

LITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Litcham Parish Council held on
of meeting held on **3rd November 2008** Jubilee Hall Litcham 7.30 pm

Present Councillor M Oldfield (Chair)
Councillor T Carter
Councillor D Holland
Councillor C Holland
Councillor C Lawrence
Councillor C Mitchell

District Councillor M Kiddle Morris

10 members of the public

During the open part of the meeting Mr Rork raised a query that the minutes of the previous meeting did not accurately reflect the letter that had been sent from the co-opted trustees. It was felt that the minutes and extract were a true record of what was discussed and stated at the meeting but it was agreed to record that the letter complained about the leadership of the Charity by the Chairman not the decision to offer the allotments for sale. Mr Rork queried the procedure for the appointment of a Parish Council nominated trustee as the co-opted trustees are not in favour of Mr. Piffero as the nominated trustee. The Chairman stated that the Parish Council does not have to consult the co-opted trustees prior to the appointment of a nominated trustee.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received Councillors Payne and this was accepted.

2. Declaration of Interest.

Councillor D Holland declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Items 10.1 and 10.2

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2008 having been circulated were approved and signed.

4. Heritage Map.

This was deferred to the next meeting.

5. Matters to Report.

5.1 Registering of the Green.

This was deferred to the next meeting.

5.2 Reduction in the time for Street lighting.

The Clerk reported that he had ordered the change of fittings and the new bowls for the street lights and that no low energy lamps are available for the lights.

5.3 Keppel Close.

The Clerk had spoken to Orbit Housing who had confirmed that it had an interest in one property only. It was agreed to write to all the residents to enquire if there was any objection and to obtain costs to install a barrier.

5.4 Adoption of Telephone Kiosk at Weasenham Road.

Councillor Mitchell proposed and Councillor Lawrence seconded the resolution that the telephone kiosk on Weasenham Road for £1 and to decide after adoption if it was to remain in situ.

5.5 Cut to Long Meadow.

There is no suitable vehicular access to Long Meadow and it was agreed to write to the Litcham Common Management Committee to have the access cleared.

5.6 Cut to the River.

Councillor Lawrence proposed that this strip of land should be for all parishioners to access the river as this is the only place at which the river can be accessed. It had in the past been used by the fire engine to obtain water and therefore Land Registry is to be contacted to enquire if this strip of land is registered.

6. Planning.

6.1 Applications.

6.1.1. 3PL/2008/1417/F-Stapleherne Tittleshall Road-single storey extension to existing domestic garage.

NO OBJECTION
All were in favour

6.2 Decisions.

6.2.1 30B/2008/0002/OB-Bramley Weasenham Road-discharge of obligation to be used as ancillary accommodation in connection with the existing residential dwelling. Refusal

6.3 Enforcements.

6.3.1 Car on Tittleshall Road.

It was agreed to contact Breckland Council to see if it would take action to have the vehicle removed.

6.4 Site to the rear of Litcham Hall.

The plans for the proposed development had been circulated and it was agreed to contact Breckland Council to invite the Planning Policy Officer to a meeting to discuss the possibility of funding for a new village hall and open space. The District Councillor stated that as there were over 24 dwellings proposed then the development would qualify for grants.

7. Correspondence for circulation.

The following correspondence had been received and would be circulated.

- 7.1 Breckland Agenda
- 7.2 Open Space Autumn 2008
- 7.3 Voluntary Norfolk
- 7.4 Dereham LAG Minutes
- 7.5 Communities and Local Government Consultation

8.Highways

8.1 General.

After the rainfall at the previous weekend flooding had occurred again on the Mileham Road and Highways would be contacted to remind that this had not been dealt with from the last meeting.

The gullies on Church Street still need to be cleared again as these are unable to disperse the amount of water that flows down from Tittleshall Road. Outside the Old Rectory on Mileham Road roots are causing problems and these are to be requested to be cleared. One parishioner had informed a Councillor that improvements are to be made to the junction outside the Bull and Norfolk County Council is to be contacted for clarification.

9. Finance.

9.1 The budget sheets had been circulated and these were approved.

9.2 Balances:

Business 30 Day account

Balance at 31 08 08	13762.53
Interest	<u>30.39</u>
Balance at 30 09 08	13792.92

Current Account

Balance at 31 05 08	2460.64
Plus- Vat Refund	345.04
Precept 3000.00	<u>3345.04</u>
	5805.08
Less-Direct Debits- E-on Energy-	121.64
	5684.04
Less cheques authorised 01 09 08	<u>596.76</u>
Balance at 31 07 08	5087.28

Bank of Ireland.

