

**LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON**  
**THURSDAY 25th April 2013.**



**Present:** Cllrs. Atkinson, Sue Beer, Corkery, Pat Fishleigh, Hamilton, Hassall, Hopkins, Smith.  
TDC Cllr Pennington. DCC Cllr Robinson.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Pru Phillips, Heard, Stevens.

In Attendance: PCSO McGovern and colleague [left at 8.10pm]

*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.*

**1320 - Registration of Members Interests:** No additional registrations were required.

**1321 - To confirm Minutes 1303-1319 of March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

Proposed as correct: Cllr Fishleigh.

S: Cllr Hamilton.

All agreed.

**1322 - Matters Arising – Not Covered by Agenda:**

- The Clerk has received confirmation that the Speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> will be a representative from the Northern Devon Foodbank – an initiative of churches working together in northern Devon.
- Mr Wivell has been asked to provide confirmation that he has the required Third Party Insurance cover, and to give an estimate for the coming years grass cutting services.

**1323 – Councillor Vacancy.** TDC have confirmed that the Parish Council should now make arrangements to co-opt a replacement member, and set out the qualifications for such person. The Clerk will “advertise” in the Crosslet and on the Parish website. Cllr Atkinson advised members that a Mr David Lee has expressed an interest. It was decided to return to the matter at our July meeting; Cllr Atkinson to advise Mr Lee.

**1324 –Planning Applications:** None.

**Notifications:** 1/0053/2013/FUL – South Heale Cottage, Littleham – erection of garden studio/workshop. TDC advise approval.

Other Matters: several members had received complaints from Parishioners that there was “constant dog barking” from the temporary premises in the field near the old treatment works. The Clerk is asked to mention this to the TDC Enforcement Officer and chase for a response. The Clerk is also asked to request updates on land adjacent to Pillmouth Cottage where a stop order was placed on building works; Edge Mill Nursery, where it appears the building is being used as a residence, and an update on TDC’s request to the owners to re-instate the hedge and land formerly cleared for highway access.

Cllr Hamilton had been approached by a Parishioner looking for advice from The Council regarding the possible development of her land for housing [at this point Cllr Pennington declared an Interest – being a member of the Planning Committee at TDC – and left the room]. The Parishioner is considering low density, eco friendly housing on land opposite Church Lane, Littleham. After discussion it was decided that Members cannot comment unless an application is received, and they would need to be guided by Part 3 of the Local Plan, as yet unseen.

Cllr Pennington, returned to the room, and was asked why the Parish Council had not received any correspondence regarding Part 3 of the Local Plan. He responded by tabling a document produced by TDC “Summary Leaflet for Rural Areas” from which it could be seen that this Parish was regarded as “Other settlements not defined as Villages are considered as being part of the **Countryside**. These settlements have very limited access to services and facilities. Development within the countryside will be supported only on an exceptional basis for example to meet a rural workers housing need or the conversion of a rural building.” Councillor Hamilton was asked to respond to the Parishioner with this information.

Cllr Smith noticed that an Application to remove trees at Atlantic Village appeared in The Journal, and wondered if this was in respect of trees that would affect the skyline between the site and the village. Clerk to enquire.

**1325– Atlantic Array:**

- 1) Cllr Beer advised that the planned meeting of the 5 Parishes had been delayed until May 13<sup>th</sup>; Ian Sorensen of County Highways and Natasha Bacon of RWE had been asked to attend. The Parish Clerk for Abbotsham will be appointed Minute Taker for future meetings of the 5 Parishes.
- 2) DCC Cllr Robinson tabled his report, see Appx 1 – and advised that he had spoken to the Devon County Leader, John Hart, on the matter before this meeting. He, John Hart, had expressed surprise at the additions to the Steering Group attendees and promised to review the composition of the Group if re-elected.
- 3) Cllr Smith advised that he was in contact with the office of Geoffrey Cox MP regarding a meeting with affected parishioners, though the format of such a meeting had not yet been decided, it may be a surgery for individuals, or an open meeting. Members reminded Cllr Smith that they would like to be involved in

such a meeting; and it was agreed that each member would advise Cllr Smith of names of those considered to be most affected by the cable route. TDC Cllr Pennington reminded members that those who will suffer consequential loss should be invited to meet with the MP, and will furnish Cllr Smith with a list of those concerned. It was agreed that persons living adjacent to the Parish who would be affected should also be invited.

**1326 – Highways:** response received from County [Newcombe] re **letter from Mr & Mrs Knott, The Oaks, Littleham** from which it appears that they have noted the wish of the Parish to introduce speed restrictions, and it is “on their list” to do so. The Clerk is asked to check if the Parish needs to take any further action to promote this, and when response received to advise Mr & Mrs Knott. **Grit Boxes:** the second 90l grit box has been received and placed in the shed until the autumn. Notice of **Road Closure** – Road past Rectory Cottage, Landcross - from 15 to 21 May 2013. The Clerk tabled e-mail correspondence between Mrs Smith of Spinney Cottage, Scratchy Face Lane, Littleham and County Highways regarding potholes in eth Lane; this has resulted in the lane being repaired.

