

**LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT**  
**LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011.**



**Present:** Cllrs. Atkinson (Vice-Chairman), Sue Beer (Chair), Corkery, Pat Fishleigh, Hassall, Heard, Loraine Kindley, Pru Phillips, Smith and Stevens. TDC Cllr Pennington. DCC Cllr Robinson, with Julian Roskilly of DCC- Highways in attendance.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Hamilton & Hopkins.

*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.*

**1089 - Registration of Members Interests:** No additional registrations were required.

**1090 - To confirm Minutes 1074 – 1088 of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011.** (previously dispatched)

Proposed as correct by Cllr Atkinson.  
Chair.

S: Cllr Hassall.

All agreed; signed by

**1091 - To confirm co-option of Councillor...** Patricia Fishleigh for Landcross. All agreed.

**1092- Matters Arising – Not Covered by Agenda:**

a-New Councillor Training. Clerk to arrange date with TDC, afternoon or evening in Littleham, possibly takes 2-3 hours.

**1093 - Planning:**

**Applications: 1/0585/2011/FUL. Edge Mill Nursery, Littleham – creation of new road entrance.**

Several Councillors had written as individuals to TDC on this matter. It was noted that the OS reference quoted was incorrect. After detailed debate it was agreed to Refuse Permission on the following grounds:

- Site is in the AGLV. The creation of the entrance, roadway and visibility splay will detract from the rural aspect of the Yeo Vale road, a significant characteristic of which is the continuous tree-lined high bank on the north side.
- There is no site survey or cross section submitted to demonstrate how the 1:10 gradient of the first 8m of driveway can be accommodated within the elevated levels of the field. This would require that 8m back from the highway, the finished drive level will be only 0.8m above road level. The profile of the hillside is such that this would require a considerable depth of excavation at a point where the plans merely indicate "to upper field". Without benefit of survey data it would appear that the average slope of the hillside appears greater than 1:10.
- Note 4 states "Foliage below trees to be cleared so as not to obscure visibility". This would further detract from visual amenity.
- Surface water drainage. Gully is stated to run to sump, piped to soakaways. Due to profile of the slope how can soakaways be sited at a lower level than the gully, yet not liable to flood or undermine the road. Plan does not show site of soakaways. This road is already notorious for flooding.
- Plan indicates "Existing dangerous entrance to be blocked off". The existing entrance is on to the unclassified green lane a short distance from the highway, and is not, in itself a hazard. The junction of the green lane with the highway is undoubtedly hazardous but that is not in the applicants ownership.

P: Cllr Smith.

S: Cllr Loraine Kindley.

Vote: 7 in favour; 3 abstained [incl

Cllr Stevens]

**1/0588/2011/FUL. Cornerways, Landcross – erection of double garage.** Cllr Pat Fishleigh registered her interest being a neighbour; stated as an individual that she had no objections, then left the debate. After discussion it was agreed to approve the application. P: Cllr Pru Phillips. S: Cllr Hassall.

All agreed.

**1/0660/2011/FUL. East Furlong Farmhouse, Littleham – erection of general purpose agricultural building.** Approval recommended. P: Cllr Heard. S: Cllr Stevens. All agreed.

**Other matters:**

- a. **1/0491/2011/FUL: Robin Hill Farm** - erection of solar panels. TDC notify permission Granted.

