

## **LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT LITTLEHAM VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 6th MARCH 2008**

Present: Cllrs Atkinson, Mrs Beer, Mrs Galvin (Chairman), Hamilton, Hassall (Vice-Chairman), Ms Lamb, Poole, G. Smith, M. Smith and Stevens.

Apologies: Cllrs. Heard and Mrs Wilkinson. Cty Cllr Barton & TDC Cllr Pennington were also unable to attend.

Members of the public wishing to address the meeting on a specific agenda item, are, in accordance with Standing Order 24 and Paragraph 12(2) of Statutory Instrument 2007/1159, permitted to do so before that Agenda Item, but no members of the public were present.

679 Registration of Members Interests: No additional registrations were required.

680 Minutes 670 – 678 of 17th January 2008:

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Poole, seconded by Cllr Ms Lamb, that Minutes 670 – 678 of 17th January 2008 are approved and signed as a correct record.

681 Matters arising from Minutes 670 – 678:

(a) (Min 676f) TDC Torrington Area Advisory Group:

Cllr Hassall reported on the Advisory Group Meeting of 22nd January 2008.

682 Planning Matters:

(a) Matters arising; (Min673c) N Devon & Torridge Core Strategy & Options Report:

TDC has acknowledged receipt of the Parish Council's comments (TDC Ref 477) and advises that the Parish Council will be notified when its comments have been processed as valid, or deemed inadmissible (refer to: - <http://consult.Torridge.gov.uk>).

The North Devon & Torridge Core Strategy Summary of Pre-submission Comments from Torridge Parish Councils states: -

- The bulk of development should continue to be accommodated at Bideford, as our principal centre
- Most new developments should be accommodated at the market towns, which are our main urban areas
- Village communities need to be made more sustainable

- Villages should be able to continue to take small scale development at a modest rate provided that services are adequate
- Villages should accommodate local needs housing wherever the need arises
- Affordable housing provision is a high priority but it should only be provided where services are accessible
- More support is needed for our rural farming communities
- We must continue to safeguard the environment as a priority and insist on more sustainable construction in future.

Parish Councillors agreed that the Pre-submission Comments generally correspond with the responses submitted by the Parish Council, except in respect of affordable housing, where the Parish Plan Steering Group may wish to re-examine this topic.

(b) Planning Notifications :

Planning Approvals in respect of 1/0041/2008/FUL Gregorys Langdon, Littleham and 1/1383/2007/FUL Rose Cottage, Littleham and a Planning Refusal of application 1/1280/2007/FUL Edge Mill, Littleham were noted.

682 (c) Planning Matters: Planning Application: Littleham Village Hall  
Cllrs Mrs Beer, Hamilton, Poole and Smith declared an interest and after addressing the meeting, as members of the public, in accordance with Standing Order 24 and Para. 12(2) of S.I.2007/1159, they left the meeting.  
RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr. Atkinson that the Planning Application in respect of Littleham Village Hall is recommended for APPROVAL.

Cllrs Mrs Beer, Hamilton, Poole and Smith were invited to return to the meeting  
(c) Northern Peninsula Housing Market Assessment:

A press release has been displayed on the three Parish Notice Boards and the Parish Web Page, inviting members of the public to respond to consultants who are preparing a Housing Market Assessment for coastal district councils between Padstow & Watchet.

The press release states that, "consultants need to hear people's experiences and ideas about what needs to be done. There are a number of ways to do this – by on line discussion; by going to [www.cchr.net/forum/](http://www.cchr.net/forum/) ; or by writing to Debby Weller, 7 Poltair Crescent, St Austell, PL25 4LX, or by telephoning 01726-667811 ,or e-mailing Debby Weller at [debby.weller@btinternet.com](mailto:debby.weller@btinternet.com) ."

The Clerk was instructed to enquire whether TDC have a list of people in need of affordable housing in Littleham and Landcross.

(d) TDC Parish Council Training – Determining a Planning Application:  
Members were reminded to attend for training at TDC Offices, Riverbank House, on Friday 14th March, from 09.30 Hrs until 12.30 Hrs.

TDC have advised that Parish Councillors no longer need to reserve a seat in

advance.

(e) Edge Mill Cottages, Littleham: Planning Application 1/10857/2007/FUL;  
Dangerous Parking:

The Parish Council recommended approval of the Planning Application at Minute 632 of 16.08.07. Notification of TDC's approval of the Planning Application was noted by the Parish Council at Minute 656(a) of 22.11.07.

