

# Litcham Parish Council

## Minutes

of the meeting held on the 18th December 2006 at 7:30pm  
in the Jubilee Hall, Church Street, Litcham.

Present: Mike Oldfield (Chairman),  
Trevor Carter  
Chris Mitchell  
John Relph (Clerk)  
Two members of the Public.

1) Apologies, were received from Mark Sheard and Roy Payne due to family commitments and from Claire Lawrence and Les Raven for work commitments.

2) Declarations of Interest; None received.

3) Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 20th November 2006 were agreed and signed.

4) Reports:

Litcham Relief in Need Charities. The Trustees met on the 4th December and elected a new Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. At the present time the Trust has no intention of proceeding with the sale of the allotment next to the Priory. Youth Shelter: A letter from the Trust requiring the answers to various questions had been received. Clerk will contact Anita Gagen of Norfolk County Council, Youth Services and inform the Trust of her responses.

Jubilee Hall Bus Shelter: The Jubilee Hall Management Committee asked the Jubilee Hall Trust if they could remove the boarding from the Bus Shelter and were told that if they wished, they could move the boarding back by about a meter to allow bus passengers to shelter from inclement weather. The Management Committee felt this was not a realistic solution and the work involved would be costly. Therefore, they have again requested that the Trust permit the complete removal of the boarding.

Flooding, Druid Lane: Highways have had the drains jetted and cleared. The system is now working but needs some additional work on the outfall

of the pipe at the ditch end to keep it trouble free. At present Highways are trying to ascertain the landowner to seek permission for this work.

Breckland Council Forum: This was attended by the Clerk and the Chairman, who gave a brief report to the council on an interesting evening. Topics covered included open space and youth issues, both relevant to the Council's current plans. There was also an informative workshop regarding funding for sporting and cultural activities.

5) Parking Outside the Post Office: Council considered and approved plans from Jason Glasspoole for the marking out of the parking area in front of the Post Office with white lines. The intention is to protect the walkway in front of the Post Office for use by pedestrians. At present is often blocked by parked cars and pedestrians are forced to walk in the road.

6) Fencing of the Common: Council considered a 'Notice of Intention to erect Fencing on Litcham Common' submitted by Litcham Common Management Committee. The following concerns were noted and will be will be presented to the Management Committee for their consideration.

i) The Council assumes that no fencing will be erected until the Management Committee is ready to place the chosen livestock on the Common. That is to say, there will be no substantial time delay between erecting the fencing and the arrival of the livestock.

ii) The Council recommends that the project proceed in two stages. As a road cuts the common roughly in two this is easily achieved and it will help judge the effectiveness of the introduction of grazing and also test public opinion on the matter.

iii) The Litcham Common Management Committee will take full responsibility for the well-being of the introduced livestock and any public safety issued arising from the fencing and the introduced livestock.

iv) The Councils seeks an assurance that should this project fail and the introduced livestock removed from the common all fencing, other than perimeter fencing, will be removed immediately.

v) Finally, has the Management Committee given any thought to the deer that visit the common?

7) Graveyard Gate: The Clerk reported that the Faculty Application submitted to the Parochial Church Council in September had been returned. There was no record of any vote that might have been taken regarding the provision of pedestrian access to the graveyard extension from Druids Lane neither had the form been signed. This made it impossible to submit the form in its current state.

A covering letter was received with the returned form which explained that the P.C.C. 'do not wish to proceed with the graveyard footpath project' and the Parish Council should 'accept this as final'.

After due consideration the Council decided that it wished to submit an appeal against this decision to the Diocesan Advisory Council. However, before they did so they would canvass public opinion on the matter. Clerk will insert a paragraph in the next issue of the Church and Village requesting villagers who wish to see a gate allowing access from Druids Lane to contact him.

8) Street-lighting: Council considered a request from two residents of Wellingham Road for additional Street lighting, especially in the vicinity of the Primary School, and the introduction of brighter sodium lighting in Litcham. The Clerk informed the Council that Litcham was in an area classified by Norfolk County Council as a 'Rural Dark Area'. In these areas the installation of sodium lights is contrary to current N.C.C. policy, also all new lighting in such areas has to be justified by a 'proven traffic issue'. Council also considered a leaflet, submitted by a villager, from an organisation called 'Night Blight' which is actively campaigning against light pollution of the night-sky and seeks to reduce the level of street-lighting, especially sodium lighting, in rural areas.

Council concluded that the current level of street-lighting in Litcham was adequate. It did, however, agree that an extra street-light might be useful outside the Primary School in the light of plans to build a Children's Centre there, this suggestion will be added to comments made on the planning application (see item 11-ii below).

9) Notice Board on the Village Green: It was agreed to defer discussion of this topic until the next meeting.

10) Rights of Way: Clerk distributed leaflets from the Ramblers association. It was agreed to defer discussion of this topic and the

possible setting up of a 'Rights of Way Committee' until the next meeting.

11) Planning:

i) The granting of planning permission for 3PL/2006/1505/F Pit House, Lexham Rd; erection of a small Oak Barn was noted.

ii) Planning application from Norfolk County Council No.Y/3/2006/3028, Litcham Primary School; erection of new Children's Centre within existing school site, was considered and the following comments made:

a) Has sufficient car parking space been allocated for the expected use of the new building?

b) Would it not be feasible to widen the access from the road so that vehicles can both enter and exit at the same time?

c) Similarly, is there enough space within the car park for cars to pass and manoeuvre? (i.e. Could the car park be widened generally and in particular in front of the school.):

d) Given that the Children's Centre will now operate during dark hours has sufficient thought been given to the provision of lighting of the car park and access point to the road? Could there be a need for a new street-light outside the school?

iii) Planning application 3PL/2006/1786/F The Brambles Back Street; amendment to planning application 3PL/2006/1223/F, to include changes to roof design on front extension was considered and passed without comment.

12) Financial Business: the financial reconciliation for the year to date was checked with the latest bank statements and signed.

Receipts:

i) Receipt of deposit account interest of £33.02 for November was noted.

Payments:

ii) A payment by cheque of £850.51 to the Clerk was approved. This being £815.98 for salary plus expenses of £34.53 for period from September to November 2006.

13) Correspondence from the following was noted;

i) Norfolk County Council;

a) Community News

b) Norfolk Matters.

c) Invite to a workshop on 'Changes to Local Government in Norfolk' on the 10th January at County Hall, Norwich starting at 7.30pm.

ii) NCAPTC

a) Training schedule

b) 'Norfolk Link' newsletter.

c) An invite to a lunch and presentation on Quality Status for Parish Councils on the 5th February at Hunters Hall, Swanton Morely starting at 10.30am.

iii) Norfolk Constabulary; invite to budget meeting on Thursday 18th January 2007 at the OCC, Falconers Chase, Wymondham starting at 7pm.

iv) Breckland Council; invite to Breckland Landscape Character Assessment Stakeholder Workshop on 18th January between 2.30pm and 5pm at Elizabeth House in Dereham

14) Items for the next agenda. Notice board for the green, Rights of Way.

The date of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 15th January 2007 to take place in the Jubilee Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 21.20pm.