

**LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON**  
**THURSDAY 24th January 2013.**



**Present:** Cllrs. Sue Beer, (Chairman), Atkinson, Corkery, Pat Fishleigh, Hamilton, Hassall, Hopkins, Heard, Pru Phillips, and Stevens. TDC Cllr Pennington.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Loraine Kindley, & Smith. DCC Cllr Robinson.

*This Meeting was preceded by a talk from Kate Little, Head of Strategic Development and Planning, Torridge and North Devon.*

*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.*

**1288 - Registration of Members Interests:** No additional registrations were required.

**1289 - To confirm Minutes 1273-1287 of December 13th, 2012.**

Cllr Fishleigh asked that the words "through the Chair" be inserted under Min 1278[2] as the current wording suggested that she was present at the meeting.

With that amendment the Minutes resolved as correct, and signed by the Chair. P: Cllr Atkinson. S: Cllr Hopkins. All agreed.

**1290 - Matters Arising – Not Covered by Agenda:**

- a) The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Anne Davies, enclosing notes on the last meeting; content had been approved by the Chair.

**1291 - Planning Applications: None Received.**

**1292- Atlantic Array:**

- 1) Update from Cllr Beer: At the last meeting of the "5 Parishes" it was decided that: - Terms of Reference Document was needed to limit the number of representatives present from each Authority to 2 only [5 members of Bideford Town Council were present]. – that Littleham Village Hall would continue as venue of choice, and that the costs of the venue together with a "dedicated" administrator be shared between the 5. **Cllr beer proposed that permission be given to cover these costs to a maximum £100 for LLPC.** P: Cllr Corkery. S: Cllr Atkinson.
- 2) Steering Group: Cllr Beer advised her concerns that parishes were not seeing Agendas before meetings as they were not being produced until close to the day of the meeting. This meant that she was not able to seek input from Councillors prior to the meeting. The administration of the Group is with TDC and TDC Cllr Pennington will take up the matter. Cllr Pennington again cautioned against continuance of these meetings if they remained "closed to the public". Cllr Beer was concerned to note that Cllr Christie [Bideford Town] had been allowed to sit in on the meeting, whereas our own DCC Cllr Robinson had been denied similar access. Cllr Corkery thanked Cllr Beer for her continued work on the Atlantic Array issues. Natasha Bacon had been present at the meeting and was asked how access would be achieved for 2<sup>nd</sup> and future phases of cable insertions, given that the haul road would have been deconstructed. NB replied that it would be in the hands of the contractors.
- 3) A reply from RWE dated 11.1.2013 had been received to our S42 response – several issues are still not clear: what were the predicted HGV activity numbers [different versions had been proposed by RWE and DC Highways]; the area for the Hallsannery compound had not been adequately defined, TDC Cllr Pennington suggested that it would need to be a large area on both sides of the HDD river site; and he doubted that spoil would be taken from site using the haul road to the A39. Cllr Hassall had identified that woods adjacent to the HDD site at Hallsannery contained a large rookery; they were protected species and was concerned at the effect 24/7 drilling operations might have on their nesting period. Cllr Beer agreed to put this question to a member of the 5 Parish group who had an interest in this to look into the matter. **It was resolved to discuss the Council's response to RWE at the next meeting.**

**1293- Highways: Request for a grit Box in vicinity of Littleham Court.** After discussion **It was proposed to purchase a 90 litre grit box from Glasdon at cost of £88.20 [excl VAT];** and that DCC Cllr Robinson be asked if he could contribute to the cost. P: Cllr Beer. S: Cllr Fishleigh. All agreed.

Cllr Heard has agreed to take delivery of the Box, and will place it, with grit, at Littleham Court.

**Parking at top of Church Lane** – PCSO McGovern will deliver a letter to residents in the immediate area and contact the Haddrells to discuss the way forward. He also asked if access problems had been reported to any

Agencies in the past; and also to keep a record of future problems. **Recent Flooding:** Cllr beer updated members on her discussions with Julian Roskilly of County Highways on the water run-off problems at Landcross, he has now spoken to the property owners concerned and is hopeful that they now understand their responsibilities. He also suggested that when looking at future Planning Applications due account should be taken regarding possible water run-off to footpaths or highways. Cllr Heard will ask the Lengthsman to investigate the problem at Littleham Court. On hedge cutting and clearance, Julian has confirmed that both are landowner's responsibility. **Landslip at Whitehall** – the road has been officially Closed to reduce liability of Highways and the landowner, though it is still passable at own risk. The remedy for the landslip is likely to take some time as it has impacted on the access road to Whitehall itself; the owners are in discussion with Highways and their Insurers to find a way forward.

**1294 – Discuss purchase of new Parish Notice Boards.** Postponed to next meeting.

**1295- Approve amendments to Standing Orders #24 & 25.** To be discussed at the next meeting

**1296 - District & County Councillors' Reports.** The report from DCC Cllr Robinson had been tabled [Appx 1] - Noted.

TDC Cllr Pennington: – The Draft Local Plan – Parts 1&2 would be available at the end of January, as referred to in Kate Little's talk. The proposed developments adjacent to Atlantic Village may impact on the village at the Abbotsham X junction and from there towards the Littleham. He was also concerned that such development may increase water run-off towards Jennetts reservoir. The proposed cabling for the Atlantic array would establish a boundary over which future development could not take place. The localisation of Council Tax is causing issues – and there is a possibility that it may increase homelessness. Discussion has taken place regarding the fact that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Torridge Councillors live within 10 mile radius of the town, and therefore there is a danger that rural issues do not receive enough attention.