Balance at 01 09 08	0.00
Less cheque authorised 06 10 08	21.36
Balance at 13 10 08	(21.36)

Amount available for Section 137 :487x5.86= £2853.82

Spend to Date :£ 00.00

The following cheques were authorised for payment:

003 B J Leigh Salary-September	214.88	233.54
004 Litcham Homewatch Donation		52.00

9.3 Donation to Dereham, Watton and Holt Citizens Advice Bureau. Councillor Lawrence proposed and Councillor Oldfield seconded the resolution that the Parish Council donate £100 to the Bureau. All were in favour.

9.4 Precept.

The precept was discussed briefly and a decision deferred to the next meeting to allow time for Councillors to consider any projects for the next financial year. The Chairman suggested that the War Memorial ought to be cleaned again and it was thought that possibly some of the schoolchildren could be involved with this.

10. Litcham Relief in Need Charity.

Councillor D Holland withdrew from the meeting

10.1 AGM 18 October.

The meeting was adjourned.

Councillor Holland stated that this was not an AGM but a trustees meeting. Several points of order had been raised by the trustees and these had all been referred to the Charity Commission. The meeting had not progressed far as there was disagreement between the trustees.

10.2 Letter from the Co-opted Trustees.

A letter from the co-opted trustees had been circulated and this was discussed at length with the parishioners present. The procedure for the appointment of Mr. Piffero was queried as this was against the Code of Conduct laid down by the Charity Commission. The consensus of the parishioners at the meeting was against the appointment of Mr. Piffero as the Parish Council nominated trustee. The Chairman of the Charity was accused of holding meetings with Mr Piffero prior to his appointment as a trustee. The discussion became somewhat acrimonious between the parishioners and Councillors, some of whom were accused of being arrogant and treating as a joke the letters sent.

The meeting was reconvened

Councillor C Holland stated that the person making the accusation was not at either meeting and did not dispute this. The Chairman stated that the appointment of the nominated trustee was a matter for the trustees to take to the charity commission and was not now a matter that should be dealt with by the Parish Council. He hoped that the differences between the trustees could be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

Councillor D Holland rejoined the meeting

11. Clerk's Corner.

11.1 Register of Electors.

The forms for the entitlement to a copy of the register of electors for each Councillor were distributed and signed and these would be forwarded to Breckland by the Clerk.

12. Matters for the next meeting.

There were no matters raised for the next meeting.

13. Date of the next meeting.

This was confirmed as Monday 1 December 2008 at 1930 to be held at The Jubilee Hall, Litcham.

The meeting closed at 2028.

Resumé as Published in Church and Village Magazine

At the November Parish Council meeting, attended by 6 Councillors, District Councillor Kiddle Morris and ten members of the public the following was considered:

During the part of the meeting open to the public the co-opted trustees expressed concern that the content of the letter from the Co-opted Trustees of the Litcham Relief in Need Charity had not been correctly reported in the last edition of the Church and Village magazine. The Parish Council felt that what had been reported was an accurate summary of the meeting, however to avoid any misconception the letter expressed concern about the leadership of the Charity by the current Chairman.

Highways/Traffic Matters. The white lines had been refreshed at the main junctions and the remaining white lines would be refreshed in the future. Following the heavy rain the previous weekend, again there had been flooding on Mileham Road, Dereham Road and Church Street and the Highways

Authority is to be reminded to inspect the sites and clear the gullies if appropriate.

Finance. Payments for the Clerk's salary and a donation to the Homewatch Scheme in Litcham to fund the meetings that are held quarterly were approved. It was agreed to donate to Dereham Citizens Advice Bureau to support the work it does.

Planning. The Parish Council raised no objection to the single storey extension to the garage at Stapleherne, Tittleshall Road. The decision to refuse the discharge obligation requiring the annexe at Bramley Weasenham Road to be used as ancillary accommodation in connection with the existing dwelling was noted.

Other Matters. The Parish Council decided to approach all the owners of the properties at Kepple Close to enquire if there would be any objection to the erection of a barrier on the path to the rear of the properties and to obtain the costs for the erection of a barrier. The access to Long Meadow is to be raised with Litcham Common Management Committee as no vehicular access is now possible. The strip of land between the allotments that leads to the river is to be checked with land registry to try and identify the owner as it was felt this piece of land should be available to the villagers to access the river. It was agreed to adopt the telephone kiosk on Weasenham Road which would mean that the box would remain in situ but without any telephony.

Litcham Relief in Need Charity. A lengthy discussion ensued following the receipt of another letter from the co-opted trustees. The co-opted trustees felt that proper procedures had not been followed when the second Parish Council nominated trustee had been appointed. All the matters raised in the letter had been referred to the Charity Commissioners and it was now a matter for the trustees not the Parish Council.