Cllr Fishleigh requested that we chase Julian Roskilley at Highways to ask for the drains in Landcross, NE of Monks Cottage, where the lane connects to the main road be cleared to avoid further flooding. Councillors also asked that we chase for updates on road subsidence at the bottom of Chapel Lane, Littleham; the landslip at Whitehall where traffic control is still in place, and the various sites of road and wall damage on the Yeo Vale road between Nethercleave and Edge Mill. Mr Roskilley to be invited to a future Council Meeting.

**1327 – Parish Notice Boards.** Cllr Atkinson advised that he had spoken to Mr Brend who will provide a quote for repairs; he will chase for this.

**1328 - District & County Councillors’ Reports.** DCC Cllr Robinson gave his report, see Appx 1.

TDC Cllr Pennington: – explained further regarding Part 3 of the Local Plan, and that Littleham & Landcross were not considered “a village” because of the lack of infrastructure & facilities, but “part of the Countryside” and as such any development will be by exception only.

**1329- Preliminary Consideration of items for the Annual Parish Meeting:**

- To confirm that Members have a copy of current Standing Orders. Confirmed.
- To confirm that Members have a copy of current Self- Help Emergency Plan. Confirmed
- To review and agree the Risk Analysis Statement. The Clerk tabled a revised Analysis for 2013-14 which was accepted.
- Appointment of Trustee of Littleham Village Hall & Rifle Range. Noted, it was proposed that that Councillor Hamilton will be asked to continue in this role.

**1330 - Finance & Insurance:**

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

Bank balance: £3640.40 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. Cashbook details tabled.

- b) Payments: £117.60 re-imburement to H Stanley for Grit Box from Glasdon UK Ltd. £101.28 subscription to DALC – to be paid via TDC as a deduction to Precept payment. £144.59 to Community First trading re Zurich Insurance Policy renewal. The premium is the same as last year.

Proposal to accept and have bank statement and Cashbook signed by the Chair, and to authorise payments listed.

P: Cllr Hamilton S: Cllr Atkinson. All agreed.

**Other Financial or Insurance Matters:** The final figures for year ending March 2013 were tabled, they have been agreed by the Internal Auditor, and would be presented at the Annual Parish Council meeting for approval. No queries were raised.

**1331 - Correspondence Requiring Attention: 1]** The Clerk advised of the latest change to the Register of Electors. Noted. **2]** TDC advised that they were currently without a Tree Officer, consideration being given to combine the role with that of the Landscape & Countryside Officer at N Devon Council. Noted. **3]** The Local Authorities had prepared a Household Emergency Plan [CLEAR]; members were asked to make it known to vulnerable individuals in the Parish.

**1332 -Other Correspondence received:** Devon Senior Voice – April 2013. TAAG – Minutes for 29 Jan 2013, and Agenda for 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Statement of Persons Nominated for County Council Elections, for election 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013. GO North Devon [Transport & Mobility] services pamphlet for 2013.

**1333-E-Mail correspondence received:** TTVS-Snippets [x4]: RSN Digest[x7]: DCC Community Roundup, Mar 2013: NHW Forum Weekly Crime Report x 6: DALC Newsletter Apr 2013: RSN – Weekly Digest x3: Devon Playing Fields – Fields in Trust.

**1334 -AOB. None.**

**1335 - Next Meeting: Annual Parish Council Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> May, and Annual Parish Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013. Both at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Dear Dane,

Can you give my apologies for the absence of a Report for tomorrow evening's meeting of the Parish Council? I am in County Hall for the Full Council meeting, but should be back in time for the parish council meeting.

Following Cllr. Hassall's drawing my attention to an item on the minutes of the Atlantic Array Steering group referring to the North Devon membership being increased by one to accommodate Cllr. Fowler; I requested a meeting with John Hart for Thursday morning. I will attempt to elicit from him the facts of the matter and an explanation for such a departure when we in the Five Parishes have always been told that the membership was fixed and could not be altered. (Fixed is an interesting word!) I would hope to be able to give a verbal Report at tomorrow night's meeting.

Incidentally, another set of alarm bells was set ringing by item 66 of the minutes – Economic Benefits. This is as I feared – that North Devon are determined to draw down whatever economic benefit might ensue. Under whose mandate did Mrs. Vernon and Mrs Nelson meet with RWE? Why has there not been a similar meeting arranged for Appledore with its port facilities that are capable of handling the 150-tonne transformers and where the engineering skills and competencies of Appledore Shipbuilders is second to none? Why has North Devon + been muscling in on the economic potentialities when RWE have already categorically agreed that any economic gain would be (a) distributed to the area most affected and (b) that such funding and its disbursement would be under the control of an arms-length perpetual trust without any involvement of North Devon +? Why has it been agreed also to extend the membership and attendance at the Steering Group meetings to include Mr Labato when the democratically-elected representatives of these parishes have been refused permission to even be in attendance? With the reduced size of the array, as currently being decided by RWE, there is no reason whatsoever why North Devon should be involved at all, for the area now to be planted with turbines has been moved away from the North Devon Coast.

As for the AOB item: Why is more of Ireland's beautiful countryside to be polluted by wind turbines, this time to supply energy to England a la Ireland's oak forests having been denuded to supply timbers for Nelson's ships? Instead of loading more grief on us here, they ought to start to upgrade the Welsh Grid and take the cabling ashore at either Pembroke or Holyhead.

Sam.