

EXTRACT**As publishes in the Church and Village magazine**

April (2010) Attended by seven Councillors, County and District Councillor Kiddle Morris, and seven members of the public the following was considered:

Highways/Traffic Matters: The Clerk had met the Highways Engineer on 2 March to discuss the problems in the village and following the meeting the Highways Engineer had confirmed that he had spoken to the owner of Holly House regarding the overhanging hedge and this is to be cut back, the flooding on Dereham Road near to Bridge Farm will be monitored, Manor Drive had been repaired and most of the potholes had been repaired albeit with a temporary repair. Permanent repairs will be undertaken now the weather has improved. The car on Tittleshall Road has now been removed. A quotation has been received from Norfolk County Council for the erection of the kissing gate on Weasenham Road but a further quotation is still awaited from Norse. The following new problems are all to be reported to Norfolk County Council:-potholes in Pound Lane, Dereham Road and Druids Lane, the hedge opposite the School in Druids Lane and the damaged 40 m.p.h. sign on Lexham road.

Speedwatch: The Clerk is to contact Mileham and Tittleshall Parish Clerk for the names of the volunteers so that the group can commence the Speedwatch in the villages.

Heritage Map: A second meeting had been held with Signs of Life regarding the refurbishment of the Heritage Map and a draft layout had been received. It was agreed to have photographs of The Priory, Church, Litcham Hall, Bull P.H., Village Sign and the Old Tollhouse on the map provided the owners give their consent. Once this has been agreed a final draft layout will be prepared for approval.

Planning. Applications; no objection was raised to the application to install a plastic banded oil tank and external oil fire boiler at 6 Church Street but the application for the conversion of ancillary accommodation to self contained holiday lets at the Bull P.H. was objected to as it was felt that this change would affect the long term viability of the public house.

Village Fair 2010: Finances from the old account had been received and it was agreed to donate £500 to the new fund to assist with the initial set up costs for the fair in June.

FULL MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Litcham Parish Council held on **Tuesday 6* April 2010**, in The Jubilee Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present

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

County and District Councillor Kiddle Morris

7 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies for absence

2. Declaration of Interest.

Councillor Holland declared a prejudicial interest in agenda Item 9 being a trustee of the Charity. Councillor Anderson declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9. Councillor Mitchell declared a prejudicial interest in agenda Item 8.3 having requested to purchase the telephone kiosk.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Anderson proposed and Councillor Lawrence seconded the resolution that

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2010 having been circulated be approved.
All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed.

4. Matters to Report.

4.1 Registering of the Green.

Cambridgeshire County Council had acknowledged receipt of the additional evidence questionnaires.

4.2 Heritage Map.

The Chairman and Councillor Lawrence had now met Chris Hood from Signs of Life twice and a proposal for the layout was distributed. A further layout is to be submitted with additional photographs which would show Litcham Hall, The Priory Village Sign The Bull P.H. and the Old Tollhouse provided permission is given. Small boxes around the main map will show the Common and other important features of the village. New photographs may need to be taken if the existing will not scan adequately. The notice board will then be placed on the Green if permission is granted. Once a further layout is received this will be circulated for approval.

4.3 Employment of Young Offenders Team to assist in the Churchyard.

Councillor Lawrence had left a message for Terry Goldsmith but this had not been returned. She will try and contact him again to fix a date.

4.4 Planting of Tree.

The District Councillor had spoken to the tree officer who is progressing the species of tree to be used.

4.5 Emergency Plan for the Village.

The questionnaires had not been distributed with the Church and Village Magazine but will be with the next edition.

4.6 Post and Wire fence at Long Meadow

The gate had been spot welded but Jamie Dodd had not contacted the Chairman to discuss the other problems. No request had been received for payment.

5. Planning.

5.1 Applications.

5.1.1 3PU2010/0162/F-Hutlea 6 Church Street-install plastic banded oil tank in garden & external oil fire boiler.

NO OBJECTION was raised to the above application

5.1.2 3PU2010/0212/F-1 Church Street-conversion of ancillary accomm. to 2 self contained holiday lets (northern wing). Introduce door to eastern wing.

5.1.3 3PU2010/0211/LB-1 Church Street-conversion of ancillary accomm. to 2 self contained holiday lets (northern wing). Introduce door to eastern wing.

The above two applications were considered together.

The meeting was adjourned.

Darren Bond the landlord of the Bull P.M. addressed the meeting and suggested that the revised application had been amended so that only the alterations that would be acceptable had been applied for. This application would lead to the closure of the public house as bed and breakfast accommodation keeps the pub financially viable. By removing the bed and breakfast accommodation this would mean that less people would be using the pub for meals and therefore the pub would not be able to keep going. Holiday lets in the winter would not be fully booked as is the case at present with the bed and breakfast accommodation. The District councillor informed the meeting that he had requested this application to be considered by the Development Control Committee as it puts the long term viability of a local facility into jeopardy. The yard is at present used for a smoking area which would not be a suitable area if holiday lets replace the current accommodation as it is likely that there would be families in the holiday lets. The number of covers served in the restaurant would decrease, plus there would be increased traffic onto Mileham Road. He suggested that as this site is a listed building the Historic Buildings officer should be consulted on any changes

The meeting was re-convened.

Councillor Lawrence proposed and Councillor Anderson seconded the resolution that the application be **OBJECTED** to. This was passed by a majority decision.