Cllr M Smith reported frequent long-stay parking on the highway outside this property and Members question whether the proposed parking area at the rear of the property is constructed in accordance with the planning permission and whether there was a contravention of the Planning Approval?

RESOLVED, that this matter is drawn to the attention of the TDC Planning Enforcement Officer and the Devon C.C. Local Service Officer for Northern Devon.

683 Highways & Footpaths:

(a) (Min 674a) A386, Landcross:

County Councillor Barton had advised on the position in respect of the following issues: -

1. Existing access to the Tarka Trail, to consider whether it can be made more accessible for those with pushchairs etc: DCC Countryside Services intend to carry out this work during Spring 2008.
2. Provision of a bus-bay on the A386 between the A388 junction and the above former post-box site, with a paved footpath to the above lane junction: DCC are asking Stagecoach for a Risk Assessment/ Safety Audit on both options.
3. Providing a bus-bay on the A386 between YeoBridge and Landcross Chapel: The above comment applies.
4. Measures that can be taken to make the Tarka Trail entrance at Watertown and crossing the A386 at this point safer. This will include providing "rumble strips": DCC have agreed the principle. Cty Cllr Barton proposes that DCC costs should be met from his devolved budget, but he enquires whether the Parish Council would be able to contribute. The total cost of road and pedestrian signage is estimated to be around £400. The work will be scheduled for Spring 2008.

683 (a) cont: - Highways & Footpaths: (Min 674a) A386, Landcross:

Devon C.C. is still considering: -

1. Improving the visibility splay at the Wyltowyn Lane / A386 junction (opposite Sunset Guest House, near the existing post-box),
2. Request for a foot bridge alongside the A386 Tarka Trail Bridge
3. Radar checks in and approaching Landcross.

4. Permanent 30 m. p. h. VMS flashing sensor signs on the A386 at Landcross Village.
5. Access for emergency vehicles and inconsiderate parking along Wyltowsyn Lane, Landcross and in the pull-in on the A386, above the Tarka Trail Bridge, opposite the post box.
6. Increasing motorist awareness of the A386 junction with the lane from Landcross Village (near the site of the former post-box).

RESOLVED, that County Councillor Barton is thanked for advancing these projects and earmarking part of his Devolved Budget for the A386 at Landcross; that Cllr Barton is advised that the Parish Council is unable and unlikely to be able to contribute to highway improvements; that DCC and the Police are asked to take urgent steps to reduce vehicle speeds on the A386 at Landcross and that a progress report is awaited in respect of the remaining hazards.

(b)Traffic problems between Hoopers Water & Moorhead Cross, Littleham: The Police are considering whether Weight Limit restrictions should be introduced on this road.

Cllr Atkinson reported a near-accident at Moorhead Cross, partly due to a high hedge restricting the visibility of drivers coming from Bowden Green and Littleham Court. Other members were also aware of other accidents here. RESOLVED, that the land owner who is responsible for the hedge is asked to lower the hedge and improve visibility and that DCC is also made aware of this danger.

(c) Flooding; Watertown Lane/ YeoBridge Junction, Landcross and o/s Lower Webbs Cottage, Littleham ; Church Lane, Littleham and Springfield Lane, Littleham: A reply from DCC is awaited.

(d)Clovelly Rd Junction with road to Littleham; ASDA traffic:

The Chairman read a message from Mrs Karen Behnke, complaining about increased traffic flow when the new ASDA Superstore opens and the difficulties local drivers will experience when accessing the Littleham lane after leaving the A39. Mrs Behnke's message has been sent to DCC.

Members noted that the junction is within Bideford and that this is a matter for the DCC Local Service Officer at Barnstaple, not ASDA. Members thought that there was a need for either the lane to Littleham being diverted onto the A39 Roundabout, or for a turning lane being constructed between the A39 Roundabout and the lane to Littleham, for traffic leaving the A39. Cllr Poole expressed concern about the new "40" signs between ASDA and this junction, because traffic is derestricted as soon as it enters the lane to Littleham, where traffic needs to slow down. Members also expressed concern that increased traffic between the A39 and developing villages, such as Buckland Brewer, will make this junction even more hazardous.

RESOLVED that Devon C.C. is advised that the Parish Council shares Mrs Behnke's concerns and asks that urgent steps be taken to improve access at the junction with the lane to Littleham and that Buckland Brewer P.C. is asked to support the

Parish Council on this matter.

