

**LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON**  
**THURSDAY 24th April 2014.**



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

**Apologies:** Cllrs. Fishleigh & Stevens.

***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.***

**1443 - Registration of Members Interests:** No additional registrations were required.

The Chair then adjourned the meeting for members of the public to speak on the Planning Application for houses on land at Shutta Farm. Councillors Beer & Hamilton left the meeting as the Parish Hall Committee had been mentioned in the Planning application. TDC Cllr Pennington also withdrew as he knew the applicant. Cllr Atkinson took the Chair during the adjournment. Comments were heard from Mr Lowe, applicant; from residents of properties adjacent to the site in question, and other Parishioners.

**1444 - PLANNING - Applications: 1/0317/2014/OUT – land at Shutta Farm, Littleham** – erection of 2 detached houses.

After discussion Cllr Smith proposed that the application be refused on grounds of: the proposed 2 storey dwellings will dominate and overwhelm the adjoining properties; there will be loss of privacy and light; the design of the properties will not satisfy local need.

S: Cllr Haddrell.

Vote: All in favour – Application

Refused.

Cllr Phillips commented that the offer from the applicant of £8k to the Village Hall for repairs was couched in terms which could be interpreted as a “bribe” – which she felt was not acceptable.

Cllrs Beer, Hamilton and Pennington [TDC] rejoined the meeting.

**Notifications: Land at Tuttsclump Farm, Parkham** – erection of wind turbine – REFUSED by TDC.

**Other:** 21 Day Consultation, the letter received from TDC on this subject was tabled, together with email correspondence between the author, Kate Little, and other Parish Clerks. The result is that Parish Councils will not be given extra time to respond to Applications, as in the past, and if their views are to be considered they must be received by TDC within the stated timescale of 21 days. Alternative arrangements for the Parish Council to adopt were discussed, including the formation of a Planning Sub- Committee, but it was decided that “Urgent” meetings would be called, in addition to those scheduled, to comply with Planning Deadlines. The Clerk is asked to reply to Kate Little stating that the new restrictions will give shorter timescale for Parishioners to inform the Council of their views; and the necessity to call “urgent” meetings for Planning Applications impacts adversely on costs for the Parish Council, and the time given by Councillors. Such requirement does not help the cause of local democracy. Land at Church Lane, Landcross - In response to our communication TDC inform us that they will investigate the activity, a new Enforcement Officer, Andrew Fenge, now deals with Littleham area.

Linden Homes Development – email from Marretta Corliss advising that she has objected to this development, and setting out her reasons.

Edge Mill, new building – the applicant, Mr Salkeld, asked if he could speak to the Council. He has been advised that the decision has been made, and therefore cannot be altered, but if he submits another application then he is welcome to speak when it is on the Agenda.

**1445 – To confirm Minutes 1430 -1442 of the Parish Council Meeting of March 13th, 2014.**

P: Cllr. Corkery.

S: Cllr. Hamilton.

**Approved, and signed**

**by Chair.**

**1446 – Matters Arising** – it is confirmed the Matthew Edworthy will speak on the Northern Devon Nature Improvement Project at the Annual Parish Meeting. Mari Galvin thanked the Council for their help with the Bridleway problem, and confirmed that the Biodiversity Group would respond to the NIA Survey.

**1447 – Landcross Tunnel** – DCC Cllr Dezart spoke to Council regarding his proposal to approach the TAPS fund to repair the lighting in the tunnel. He sought Parish Council approval, and was not asking for any monetary contribution. Cllr Beer asked why DCC were not funding this as it is surely their responsibility, the lights have been out for some time. Cllr Corkery added that DCC must be obliged to act on Health & Safety grounds; and that they may find monies from The Tourism budget, as the Tarka Trail is widely used. Cllr Phillips stated asked if it was sensible to renew lighting before repairing the structure of the tunnel which is being damaged by heavy traffic volumes on the road overhead. In response to Cllr Dezart’s request the Council asked that a structural survey be undertaken and produced to the Council before any funds were committed to lighting repairs.