It was agreed to object on the grounds that the change of accommodation could lead to the closure of the pub and it was felt that this facility should be preserved in the village. The reasons for this would be the loss of food sales and income for the pub from bed and breakfast accommodation. The problem of the smoking area is also to be highlighted as is the possible objection to the noise from vehicles leaving the car park if families are staying in the holiday lets. The historic Buildings officer is also to be requested to scrutinise the plans to ensure that the fabric of the building is not altered to a degree that is not suitable for a listed building.

5.2 Primrose House Mileham Road.

The Clerk confirmed that as the alteration is not on the first floor this is classed as permitted development..

6. Correspondence for circulation.

The following correspondence had been received and would be circulated.

- 6.1 Breckland Council Town and Parish Council Forum Newsletter
- 6.2 Breckland Partnership "Your Parish Your Decision" Funding

7. Highways

7.1 General.

The Clerk reported that the Highways Department had confirmed that the landowner of the hedge at Holly House had been spoken to and she had stated that the Parish

Council is happy with hedge as it slows traffic. The Assistant Highways Engineer confirmed that this is not the case and the hedge is causing a highway issue by pushing vehicles over the centre line. An agreement was made to have the vegetation cut back as soon as practicable.

The gully and grips opposite Bridge farm on Dereham road will be monitored for future action.

The details of the damaged bus stop sign at the Jubilee hall had been passed to the Passenger Transport group for action.

The footway at the junction of Pound Lane on Lexham Road has been highlighted but it is not currently a higher priority over other similar improvements throughout the county. The damaged sign on Lexham road, potholes in Pound Lane Dereham Road and Druids Lane, and the hedge opposite the school on Druids Lane which again needs cutting back are to be reported to the Highways Department. County councillor Kiddle Morris informed the meeting that he would be touring the village with the Highways Engineer on 14 April and these matters would be looked at then.

7.2 Car on Tittleshall Road.

The car has been removed.

7.3 Kissing Gate on Weasenham Road.

One quotation had been received from Norfolk County Council but no quotation has been received from NORSE. Councillor Lawrence informed the meeting that her son would not be tendering for the work.

7.4 Speedwatch.

Nothing had been received from either Mileham or Tittleshall Parish Councils.

8. Finance.

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

8.2 Balances:

The following balances and cheques for authorisation were approved.

Balance at 31 01 10	147
Less cheques authorised 01 02 10-417.98	61.1
Direct Debit E-on 15 02 10- 41.24	5
Plus interest- 050210	<u>459.22</u>
Balance at 28 02 10	14301.93
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 07 12 09-20.00	<u>0.01</u>
unrepresented cheques authorised 01 02 10-33.75	14301.94
unrepresented cheques authorised 01 03 10-270.98	
Balance at 01 03 10	<u>324.73</u>
Amount available for Section 137 :469 x 6.15= £2884.35	13977.21
Spend to Date :£ 0.00	

Cheques for authorisation:

059	B J Leigh	Salary-March-222.98 Postage-1 05.40	328.38
060	Glasdon	New litter Bin	246.71
061	Norfolk ALC	Subscription	124.63
062	Norfolk RCC	Subscription	15.00

Councillor D Holland proposed that a deposit account be opened and £10000 transferred to this account. This was agreed once the first half of the precept had been received.

Councillor Mitchell withdrew from the meeting.

8.3 Purchase of telephone kiosk on Weasenham road.

The cost to remove the electric supply would be £271 and Councillor Carter proposed and Councillor Anderson seconded the resolution that the Parish Council proceed to disconnect this and transfer ownership to Councillor Mitchell. All were in favour.

Councillor Mitchell re-joined the meeting.

8.4 Membership of Norfolk ALC.

Councillor Carter proposed and Councillor Anderson seconded the resolution that the membership be renewed for the current financial year at a cost of £124.63. All were in favour

8.5 Norfolk Rural Community Council.

Councillor C Holland proposed and Councillor Lawrence seconded the resolution that membership be renewed as non-voting member at a cost of £15. All were in favour.

9. Village Fair 2010.

9.1 Receipt of the balance in the accounts.

The Clerk reported that he had received a cheque for £2328.43 but queried whether this was the total amount in both accounts. Les Raven agreed to speak to Diana Collen to clarify if all accounts are now closed. The money raised this year will go to those who participate after all expenses are deducted.

9.2 Contribution to the Village Fair 2010.

Councillor Lawrence proposed and Councillor Mitchell seconded the resolution that £500 be given to the fair as a contribution. Les Raven stated that this would be a loan and repaid after the fair.

9.3 Distribution of the Residue of the Fund.

Councillor Anderson proposed and Councillor D Holland seconded the resolution that

£300 be donated to the following local organisations:- Parochial church Council, Jubilee Hall, Manor Drive Social Club, Friends of the Health Centre and Litcham Historical Society. All were in favour.

10. Litcham Relief in Need Charity.

10.1 Communications since the last meeting.

No further correspondence had been received but the Chairman of the Charity requested from Councillor D Holland the Minute Book as had been requested by the Parish Council. Councillor Holland stated that he did not know where the Minute Book is but he would find it and inform the Chairman.

11. Matters for the next meeting.

There were no matters for the next meeting.

12. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting.

This was changed to 26 April as the schools would be on holiday on 19 April.

13. Date of the next meeting.

This was confirmed as Tuesday 4 May 2010 at 1930 to be held at The Jubilee Hall, Litcham.

The meeting closed at 2055