To confirm Minutes 1401-1415 of the Parish Council Meeting of December 12th, 2013.

P: Cllr. Fishleigh.

S: Cllr. Hamilton.

Approved, and

signed by Chair.

1418 - Matters Arising – the Clerk confirmed that he had written, as requested, to CAB following their request for funds. He also confirmed that he had no further correspondence from Bideford Town Council on the grass cutting proposals.

1419 - Planning Applications: 1/1103/2013/FUL – Hollands Court, Littleham – pitched roof replacement of flat roof, raising wall plates by 440mm plus openings, roof windows and external access staircase to proposed first floor storage plus associated internal works.

P: Cllr Smith.

S: Cllr Heard.

Approved: All agreed.

Notifications: TDC granted permission for: **1/0947/2013/FUL – Iris Hideaway, Edgemill, Littleham.** – addition of pitched roof over existing flat roof. **1/0997/2013/LBC: Old Rectory, Littleham** – installation of multifuel stove & flue.

TDC Councillor Pennington advised that no date had yet been set by Planning Department following his call in of the Application at Edge Mill Nursery.

Other: 1/1067/2013/FUL – Watershute Farm, Horns Cross, Bideford – erection of wind turbine. After discussion it was decided that no response was needed.

Response from TDC Planning Enforcement Officer Nigel Marshall on possible residential caravan at site opposite the Old Treatment Works, Littleham. The officer dealing with this has left, and he will endeavour to visit and report to us asap.

1420 - Parish Notice Boards: Cllr Atkinson advised that he had not been able to speak to Mr Brend on this matter; other alternatives will be explored.

1421 - Highways: DCC had advised that owing to the workload caused by ongoing severe weather a number of routine planned works have been suspended, including visits by the Lengthsman. A new schedule will be notified. Cllr Smith stated that a large pothole had appeared on the Yeo Vale road prior to Christmas, it is unsighted travelling from Hoopers Water to Bideford. He had reported through the Highways website, but disappointed that it was not repaired during recent road closure. Cllr Corkery had spoken to the Contractors on this matter whilst they were working, but was advised that he had no “contract/works number available” for him to take action and make repair. DCC Cllr Dezart was asked to take up this matter as it seemed a waste of time and money if the contractors had come back again to make the repair. Cllr Dezart also agreed to chase on progress regarding the Whitehall landslip. Cllr Haddrell will place the Chapel Hill pothole on the DCC Highways website; this has deteriorated quickly with recent rain. Details will then be sent to Cllr Dezart.

1422 - District & County Councillors' Reports.

TDC Cllr Pennington: – had attended the recent TAAG meeting at which the problem of Empty Homes was discussed. It was also apparent that Developers were currently exploiting the “impasse” caused by the lack of a Local Plan, and the National Planning Framework gave them an ideal opportunity to put forward new build sites. The central Governments promises of “localism” wasn’t occurring, which was disappointing. TDC Planning department continues to suffer criticism. The Local Council Tax rise was expected to be between 1.5 and 1.95%. DCC Cllr Dezart reported that Bideford Chamber of Commerce wanted to develop the Pannier Market, a new website was being created. Stagecoach had looked at the possibility of providing a bus service to the Pannier Market from the town centre, this was not considered viable, and their buses couldn’t cope with the narrow streets. However the Local Community Transport Group will be able to provide a service. He had attended meetings of: the Heritage Service on amalgamation with Somerset; the NHS Care Closer to Home which had highlighted a disparity in the rates of fostering through the South West; developers presentation for renewal of Brunswick Wharf. Cllr Corkery asked if the proposed solar roof panels for the Pannier Market would go ahead? Cllr Dezart responded that he doubted it would as it required removal of mature trees to be viable. Cllr Fishleigh asked Cllr Dezart to check the proposed routes for the new Mobile Library Service [from April] as it seems they were inefficient, and would lead to increased costs for the service, which may put it under the spotlight for further cutbacks.