**1448 – Parish Notice Boards.** Councillors were given comparative figures for suitable new Notice Boards, these ranged from £500 to £1500. A discussion then took place on the effectiveness of the current position of the Littleham Notice Boards with possible alternatives – the bus shelter, and The Chapel being mooted. It was decided that the current Board situated in Mount Pleasant was dangerous and should be removed - Cllrs Atkinson and Hamilton will arrange with Mr Brend. The Clerk is asked to approach the District Council for permission to locate a Notice Board on/at the bus shelter in Littleham as this was deemed the best location in the Village; the response will also determine the style of Board to be purchased.

**1449 – Preliminary Consideration of the 2014 Annual Parish Agenda:** All Cllrs confirmed they had copies of the Standing Orders; Cllrs Haddrell and Atkinson asked for copies of the Emergency Plans; The Risk Analysis review for 2014 was agreed and Cllr Hamilton confirmed that he would be willing to continue as Trustee of the Littleham Village Hall and Rifle Range.

**1450 - District & County Councillors' Reports.**

TDC Cllr Pennington: – he is surprised that the letter regarding the 21 Day Planning Consultation came from an officer rather than the District Councillor responsible for Planning. There is movement on the Local Plan – draft documents have been circulated to Councillors, with a meeting scheduled for Thursday next. In the Rural Strategy Littleham & Landcross, are not “named” villages and will therefore come under Rural Settlement classification in regards to Planning. Concern remains at the high level of housing the District is required to build by Central Government in the coming years – current infrastructure may not be able to cope. A new Planning Enforcement Officer – Andrew Fenge has been recruited. Cllr Pennington confirmed that he had called in the Planning Application for a new house at Edge Mill. He is also very concerned by the DCC proposals to cut funding for Social Care in Northern Devon.

DCC Cllr Dezart reported that DCC had changed the decision structure for Highways Repairs – other than potholes all budget spend must be approved at County Hall. He has no further news on the landslip repairs at Whitehall. Cllr Smith requested that the Parish Council raise this matter with Geoffrey Cox as it has been going on for 18 months with no indication as to when the road will be fully opened; a copy of the letter should be sent to Bideford Town Council and Cllr Dezart.

P: Cllr Smith.

S: Cllr Hopkins.

All agreed.

**1451 - Finance & Insurance:**

a) Report on Bank Balance and Authorisation of Payments.

Bank balance: - at 20<sup>th</sup> April 2014 stood at £5400.12. Cashbook figures had been circulated prior to the meeting. Payments requested for £144.59 to Community First Trading for Insurance renewal; £102.34 to DALC – membership renewal; and £60 to David Baglow – Internal Audit for y/e 2013 - £30, and 2014 - £30. Proposal to accept and have bank statement and Cashbook signed by the Chair, and for Payments to be Approved.

P: Cllr Atkinson.

S: Cllr Hamilton.

**Approved.** All

agreed.

**Other Financial or Insurance Matters:** The Year End figures were tabled, it was noted that invoices for Hall room rental and for Grass Cutting had not been received for that year. Cllrs Beer and Smith will chase. There being no alterations required these figures will be tabled/approved at the Annual Parish Council Meeting. It was decided not to subscribe to TTVS for the coming year.

**1452 - Correspondence Requiring Attention:** TDC Update for Register of Electors. Noted. Report from PCSO McGovern. Noted.

**1453 - Other Correspondence received:** Healthwatch Devon Spring 2014. TAAG – Agenda 15.04.2014 & Minutes 21.01.2014. Devon Senior Voice – Spring 2014.

**1454 - E-Mail correspondence received:** TTVS-Snippets [x3]: RSN Weekly Digest[x1]: NHW Forum Weekly Crime Report [x4]: DALC March & April Newsletter: RSN – Rural Vulnerability Newsletter [x2]: DCC – Library Service Review: DCC – Devon Waste Plan, Submission: TAAG – Agenda 15.04.2014: DCC – Devon Remembers –WW1: RSN – Rural Opportunities Bulletin: RSN – Spotlight on Disability.

**1455 -AOB.** The timings for meetings on 22nd May were confirmed as 7.30pm for the Annual Parish Council Meeting, and 8pm for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**1456 – Next scheduled Meetings: May 22<sup>nd</sup> - 7.30 Annual Parish Council Meeting & 8pm for Annual Parish Meeting.**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.