## 1094 – Highways.

- a) **DCC sign/parking outside Pendower, Littleham.** Cllr Loraine Kindley that the No Parking sign is in a state of disrepair and covered by vegetation; vehicles regularly parked in the space. Discussion brought out the facts that whilst the area should be kept clear as a passing place, policing of such would increase the existing problem of where to park in the [Mt. Pleasant] area. Julian Roskilly [Neighbourhood Highway Officer, Bideford North, East & Northam Wards] stated that “Keep Clear” markings could be painted on the road if needed. Council thanked him for this offer and would revert to him, if required, after a period of monitoring the situation.
- b) **Damaged bank near Mt Pleasant, Littleham.** Cllr Loraine Kindley advised that the banking had been damaged, opposite the entrance to Church Lane and wondered if it could be re-instated, with perhaps a large stone for protection against further damage. The collapsed bank was obstructing the footpath. Julian Roskilly believed that the collapsed material had been removed – he would check; the provision of a protective stone was problematic in that it could pose a danger to roadusers. He will ask the Lengthsman to check the banks etc in the area.
- c) **Response on Edge Mill damage.** Cllr Stevens had alerted Highways to a flooding problem in June caused by rocks and mud falling on to the drain, and that hedging on the opposite side of the road should be trimmed back to give wider access. Julian Roskilly advised that hedges and banks were the responsibility of the landowner, and Highways only intervene if obstructions occur, and the Lengthsman would monitor. Cllr Corkery would speak to the land owner, asking him to trim back the hedge; the situation with the drain would be monitored.
- d) **Snow Wardens.** DCC Cllr Robinson asked if the Parish were appointing a Snow Warden – Cllr Sue Beer responded that this was not our intention as everyone had coped well last winter without. Cllr Robinson explained that such person could be very useful to order, control and distribute bulk supplies of grit and to be the main point of contact with Highways. There was also the possibility that a grit spreader could be situated in the Parish. He has left information with the Parish Clerk which will be distributed to members and discussed at the next meeting.
- e) **Road Closure.** Cllr Sue Beer had been in contact with Julian Roskilly regarding the unannounced closure of the A386 which had a detrimental effect on the Village Fete held that day – numbers attending were down by half! Julian Roskilly responded that, following the e-mail from Cllr Sue Beer, investigations as to how/why this happened had been initiated and were still ongoing, but it does appear that internal communication mistakes had been made, for which he apologised.
- f) **Pillmouth Cottage.** Following works [subject of an enforcement notice] adjacent to the road – opposite the Church, there was evidence of road subsidence. Mr Roskilly said that the matter was in hand.
- g) **Verge cutting.** Cllr Pat Fishleigh asked Mr Roskilly when the next cut was scheduled for the villages. Mr Roskilly was unable to give the answer as the schedule was controlled by the contractors – SW Highways. He added that there had been ongoing quality issues with this contract, over which DCC had limited control. Cllr Sue Beer expressed dissatisfaction with this – it would be helpful if Parish Councils could have a schedule. DCC Cllr Robinson agreed to take up the matter. It was confirmed that 4 cuts per annum had been funded/agreed by DCC.

**1095 - Use of Grimebusters to clean the Bus Shelter.** Cllr Loraine Kindley had noticed that the shelter was in need of cleaning, and asked that we arrange through Grimebusters. Cllr Heard responded that he has taken the responsibility to look after the shelter and regularly moved rubbish and cleaned the area, there was no need to involve Grimebusters at this stage. The Council thanked Cllr Heard for this.

**1096 - District & County Councillors' Reports.** TDC Cllr Pennington: Yesterday RWE npower Renewables had made a presentation to TDC regarding their proposal to build the Atlantic Array Offshore Windfarm in the Bristol Channel 14kms from the North Devon coast. Number of turbines to be between 188 – 417 depending upon generating capacity; and the preferred route for cabling to come ashore will be at Cornborough. Cables would be routed through Littleham & Landcross to connect with the electricity sub-station at Alverdiscott. Cllr Pennington advised that there will be significant impact in the Parish, even though the cables will be buried. He was concerned at the lack of consultation to date – meetings with Parish Councils are apparently scheduled for September, and he will keep us informed. Whilst background details had been distributed by RWE via a supplement in the local paper, Cllr Pennington believed that the majority of the population were not aware of the proposals at this time. The IPC scoping report [248 pages] could be found on the website.

There had recently been a fatality on the Torrington road, and there was a definite increase in the accident rate of late. He asked that parishioners report/record all accidents. Talks were continuing between TDC and North Devon District on further integration of services/personnel. TDC had recently supported the European Watersports events held around Torridge which had been a great success.

DCC Cllr Robinson's report had been distributed to Members prior to the meeting [Appx 1] and he highlighted DCC Cllr Mumfords response regarding the Atlantic Array. He also proposed that any future Highways problems in the Parish could be routed through him. Cllr Smith expressed concern at the flippant response given by DCC Cllr Croad in respect of charges for waste disposal.

