

# LITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Litcham Parish Council held on Monday 1st  
September 2008, in The Jubilee Hall at 7.00 p.m.

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

District Councillor M Kiddle Morris  
12 members of the public

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The first part of the meeting was an open parish meeting to allow parishioners to put before the Council their views on the proposed sites and guidelines for the consultation on the Local Development Framework from Breckland Council.

Mr Birkbeck started by stating that Litcham had been lucky not to have had any large development in the village and was concerned that there could be 200 houses on Site 012 which is to the rear of Litcham Hall. This would bring no advantage to the village and any access to this site off Pound Lane would not be conducive to highway safety.

Mr Warnes re-iterated that there should be no large development in Litcham. Many parishioners voiced their concerns that the infrastructure of the village is inadequate at present to accommodate more development and this would need to be improved prior to any development taking place. Clarification was requested from Mr. Vincent as to who are the owners of the land and this was clarified by the Chairman. There was a general consensus from those present that the highway structure within the village is unable to cope with more traffic and whether the High School would be able to accommodate a possible 100 more children. Mr Jones expressed concern that if the allotments on Dereham Road were developed there would be no parking for the residents of Canaan Row as the highways department had created a parking area for the residents and this would be lost in the development. He was also concerned regarding the highway access to the development behind Litcham hall and infilling the area between Weasenham and Wellingham Roads as there is no employment within

Litcham and no public transport that is suitable for getting to work places. He stated that he had found the web site extremely helpful in accessing the information on the proposed sites.

Mr. Angell had forwarded his comments by e-mail stating there should be no large scale development so as to maintain Litcham as a rural village, especially as the infrastructure and facilities would not be able to cope with an influx of housing whether it is at the School, health centre or the roads. He did stress that housing should be made available for locals who otherwise could not afford a home in the village. He requested that any future development should have a condition placed on it that there would be no new street lighting. He suggested that the allotment land was unsuitable for development and the area should be kept for allotments and if the land between Weasenham and Wellingham Roads is developed some area should be maintained for recreation. He was against a large scale development to the west of Pound lane and the development on Butt Lane should only be one dwelling deep. His one overriding concern was that the local road network is unable to cope with the amount of traffic at certain times and any more traffic would make matters worse. There could be advantages to the village in more trade for the local businesses but the disadvantages tend to outweigh the advantages.

Mrs Anderson was concerned that allotments would be lost and Mrs Warnes asked if the play area was still likely to proceed. The Chairman replied that nothing had been received from Breckland Council about the play area for just over a year. It was suggested that the area on Butt Lane should not be developed as this would stretch the village too far along Butt Lane and lose open space and rural views.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and for their comments which would be considered when the Parish Council came to its decision.

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**1. Apologies for Absence.**

There were no apologies of absence.

**2. Declaration of Interest.**

Councillor D Holland declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Items 5.8 and 6.4.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 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.

No further responses had been received. The Clerk reported on his conversations with NPS that the Parish Council would not be allowed to place the notice board on the green at this moment in time. He also reported that NPS had requested that a licence be signed to allow the continued siting of the bench but when the Clerk tried to obtain clarification on what was needed he was informed that the site is being looked at by the Asset and Management department of Norfolk County council and so nothing would be done until the site has been reviewed. Ron Shaw from the Litcham Museum had produced some photographs showing the Green being used and the Clerk would copy these to be used as supporting evidence.

##### 5.2 Reduction in the time for Street lighting.

The Clerk reported that he had only received just before the meeting the costs of changing the timing and this would be either £120 per light for a time clock or £40 per light for photo-electric cells. He would clarify the figures for the next meeting. It would also cost £45 per light to change the bowls.

##### 5.3 Street Lighting on Manor Drive.

The Clerk reported nothing further had been received from PCSO Smith and she is now on holiday.

##### 5.4 Dog Bin on Manor Drive.

Nothing had been received from Peddars Way following the request from the Clerk. It was suggested that signage with stronger wording be placed in the area.

##### 5.5 Breckland Council Forum/Open Evening 14 October at Watton.

No one would be attending this.

##### 5.6 Dereham Citizens Advice Bureau AGM 18 September.

No one would be attending this.

##### 5.7 Norfolk Annual Emergency Preparedness Study Day 7 October.

No one would be attending this.

Councillor D Holland withdrew from the meeting.

#### 5.8 Management of the Allotments.

A letter from a parishioner stating that the allotments are not being managed correctly was noted but no action is to be taken.

Councillor D Holland rejoined the meeting.

#### 5.9 Norfolk Association of Local Councils AGM 20 September.

No one would be attending this.

### 6. Planning.

#### 6.1 Applications.

There were no planning applications for discussion.

#### 6.2 Applications received since the last meeting.

6.2.1 3PL/2008/1018/LB- Old School House Litcham high School- install air conditioning units and condenser unit.

The application had been circulated to all members and the Clerk had responded by stating that there was NO OBJECTION to the application.