(e) Class III, Yeo Valley Road at Hoopers Water Bridge; Accident:

Members are concerned that another vehicle has left the highway, whilst trying to negotiate the bend approaching Hoopers Water Bridge, in Buckland Brewer Parish and has caused damage to the verge and hedges.

RESOLVED, that DCC is asked to provide additional hazard signage at the approaches to this bend and that Members request Buckland Brewer Parish Council's support on this matter.

684 Littleham Village Hall & Playing Field:

(a) CCD: (DACB): Access Website Project: Referred to Littleham Village Hall Committee.

(b) Village Hall Broadband facilities:

Mr D Hogan had pointed out the CCD state that they "can even help with Village Hall IT equipment or skills requirements". Littleham Village Hall could benefit from the provision of Broadband connection, and an accessible computer and video projector. He had enquired whether the CCD would make funds available to enable Littleham Village Hall to acquire equipment.

Cllr Hamilton, Chairman of Littleham Village Committee, advised that work to install telephone and Broadband facilities in the hall was in progress, but they were having difficulties with BT.

RESOLVED that Cllr M Smith is requested to intercede with BT.

(b) Countryside & Garden Contractors, Braunton: Request to quote noted.

(c) H G Wivell: Grasscutting 2007/08:

Due to the wet summer, Mr Wivell had had to cut Littleham Playing Field 23 times, instead of 20 as planned. Members accepted that the grass growing season had lengthened due recent climate trends. They also commented on the high standard of work carried out by Mr Wivell and noted that he had not increased his prices for three years.

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr Hassall, seconded by Mrs Beer, that Mr Wivell is thanked for the high standard of ground maintenance carried out; that the Parish Council approves the additional three cuts carried out during 2007/08 and accepts Mr Wivell's bill for this extra work, when it is received; that Mr Wivell is authorised to carry out UP TO 23 cuts per annum, without further instruction and that if even more cuts are required, then Mr Wivell should seek prior instruction from the Parish Council.

685 Littleham & Landcross Web Page Group:

Cllr Mrs S. Beer reported that work on establishing a constitution is almost complete and that Trustees have been appointed, being Mrs P Haddrell (Chairman), Mrs J Poole (Hon. Secretary), Mrs S. Beer (Hon Treasurer) and Messrs J Bromhead, D Hogan, I Mitchell and A Tregonning. Littleham Village Hall

Committee have agreed to pay for the first years telephone and Broadband costs, but the Web Page Group will be responsible for other costs and all future years costs. Cllr Mrs Beer reported that the transfer of Web Group funds held by the Parish Council was not yet required.

The Chairman asked for guidance regarding when the Parish Council Minutes should be placed on the Littleham & Landcross Web-Page.

Resolved, that Minutes (marked Draft Minutes) could be displayed on the Web-Page, immediately after they have been received by Parish Councillors. This will be before they have been formally approved as correct at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

686 Parish Plan:

(a) Parish Plan Steering Group & Parish Council Joint Meeting Notes of 30 January 2008: Approved.

A letter about the CCD Rural Volunteering Project was considered and the Chairman reported on CCD correspondence and her discussions with John Scott of CCD, who was asked to focus on families with younger members of the community. He has contacted all local schools and asked for a notice from him to be placed in their school newsletters. He has asked for information on the sort of activities that the children would be interested in.

Mr Scott also requires an immediate decision from the Parish Council about payment of the £100 award that Littleham & Landcross receives for participating in the CCD Rural Volunteering Project.

RESOLVED: that the £100 CCD Grant should be paid to the LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS FILM CLUB to enable them to present a children's matinee of the film "Ratatouille" during school holidays.

686 (b) Parish Plan: N Devon AONB Discovery Day; 16 March 2008:

The Chairman advised of arrangements made for the Littleham & Landcross exhibition at this event at The Milky Way Adventure Park.

(c) Devon Communities in Action Workshop; 22 February 2008:

The Chairman had represented Littleham & Landcross at this workshop and reported on the several benefits and opportunities the Parish could gain through this process. A web page directory has been established to enable Devon communities to compare activities and share common experiences in running community projects. Mr Andrew Tregonning has volunteered to input data for Littleham & Landcross.

The Chairman and Mr Tregonning were thanked for efforts in respect of this workshop project.

(d) CCD Community Planning Case Studies:

The Chairman had completed a questionnaire enquiring whether the Parish Planning process was enjoyable and worthwhile and seeking details about the most successful outcomes for Littleham & Landcross through developing the Parish Plan.