The Chair thanked Cllrs Pennington and Robinson for their reports and time given to the Parish; and also thanked Julian Roskilly for attending.

Cllr Pru Phillips left the meeting at 8.50pm.

**1097- Update on Broadband Survey.** In view of the time this is to be carried forward to the next meeting.

**1098 - Parish Plan:** An update from the meeting of April 13<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Atkinson tabled a report, requesting that copies be sent to Members by the Clerk. He would obtain copies of the latest Welcome booklet and bring them to the next meeting. The dog waste bin was being emptied [by TDC] on a regular basis, he would continue to monitor.

**1099 Finance & Insurance:**

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

Bank balance: £3326.61 as at 20<sup>th</sup> July, with a £25 o/s to Website Assn. Cashbook details tabled, and bank statement signed by the Chair.

Payments: DPFA had sent new Standing Order mandate to cover the annual subscription of £35 – only £15 was paid in April 2011, therefore a balancing payment of £20 was required together with a new mandate for £35 for future payments.

Proposed: Cllr. Sue Beer.

S: Cllr Heard.

All agreed.

- b. Other Financial or Insurance matters: None.

**1100 Correspondence Requiring Attention:**

- a) TDC Polling Districts & Places Review: noted, no response required.
- b) TDC Register of Electors – Update; members notified of addition to Register.
- c) pLetter of Thanks; from Audrey Hollins of Bramble Cottage, Buckland Brewer, thanking the Council for it's part in providing the additional 372 service on Fridays.
- d) Letter from RWE npower Renewables: providing background information on the Atlantic Array offshore Windfarm

**1101-Other Correspondence received:** TTVS: Fundraising & Events, making it legal. TTVS: Torridge Matters June 2011. TDC: Torridge Connect. TTVS: Inside Information. Senior Council for Devon: Everyone's tomorrow, July 2011.

**1102-E-Mail correspondence received:** TTVS- Volunteer Managers group; RSN- Rural Communities Survey; RSN – News [5]: TTVS- Community Right to Buy; TTVS- Snippets [2]; TTVS- Awards for All, Greener for the Future Day, Training & Events bulletin[2]; DCC – Road closure Frithelstock; DALC- Royal Devon & Exeter Foundation Trust, Newsletter, Queens Diamond Jubilee Beacons; Queen Elizabeth 11 Fields Challenge.

**1103-AOB.** None

**1104- Next Meeting: September 15<sup>th</sup>. #### NOTE CHANGE**

Scheduled meetings: 20/10; 8/12; [2012]19/1; 15/3; 19/4; 17/5 & 24/5.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

**Report to Littleham & Landcross Parish Council, for Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2011.**

Introduce Julian Roskilly to the meeting.

**1/ Refuse Charges, renewable energy.** I have now received from Cllr. Croad, the Cabinet member responsible, answers to the questions regarding aspects of recycling: -

Why were plasterboard and rubble specifically being charged for?

All of the items on the 'chargeable' list are non-domestic waste - we don't have a mandate for non-domestic waste. Some 20k tonnes of this type of DIY waste goes straight to landfill from our recycling centres every year at a cost of some £1.8m. This cost, of course, is born by all of Devon's Council Tax payers - I pose the question "would you like to subsidise your neighbours DIY projects?" - because prior to April you have been doing so. Plasterboard is specifically expensive because following an EU Regulation, plasterboard cannot be landfilled with ordinary waste and has to go to a special site for treatment before landfill at that site - there is only one such site in Devon and as a consequence the cost of plasterboard (and asbestos sheeting) disposal is exorbitant.

Can I be supplied with a copy of the schedule of charges and conditions for the chargeable items?

We printed 50,000 copies of the schedule and the majority have been distributed from recycling centres across the county - if there is any left I will get the office to send a few to you.

Why cannot payments be made by either cheque or credit card

I would have thought this was pretty obvious at busy times plus any other forms of payment than cash take a fair amount of processing.