6.2.2 3PL/2008/0997/F-Byre Cottage Watery Lane-single storey extension to rear of property infilling existing small courtyard.

The application had been circulated to all members and the Clerk had responded by stating that there was NO OBJECTION to the application.

#### 6.3 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted

6.3.1 3PL/2008/0150/LB-12 Church Street-alterations to shop front. Permission

#### 6.4 Village guidelines and Site Specifics for the LDF.

Councillor D Holland withdrew from the meeting.

The following was agreed as the response from the Parish Council to the consultation.

Guidelines: to be moved to back of the houses on Weasenham and Wellingham Roads to ensure no back land development, to include a strip of land along the west side of Pound Lane 15 metres deep from the highway boundary, to tighten the guidelines on the East side of Butt Lane to the rear of the houses and Paston House, to include the land of site 003 but only one house deep, to include the land to the rear of the post office including Site 010 and to tighten the guidelines to the rear of the museum and on Rectory Meadow.

Site Specifics: to support 003 but only half the site. All were in favour.

Councillor Carter proposed and Councillor Lawrence seconded the motion the sites 004,006, and 008 be opposed. The resolution was not carried. Councillor Oldfield proposed and Councillor C Holland proposed the motion that site 004 be supported provided that there was only development along a strip fronting Dereham road and to exclude sites 006 and 008. There was a split decision and the Chairman used his casting vote in favour of the resolution which was carried.

Site 010 was approved by a majority decision.

Sites 001 and 005 were not supported.

Site 012 was not supported except for development along Pound Lane of one dwelling deep.

Councillor D Holland rejoined the meeting.

## **7. Correspondence for circulation.**

The following correspondence had been received and would be circulated.

- 7.1 Breckland Town and Parish Council newsletter
- 7.2 Boundary Committee Draft Proposals
- 7.3 Breckland Environmental Strategy
- 7.4 Breckland Information booklet on planning
- 7.5 LAG Minutes agenda

## **8. Highways**

### **8.1 General.**

Following the last meeting when a list had been forwarded to Norfolk County Council the Chairman and clerk ad toured the village with the

Highways Engineer and most problems had been repaired. The hedge at Stannell House is still causing problems and Dr Brown is to written to at the Health Centre requesting he trims the hedge to allow pedestrian access.

#### 8.2 Ditch on Church Street.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Lexham Estates who are not willing to erect a hedge or cut the verge but have no objection to the Parish Council having the verge cut.

#### 8.3 Car on Tittleshall Road.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team had been contacted to try and get the car moved.

#### 8.4 Planting of Wild Flowers.

Councillor Lawrence had met the Highway engineer on site on 21 July and it has been agreed with Highways, Nature Conservancy Officer and Utilities that the triangular portion of verge at the junction of the Dereham and Dunham Roads be planted provided that any planting is 1.5metres from the highway edge. The area would be cut at the end of the summer and planting would be at the end of October. The site could become a verge reserve. The cost is likely to be £100

#### 8.5 Encroachment of Norfolk Cottage onto the Highway.

When the Highway Engineer visited the village he did not think that there had been any encroachment. Councillor C Holland disagreed and stated that he would provide photographic evidence.

#### 8.6 Keppel Close and Wellingham Road.

The Clerk had contacted Peddars Way regarding the siting of a barrier on the lane to the rear of the properties in Keppel Close to be advised that the site is not theirs. It was suggested that the site is owned by Orbit Housing and the Clerk will contact them.

#### 8.7 Son of Sam Signs.

Councillor Carter raised the issue that he has not seen these recently and the Clerk is to ascertain if these are still available.

## 9. Finance.

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

9.2 Balances:

Business 30 Day account

Balance at 31 05 08	13672.79
Interest	30.13
Interest	<u>29.29</u>
Balance at 31 07 08	13732.21

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	<u>£528.30</u>
	<u>920.78</u>
Balance at 31 07 08	2460.64

Amount available for Section 137 : $487 \times 5.86 = \text{£}2853.82$

Spend to Date :£ 00.00

The following cheques were authorised for payment:

597	B J Leigh	Salary-July and August	214.88 per month
		Thumb drives-	<u>38.00</u>
			467.76
598	Susanne Rutter	Internal Audit	10.00
599	J.P.'s	Maintenance Cutting Churchyard	80.00
600	Litcham Jubilee hall	Hire	39.00

9.3 Wreath for remembrance Sunday.

It was agreed to purchase a wreath from the Royal British Legion at a cost of £18 as a S137 payment.

**10. Boundary committee Proposal for a Unitary Authority.**

It was agreed unanimously not to respond.

**11.Matters for the next meeting.**

11.1 Wellingham Road- rubbish opposite the Council Houses.

**12.Date of the next meeting.**

This was confirmed as Monday 6 October 2008 at 1930 to be held at The Jubilee Hall, Litcham.

The meeting closed at 2157.