

LITTLEHAM& LANDCROSS PARISHCOUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 25th October
2012.



Present: Cllrs. Sue Beer, (Chairman), Atkinson, Pat Fishleigh, Hamilton, Loraine Kindley, Pru Phillips, Smith and Stevens.

TDC Cllr Pennington. DCC Cllr Robinson.

Apologies: Cllrs. Corkery, Hassall, Hopkins & 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.

1260 - Registration of Members Interests: No additional registrations were required.

1261 - To confirm Minutes 1247-1259 of September 20th, 2012.

Cllr Kindley asked that the word "including" be inserted before "a picnic table damaged" in Minute 1258 to clarify that other events of vandalism had occurred.

Minutes – as amended- Proposed as correct by Cllr Atkinson. S: Cllr Kindley. All agreed: Minutes signed by Chair.

1262 – Matters Arising – Not Covered by Agenda:

- a) **Changes in Planning re Localism:** Cllr Phillips asked that we arrange for someone at TDC to attend a Council meeting to bring us up to date on the new responsibilities to be undertaken by Parish Councils in respect of the new Localism Bill, including options regarding a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Smith also requested that we receive clarification on how to deal with retrospective applications. Cllr Pennington suggested that we invite Kate Little, Head of Strategic Development & Planning for TDC. The Clerk is asked to action.

1263 – Planning Applications: No Applications or Notifications

Other items: Letter received from TDC asking that we consider receiving consultations on Applications digitally rather than by hard copy. Plans and related papers could be accessed online and would result in cost-saving. After discussion it was decided to endorse the views of Cllr Hassall who had sent his views to the Council via the Clerk. This Council requests that paper copies of the Applications are to continue; and that cost saving could be achieved by reviewing the current practice to respond by post to all representations, advice of forthcoming committee appearances and notifications. Cllr Atkinson also suggested that Schedules listing applications in surrounding Parishes could, in future, be sent by e-mail to the Clerk.

P: Cllr Smith.

S: Cllr Stevens.

All agreed.

Clerk to advise TDC.

1264 – Atlantic Array: A copy of the Minutes of the first meeting of the "Group of 5 Parishes" on October 8th had been distributed. Cllr Beer advised that the meeting was a positive one, with lots of ground covered. The overall feeling was that there was a grave lack of communication with Parishes by RWE, TDC and DCC on matters that would have significant impact on the Parishes. A request that a member of this group be allowed to "observe" at the Joint Member Steering Group meetings had been rejected. This was disappointing, as was the fact that

Minutes of the last Steering Group [August] had still not been circulated- Minutes of their meeting on July 23rd had been distributed]. Going forward it was agreed that Parishes could input to Agenda items listed for the Steering Group, and Cllr Beer would e-mail Councillors with the agendas, asking for comment for input [though the Agenda for 11th October had already been sent out]. Cllr Atkinson advised that, even if the RWE application does not go ahead, any kind of renewable energy produced in the Bristol Channel in the future it would probably be brought ashore at Cornborough, and utilise Alverdiscott to access the grid, as the same reasoning would be followed in respect of capacity/grid access in Wales. TDC Cllr Pennington again advised his concern that Parishes were meeting on this subject without opening the doors to the Public; he also had seen differing plans from RWE regarding the location/size of the proposed compound at Hallsannery [A386] for the underground drilling operation. The Clerk was asked to contact RWE for details; and to ask if they had yet decided on the destination/route of any spoil from this site.

The Clerk had written to John Hart, Leader DCC, thanking him for attending at Littleham on September 10th, asking him to address: 1) direct representation for the Parish on the Steering Group. 2) the Meetings of the Steering Group be open to the public. 3) clarify what issues may be “confidential”. 4) that Parishes are consulted, and invited to contribute by DCC on any future responses to RWE, especially regarding the Onshore Proposals. A reply had been received advising that “ I am sure Cllr Robinson will keep you informed on what is happening over this issue between now and the County Council elections”. This response was considered disappointing by Councillors. DCC Councillor Robinson advised Councillors that he had asked a Question on this subject at County, the Question and Councillor Hart’s reply was tabled. A letter had been received from Nick Harvey MP; inter-alia he thought that there was insufficient detail for making informed judgements on the impact; he was aware of objections raised by local authorities and national/regional organisations. He urged us to Register as an “Interested Party” to be kept informed by the Planning Inspectorate. He will be writing to the Secretary of State for Energy & climate Change to highlight the strength of feeling in North Devon. He will keep us informed.

1265- Highways: 1) Parish Footpaths & Rights of Way – DCC replied to our question on the old highways shown on the PROW map;

“Thank you for your email sorry I've been out of the office. I am the Rights of way Officer for Littleham and Landcross, my colleague Tim Freeman is the Rights of Way Warden who organises the works on the ground. Yes you are right about the pink dotted routes they are unsurfaced County Roads that the public have the rights to drive down, if they have a vehicle that can cope, but are mostly used on foot and horse. For sometime we have been campaigning that these lower class roads come to the Rights of Way section to look after as Southwest Highways who do the tarmaced network have had time for then. These roads are more like rights of way in character. So Tim will now be looking at them as he surveys the parish”.

Cllr Corkery is concerned about the increased occurrence of flooding at Edge Mills; several Councillors expressed the same concern regarding flooding between Littleham and High Park on the road from the village to Littleham Cross, and the A386 between Little America to the old Chapel at Landcross . The prompt action of Highways in clearing drains and gulleys to deal with the recent flooding was welcomed, but it was felt that more permanent and effective solutions were needed. The Clerk is asked to write to Highways [Rees Davies at Barnstaple, copied to Julian Roskilly] on this matter.

