

LITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Litcham Parish Council held on Monday 16th October 2008, at 7.30 p.m. in The Jubilee Hall, Church Street Litcham

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

District Councillor M Kiddle Morris

1 member of the public

During the open part of the meeting Mr Birkbeck requested that the Parish Council confirmed the position with the proposed development to the rear of Litcham Hall. The Chairman and Clerk confirmed that there had been conversations with the agent for the land-owner who had requested a meeting but it was felt that the Parish Council should consider the proposed development prior to agreeing a meeting. The proposal was for about 26 dwellings plus a new village hall and sports pitches. The Chairman felt that the agent should have contacted the Parish Council prior to the end of the consultation on the LDF as the response had already been forwarded. The Parish Council would be considering the proposals and would discuss the matter at a future meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received Councillors Payne and Carter and these were accepted.

2. Declaration of Interest.

Councillor D Holland declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Items 10.1

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2008 having been circulated were approved and signed.

4. Heritage Map.

This was deferred to the next meeting. The Clerk reported that funding is available through the Lottery Your Heritage Fund, Breckland Community and Living Fund and the Small Changes Big Differences bursary. All possible grants require a projected cost to be forwarded with the application.

5. Matters to Report.

5.1 Registering of the Green.

No further responses had been received. The matter was deferred to the next meeting and the Chairman was to pursue outstanding responses.

5.2 Reduction in the time for Street lighting.

The Clerk reported that he had confirmed that the price for amending the lighting time would be £40 per light to fit a photo-electric cell and £45 per light to change the bowls. Councillor D Holland proposed and Councillor C Holland seconded the resolution that new PEC and light bowls be fitted to each light at a total cost of £1785. All were in favour. The Clerk is to enquire whether low energy lamps are available to replace the existing.

5.3 Safer Neighbourhood Team targeting of Litcham Anti-Social Behaviour.

The Clerk reported that PCSO Smith had confirmed that there had been no further problems with anti-social behaviour in Manor Drive but the Safer Neighbourhood Team had taken on Litcham as a priority over the next two months. The Chairman reported that he had met PCSO Smith in Litcham and had walked Church Street and had called at dwellings and asked the residents if there had been any instances of anti-social behaviour. There had been a mixed response as some residents stated there had been no problems whilst others stated that there had still been noise at 0200 hours. The Safer Neighbourhood Team would report back to the Parish Council once their targeting had been completed.

5.4 Dog Bin on Manor Drive.

The Clerk had again contacted Peddars Way who stated that it would be unwilling to place a dog bin in manor drive. It was agreed not to proceed with another dog bin but to attempt to obtain stronger worded signs and the District Councillor agreed to look into this at Breckland Council.

5.5 Adoption of Telephone Kiosk at Wellingham Road.

The possibility of purchasing the kiosk for £1 was discussed and the members were concerned of the ongoing maintenance costs but wished to consider the contract prior to making a decision. The District Councillor agreed to check the contract.

5.6 Rubbish opposite the houses on Wellingham Road

The rubbish had been cleared and there had been no further problems.

6. Planning.

6.1 Applications.

There were no planning applications for discussion.

6.2 Decisions.

There were no planning decisions received.

6.3 Enforcements.

6.3.1 Southery Cottage Tittleshall Road.

The letter from Breckland Council to the owner of the property regarding the siting of the shed and stating that no appeal had been received or a planning application received was noted. The members stated that as the shed had now been removed it was assumed that no further action would be taken.

6.4 Site to the rear of Litcham Hall.

The Chairman and Clerk reported on conversations that had taken place with the agent for the landowner and it was agreed to circulate the proposed documentation for consideration at a future meeting. The proposed development would be larger than the proposed LDF would normally allow but it was agreed that a meeting with Breckland Council regarding funding for a new village hall and sports pitches may be desirable in the future.

7. Correspondence for circulation.

The following correspondence had been received and would be circulated.