1423 – Dates for Annual Parish/Council Meetings: the Clerk asked if members wished to revert to former practice of having both Annual Meetings on one evening. This was agreed, and the date would be May 22nd, with the Annual Parish Council Meeting to be first, commencing at 7pm. The Clerk was asked to invite the Head of Highways from DCC to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting.

1424 - Finance & Insurance:

a) Report on Bank Balance and Authorisation of Payments.

Bank balance: - at 20th December 2013 was unchanged at £5530.13.

Proposal to accept and have bank statement and Cashbook signed by the Chair.

P: Cllr Fishleigh

S: Cllr Phillips.

Approved. All agreed.

Other Financial or Insurance Matters: Budget & Precept 2014 -15. The Clerk advised that following a letter from TDC [Mike Norton] which contained further details of the calculations for the Precept for 2014-15 it was apparent that with a Precept totalling £3650, which kept our request to the same level as the previous years, Parishioners would see an increase of 3.32% [£0.62] on a Band D Parish Rate even though we have not increased our Precept requirement. This is due to:

- reduction in Council Tax Support Grant
- reduction in Central Govt Grant of 13% - and the Support Grant was rolled into this!
- reduction, by 4.11, of Parish Taxbase [reduced-in part- by the number of houses NOT paying Council Tax[so increased for the remainder]

On this basis it was decided to place the item on the Agenda for re-consideration.

After discussion it was proposed to apply for a Precept of £3650, and to explain the resulting “increase” to parishioners.

P: Cllr Hamilton.

S: Cllr Stevens.

On voting this proposal was **defeated by 7:5**; therefore it was agreed that the Precept application should total £3539 which would give no increase to Band D rate. The Parish Budget forecast would be amended accordingly. Cllr Smith asked TDC Cllr Pennington why central and Local Government manipulated these calculations to show Parish Councils in a bad light. Cllr Pennington had no answer, but did advise that central Government had yet to announce final details on the Support Grant; it was, in his opinion, another example of reduced power for Localism.

1425 - Correspondence Requiring Attention: Invite from North Devon Veterans Association – 2014 Armed Forces Event, Kingsley School, June 28th, 2014. **Noted.**

1426 - Other Correspondence received: Clerks & Councils Direct, Jan 2014. NHS – care Closer to Home. TDC – TAAG Agenda 21.01.2014 & Minutes 22.10.2013. Devon Healthwatch Winter 2013. Devon Senior Voice, Winter 2013.

1427 - E-Mail correspondence received: TTVS-Snippets [x4]: RSN Weekly Digest[x4]: Rural Vulnerability Service : Fields in Trust – 2014: NHW Forum Weekly Crime Report [x4]: DALC Jan Newsletter: DCC – Community News [x2]:DALC- Health News – re Healthwatch Devon: Devon Countryside Access Forum – Membership: TAAG – Agenda 21.1.2014: DCC – Changes to Mobile Library Service; CPRE- Devon – Best Kept Village Competition 2014.

1428 -AOB. Cllr Hamilton advised that a power supply pole had been brought down by large agricultural vehicle, causing problems to householders. Cllr Stevens replied, that though it wasn't one of his vehicles, he understood that the problem was caused by parked vehicles requiring the agricultural vehicle to attempt to pass having failing to find the owner of the parked vehicle. A discussion followed on the possibility of opening up a former track which ran through the industrial units and would alleviate the problem. No conclusion was reached.

Cllr Smith tabled a request from Devon Air Ambulance for night landing sites, and suggested the Playing Field or Village Hall car park, though appropriate lighting would be needed. Cllr Hopkins replied that given there was an ambulance station within a few miles of Littleham this may not be appropriate; he believed that the request was for new sites not close to existing stations or landing areas.

Cllr Beer advised that she was not able to attend the next scheduled meeting, Cllr Atkinson will take the Chair.

1429 – Next scheduled Meetings: March 13th. April 24th. May 22nd [Annual Mtgs]

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.