1266 - District & County Councillors' Reports. DCC Cllr Robinsons report had been distributed prior to the meeting –see Appx 1. TDC Cllr Pennington reported: on the matter raised by Cllr Phillips regarding new Planning Regulations under the Localism Bill, he felt sure that Kate Little, TDC Head of Strategic Development & Planning at TDC, would welcome the opportunity to talk to the Parish. She continues to work closely with NDC on merger the two planning Departments. There are major problems arising from recent flood/high tide damage to Northam Burrows, which has exposed rubbish from the former tip at that site. The environmentalist do not wish to intervene on the natural erosion of the coast; but there will be obligations placed on the Local Authorities to contain any further exposure of waste. Cllr Pennington also advised that the newly introduced Dog Orders were causing controversy.

1267 - Finance & Insurance:

Report on Bank Balance and Authorisation of Payments.

Bank balance: £3364.34 [with Funds available at £3095.64] as at 20th September 2012. Cashbook details tabled, proposal to accept and have bank statement[s] signed by the Chair made by Cllr Smith. S: Cllr Fishleigh.

All agreed.

Payments: None.

Other Financial or Insurance Matters: A budget forecast had been prepared and distributed by the Clerk for the year ending March 2014, showing income of £3825, and Expenditure of £4000, leaving residual funds of £2504, and with the Precept unchanged at £3650. The proposal was put to the vote: For – 7. Abstained – 1. Budget accepted.

TDC had written advising that salary payments of £699.16 [for the Clerk] will be deducted from the 2nd half Precept payment; and that an Invoice for this [payroll] service will be issued towards the end of the financial year. It was agreed to continue with TDC acting as payroll agent for the Council.

P: Cllr Fishleigh.

S: Cllr Smith.

All agreed.

1268 - Correspondence Requiring Attention:

- a) Letter from TDC re Electoral Register 2012; Parishes will receive a data copy [pdf, password protected] unless a paper version is requested by November 15th. The Parish Council are reminded of the restricted uses for this information. Noted.
- b) Letter from Clive Burnage, TALCP Co-Ordinator, recapping on the issues he covered at the last meeting, and reminding the Councillors to make use of the Partnership Online Forum – www.talcp.org. Noted. Cllr Smith is still not convinced of the need for the LCP; DCC Cllr Robinson suggested that had this, and other, Parishes been involved earlier then the co-ordination of a concerted response to the Atlantic Array proposals may have been easier.

1269 -Other Correspondence received: TDC forwarded a copy of a presentation “Overview of the Localism Act”, as he had been unable to meet with the Council face-to-face. Copies of the presentation had been distributed to Councillors: TAAG- Notice of Meeting for 23rd October, and Minutes for 17th July 2012: Leaflet on Devon Heritage Services: Western Power & Distribution- Invitation to Stakeholder Workshops on their Future Investment Plans: Devon Senior Voice Newsletter Oct.2012.

1270-E-Mail correspondence received: RSN Digest[x4]: TTVS-Snippets [x3]:DCC Community Roundup, Oct 2012: TTVS-AGM Reminder: CCD-upcoming events: TAAG-Notice of Meeting: DALC-AGM/Conference: Connecting Devon & Somerset [Broadband] Update: TDC- Draft Empty Homes Strategy.

1271-AOB. Cllr Kindley advised that she had been approached by Anne Davies asking that a copy of the Minutes from Parish Council meetings be sent to her for publication in the Crosslet, and for the Parish Notice Boards. It was agreed that this would be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Kindley also mentioned that there had been damage to the Devon Bank on Chapel Hill [opposite the Crealock Arms].

1272 - Next Meeting: December 13th, 7.30pm.

[Scheduled meetings for 2013: 24/1, 14/3,18/4, 19 & 23/5]

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Report to Littleham & Landcross Parish Council for Thursday 25th October 2012.

A one-item Report this month!

1/ Aftermath of meeting of John Hart with the Parish Council and me. At that meeting Cllr. Hart suggested that I raise the matter with Scrutiny at County Hall. As councillors will know, Scrutiny may raise matters and hold discussions; Cabinet are free to reject or ignore them.

Cllr. Robinson sought to garner the support of county in our quest for a pro-active voice in all deliberations and discussions surrounding the land-based aspects of the Atlantic Array by way of a Motion and a Question. What followed was a flurry of emails between Cllr. Hart and me by which it became clear that (a) the parishes could not expect any help or support from county, and (b) there was no guidance to be expected for the direction of cabinet to county council officers to consult with local communities and their elected representatives in any subsequent dealings they may have with RWE.

Cllr. Hart went so far as to suggest that the county council legal officers would probably reject even my Question, into which, by then, I had woven the core of my proposed Motion. I submitted the Question to a county legal officer who, apart from recommendations for tidying up the text, found no reason for the Question to be rejected.

My supplemental was answered by more obfuscation, but I inferred an affirmative response. The county website can be checked out for the webcast of the Full Council meeting of 4th October. Copy of the Question and John Hart's answer is appended.

I am not yet finished with this matter. There are a number of errors and unexplained points to Cllr. Hart's "answer".

A least we have gained a foothold through TDC and Vanessa Saunders, and we need to advance further our involvement in those matters that, if the wind farm project receives consent, will impact on the lives and livelihoods of our parishes for many years to come.

Any thoughts on asking RWE to fund the building of a third Bideford bridge!

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