7.1 Norfolk County Council-Transition to secondary school

7.2 Norfolk County Council-Unitary Authority

- 7.3 Breckland Sustainable Team Surgeries.
- 7.4 Breckland –determined planning applications
- 7.5 LAG Minutes agenda
- 7.6 Norfolk Link August 2008
- 7.7 The Playing Field
- 7.8 Norfolk Police-Policing Plan 2008/11
- 7.9 Communities and Local Government-the making of byelaws.
- 7.10 Savills proposal for land to the rear of Litcham Hall

8. Highways

8.1 General.

Some white lining had been refreshed in the village but it was queried why all the white lines had not been refreshed. After the rainfall at the previous weekend flooding had occurred on the Mileham Road and Highways would be contacted to ascertain the reasons especially as a large amount of gravel and soil had been washed onto the road near the entrance to the playing field. The gulleys on Church Street need to be cleared again as these are unable to disperse the amount of water that flows down from Tittleshall Road. Flooding at the junction Lexham Road and Pound Lane together with the flooding of Dereham Road at Osier Carr would also be reported. The area opposite the Limes on Mileham Road had not been cleared following the visit of the Highways Engineer and this would be chased. The path to the sign at the notice board had been damaged by the contractors vehicles and Scope Joinery is to be contacted to repair this.

9. Finance.

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

9.2 Balances:

Business 30 Day account

Balance at 01 08 08	13732.21
Interest	<u>30.32</u>
Balance at 31 08 08	13762.53

Current Account

Balance at 31 05 08	3503.06
Less-Direct Debits- E-on Energy-	<u>121.64</u>
	3381.42

Less cheques authorised 02 06 08	£392.48	
07 07 08	£528.30	920.78
Balance at 31 07 08		2460.64

Amount available for Section 137 : $487 \times 5.86 = £2853.82$
Spend to Date : £ 00.00

The following cheques were authorised for payment:

001 B J Leigh	
Salary-September	214.88
Mileage to Records office 25 miles @.40p/mile	10.00
Postage	<u>8.66</u>
	233.54
002 Beetley Parish Council	
Photocopying	18.56
Paper	<u>2.80</u>
	21.36

9.3 Request from Homewatch to Fund the Meetings at the Jubilee Hall. Councillor Lawrence proposed and Councillor D Holland seconded the resolution that the Parish Council fund the cost of the meetings at the Jubilee hall at a cost of £52 per annum. The resolution was carried by a majority decision.

9.4 Precept.

The date for the precept to be with Breckland Council is 15 December. The proposed budget for the year was distributed and the addition of the projected bank balance at 31 March together with the cost of the maintenance on the street lighting would be available for the next meeting.

10. Litcham Relief in Need Charity.

Councillor D Holland withdrew from the meeting

A letter from the co-opted trustees of the Charity stating their concerns about the leadership of the Charity by the Chairman had been circulated prior to the meeting.

A lengthy discussion ensued when the Chairman of the Charity expressed his views on the situation and felt that the main bone of

contention is the proposed selling of the allotment land. The Charity is considering selling the land on Dereham Road and offering allotments on the land on Tittleshall Road and Strutt and Parker has advised the charity on the proposed sale and had advised that it would be more advantageous to sell the land on Dereham Road. It was again stated that it is not the responsibility of the Charity to provide allotments but to provide relief for the parishioners of Litcham.

Councillor Lawrence stated that she felt it was more preferable to sell the land on Tittleshall Road but this had not been the advice received from the Chartered Surveyors.

The AGM of the Charity is to be held on 18 October and a further report is to be received at the next meeting.

The access to the river between the allotments was discussed and it was to be clarified who owned the land as this is the only access to the river in the village.

No decision was made at the meeting and the outcome of the AGM would be awaited.

Councillor D Holland rejoined the meeting

11. Matters for the next meeting.

11.1 Lane Cut to the river.

11.2 Access to Long Meadow

12. Date of the next meeting.

This was confirmed as Monday 3 November 2008 at 1930 to be held at The Jubilee Hall, Litcham.

The meeting closed at 2133.