687 Finance & Insurance:

(a) Authorisation of Payments:

RESOLVED, on the motion of Cllr M Smith, seconded by Cllr Poole, that the following payments are approved: -

£ 465.92 to N. H. Jackson (1/4 Yr Salary to 21.03.08 + 1/2 Yrs Expenses)

£ 675.63 to H G Wivell (Grass cutting 2007/08 [20 cuts])

£ 7.08 to Thomas Westcott (photocopying),

a further payment of £96.94 to Mr Wivell for 3 additional 2007/08 cuts was also approved.

(b) Bank Balance:

The Chairman endorsed Bank Statements to 20.02.08, showing a cleared balance of £2638.98

(c) Audit Commission: Appointment of external auditor 2007/08 Accounts: Noted.

688 Consideration of correspondence & communications requiring attention:

Members noted receipt of the following correspondence: -

(a) Dept of Communities & Local Gov: Consultation on Orders & Regs re Conduct of L A Members

(b) DCC: Unitary Update & DCC Listening Events, 26th & 27th March 2008  
Resolved that Parish Councillors Atkinson, Ms Lamb and Poole shall attend the "Listening Event" at Fremington Church Hall, Higher Road, Fremington on Wednesday 26th March, from 10.00 am until Noon and that Cllr Hassall shall attend the "Listening Event" at Hatherleigh Community Centre on Thursday 27th March from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

(c) Gt Torrington Community School: Consultation into change to Foundation Sports College Status

Members noted that the Going Foundation Working Group is holding a "Surgery" at the College on 11 March, 6.00pm to 8.00pm.

(d) TDC: consultation on draft Taxi Licensing Policy Questionnaire: No action was authorised.

(e) S West Lifelong Learning Network; Research Programme Survey:  
Twelve completed questionnaires were received and dispatched immediately after the meeting.

(f) Community First: Store is the Core Programme

The chairman had passed this correspondence to the tenant of the Crealock Arms.

(g) DCC: Improving your contact with DCC: My Devon DVD: Information received and noted.

(h) Enjoy England; Celebrate St Georges Day: The Chairman will pass this book to interested persons.

(i) CPRE Membership

Cllr Hassall declared an interest and left the meeting for this item only  
RESOLVED, that the C.P.R.E. letter is received, but that the Parish Council do not pay an annual subscription to C.P.R.E.

688 (j) Consideration of communications requiring attention: Devon & Cornwall Constabulary:

Members noted receipt of Chief Constable Stephen Otter's progress report on policing service improvements achieved over the past year and plans for next year. Members also noted that there had been a Police Liaison Meeting at Holsworthy on 21st February and that the next Liaison Meeting would be held at Pollyfield Centre, Bideford on 23rd June, commencing at 7.30 pm.

(k) Postwatch: CCD information about Postwatch was received and noted.

(l) CCD, Help the Aged Funded Projects:

The Chairman and Cllr Poole reported on information received from Penny Thame of CCD.

Cllr Poole is examining whether Littleham & Landcross Film Club could apply for assistance.

(m) CCD New Councillors Course at Barnstaple, 1st April 2008:

If Cllr G. Smith is able to attend, the Parish Council will pay the £25 Course Fee.

689 Consideration of other correspondence received since the last meeting:  
A file was made available to Parish Councillors containing correspondence about: -

DCCIn Touch News Round-up February; TDC Monthly Update to Register of Electors; CCD Getting Ready for Enterprise Course, Village Green magazine: TVS The Grassroots Information Guide; Others The Local Channel website facility, Clerks & Councils Direct magazine and other promotional brochures.

690 Litter on the A386 & A388:

Cllr Hassall called for action to clear up litter along the A386 & A388 verges before the brambles begin to grow over this detritus.

RESOLVED, that DCC be requested to deal with this as a matter of urgency.

691 Traditional Road Sign-Posts:

Cllr Atkinson advised that several DCC wooden sign posts needed repainting and repair. He specifically referred to those at Orleigh Cross, Littleham and opposite Old Forge, Littleham.

RESOLVED, that DCC be requested to deal with this matter.

692 Date of Next Meetings:

Annual Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 1st May 2008: commencing at 7.00 pm.

And the Annual Parish Meeting, Thursday 1st May 2008: commencing at 8.00 pm.

Mr Ricky McCormack, Operational Services Manager, TDC will be the Guest



Speaker.

The meeting began at 7.30 p.m. and ended at 9.20 p.m.