Why are receipts not issued for payments, as I understand that any cash payments are required to be receipted?

Operatives at recycling centres are required to offer a receipt for any monies paid over plus any request for a receipt should not be refused - if anyone has any instance of refusal of a receipt then I want to know about it.

**And regarding renewable energy from Cllr. William Mumford: -**

What is the rationale behind the decision to bring the power cable from the Atlantic Array ashore at Cornborough, in an AONB and a CPZ, instead of at Fremington, where some of the necessary infrastructure is already in situ?

I am not sure of the exact reason and have asked Jamie Evans to drop you a line if he is aware of any specifics.

From what I do know RWE have carried out very thorough assessments and the route chosen is a balancing act between economics and environmental issues.

I am unsure what infrastructure you refer to. The cables, I believe something like 6 of them all need to be buried in separate trenches making the 'cable path' quite wide. As far as I can recall they are not able to use any of the infrastructure left from the old Yelland power station if that is what you are referring to.

I am confident that the demands that will be placed on them for both protecting and making good the environment will be considerable.

Of greater concern is the lack of apparent progress on how they will actually build the offshore element. The depth and seabed topography are such that this will be a very challenging engineering task and I am rather waiting to be convinced on this part of the project before investing too much time and effort on other aspects such as the cable route and the potential for a support port on the North Devon Coast.

**2/ Resolution of Leakage of Sewage onto Tarka Trail.** Mark Beer, Environmental Protection Officer of Torridge District council, diligent as ever, has sent the following message: -

The works to redirect septic tank wastes serving 2 properties at Landcross are now complete. Effluent is being pumped from the outfall to a soakaway in an adjacent field, well away from the storm drainage system.

Effluent is no longer ponding on the Tarka Trail and the bollards/taped off area has been removed.

**3/ Road closure on the A386.** On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July this road was closed. Apart from it costing Littleham & Landcross Parish nearly half their Fete income, I did not receive any notice of this closure nor is Julian aware of who is responsible. This investigation has been on-going. My enquires regarding the Road Closure on the A386 the other Saturday that affected Littleham Fete have now concluded. I can confirm that the works were to remove dangerous trees along the A386 and these works were undertaken by the land owner. It appears that the information did not travel as it should have done internally, with myself not being notified nor the works placed upon our WIP system for reference.

I can only apologise for the inconvenience caused, but also need to stress that the removal of these trees was critical and they were removed at the first possible opportunity after being identified as of imminent danger and the safety concerns would unfortunately override the direct access to any other events in the area. It is however regrettable that this occurred on the same day as the fete and I would like to extend our apologies to the organisers.

**4/ Lengthsman's visits.** The dates offered for the lengthsman to visit the parishes are as follows: -

23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> June (past); 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> October; 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

**From Julian:** On the Parish Lengthsman, he can now do other jobs by request. So as well as the drainage this now includes cleaning in general and investigation works. Parish can submit a wish list through yourself or direct to me whichever you prefer?

**5/ County Properties in Torridge.** I raised this matter with County Hall and this is the response: - see copy of correspondence.

**6/ Flooding at Edge Mills.** I have sent a note on this problem along the Landcross Chapel to Hoopers Water Road to Julian for his attention.

**7/ Westleigh Junction.** Rhys Davies was the sole rep. of DCC at the HATOC meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June – the powers-that-be had not in the past asked our Highways Superintendent to attend, but, now that Julian has charge of all of the Bideford East and Northam Divisions, I will ensure that he is invited to future meetings. Rhys was left in no doubt about the strength of feeling against the traffic lights. The points made by me at the meeting between Bideford & Northam T Cs and county, and my subsequent correspondence, I read into the record and asked that they be recorded verbatim. I note that the cabinet have now seen the minutes but still I quote:

**Recommendation:** that the HATOCs views be noted but the Cabinet's latest decision be re-affirmed."

Thank you Chairman, Council.

Sam Robinson.

21 Bude Street, Appledore, EX39 1PS.

[sam.robinson@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sam.robinson@devon.gov.uk)

Tel (01237)474413.