It was suggested that a new/widened road was needed through Monkleigh and Frithelstock to accommodate housing growth/development in those areas.

**1297 - Finance & Insurance:**

a) Report on Bank Balance and Authorisation of Payments.

Bank balance: £4221.48 as at 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Payments: None.

Cashbook details tabled. Proposal to accept and have bank statement[s] signed by the Chair made by Cllr Fishleigh.

S: Cllr Atkinson. All agreed.

**Other Financial or Insurance Matters:**

- 1) Application from Cllrs Corkery, Fishleigh and Phillips for Dispensation under S33, Localism Act 2011 to speak and vote on Precept and Budget setting. Accepted and signed by the Clerk.
- 2) Letter from TDC regarding Parish Precept to March 2014. The Clerk summarised the letter; a Grant of £213 has been allocated by TDC to LLPC from Central Government funds to offset the impact on band D council tax of Localised Council Tax Support [CTS]. The option for Parish Council was to reduce requested precept by the same amount or retain precept at £3650 – which was our agreed budget figure. If it is decided to keep to our original budget then TDC would pay LLPC a total of £3650 comprising £213 grant, and raising the remainder through Council Tax; this would have the effect of raising Parish Council Tax by 0.9%. TDC advised that the Secretary of State would revisit the question of limiting precepts for 2014/15 "having considered the extent to which local precepting authorities have exercised constraint in relation to council tax in 2013/14". It was agreed to request a total of £3650 from TDC.

P: Cllr Hamilton.

S: Cllr Hopkins.

All agreed.

**1298 - Correspondence Requiring Attention:** None.

**1299 -Other Correspondence received:** Clerks & Councils Direct Jan 13; SW Water – The Future 2015-2040; SW Ambulance Service 24/7 –Edition 16; DCC – Travelling in Winter; Senior Council for Devon- Jan 13; GTLCP Agenda 29.1.13 & Mins 23.10.2012.

**1300-E-Mail correspondence received:** TTVS-Snippets [x10]:RSN Digest[x13]: DCC Community Roundup, Nov 12 & Jan 2013: TTVS-Winter 2012, Conference November: CCD-Village Green, Winter 2012, Drop-In Surgery Nov 2012: TAAG-Agenda 29.1.13: 2013 best Kept Village: DALC News [x2]:NHW Forum Weekly Crime Report x: GTLCP, Agenda 29.11.12: Authority Matters.

**1301-AOB.** The Clerk requested that all outstanding invoices be presented before the March meeting.

**1302 - Next Meeting: March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. 7.30pm.** [Scheduled meetings for 2013: 18/4, 16 & 23/5]

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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**Appendix 1 to Minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013.**

**Report to Littleham & Landcross Parish Council for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013.**

### **1/ From the minutes of the December meeting:**

- (i) Debris blocking drain at Littleham Court. I have relayed the problem to Julian Roskilly and the Centre.
- (ii) Need for grit box. If it is the parish's wish, I can seek funding, but must be quick, as we are nearing the "purdah" period before the May elections.

**2/ Absence from December meeting.** I regret that double booking meant my absence from Littleham. I had missed the previous Weare Giffard meeting, and they meet only quarterly. Whenever an issue emerges when I am unable to be present and which has a bearing on county matters – highways, signage, etc. – I would welcome being copied in to any correspondence or Report so that additional pressure can be applied.

**3/ New Traffic Management for Bideford.** Last August I was able to persuade Bideford Town Council to allow me set up a liaison group to bring together Town, District and County for matters relating in any way to the highways. As an advance on this we were able to persuade County Hall to prioritise Bideford for the consideration of a strategic traffic management plan, and a number of joint meetings have been held between the liaison group and the county traffic management officers. While the focus of the work is to be the Bideford Town area, there is to be consideration of strategic signage on the approach routes into the town. I would welcome any input that this parish council would wish to make either as a council or as individual councillors (or both!).

**4/ Budget Deliberations.** The looming county budget is currently being subjected to scrutiny by the four scrutiny committees. As I sit on three of these I am now only too well aware of how the county is being squeezed financially. We meet on Monday for the Joint Scrutiny of the proposals. At last Tuesday's scrutiny I paid tribute to the way in which officers and cabinet at County Hall have worked to ensure that frontline services are protected as fully as possible despite the pressure being placed on all. Regrettably, and a strong message is being sent to central government, the shire counties are still getting a poor deal. As example, the government-claimed cut-back nationally this year will be 1.7%, and 2.1% for Devon. However, the real cut-back is 3.6% due to such add-ons of last year as the "bribe" to keep down the council tax that yielded £11.4 million, being the equivalent of 2% of the council tax rate. Of that, £5 million was directed, at my pleading, to the maintenance of C-roads. But such top-up, (to be only 1% this year) has now been included in the funding for this year. Also, our schools still receive less than 90% of the national average, but despite that they return some of the best academic success and examination results, nationally. Meanwhile, as I am very aware from my service on the Foster Panel, families are being placed under terrible pressure due to the downturn in the economy. I sit on the working group set up by county (and which is a pathfinder) to consider the unintended consequences of the Social Welfare changes; everything from payday money-lenders both legal and illegal to school meals, etc.; from the degree of ability of some families to manage payments that will be paid monthly to the impact on Citizen Advice Bureaux.

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