
EXTRACT

As published in the Church and Village magazine

March (2010) - Attended by 6 Councillors, County/District Cllr Kiddle-Morris & 4 members of the public the following was considered:

Highways/Traffic Matters: The Clerk would be meeting the Highways Engineer on 2 March to discuss the problems in the village and would be looking at the state of Dereham Road, Manor Drive, the footway on Lexham Road near to Litcham Hall and the many potholes within the village, many of which had been filled but the repair had since come out. Weasenham Road was clear of surface water when it was inspected but the site will continue to be monitored and the Highways Inspector is to check the surfacing and kerbing outside the Bungalow on Front Street. The removal of the car on Tittleshall Road had not been actioned by the police and this will be pursued with the Highways Department. The Clerk and the Highways Engineer are to discuss the erection of the kissing gate on Weasenham Road when in the village.

Speedwatch: There are enough volunteers from within Litcham to start the scheme but there has been no response from either Mileham or Tittleshall so the Parish Clerk for these two parishes will be contacted to progress the formation of the group. Any villager who is interested please contact the Clerk. It is likely to involve about two hours every few weeks.

Heritage Map: A meeting had been held with Signs of Life regarding the refurbishment of the Heritage Map which would have a mixture of illustrations and photographs and would be more user friendly.

Litcham Relief in Need Charity: Both nominated trustees attended the meeting and stated that the Parish council should not be involved in the running of the Charity and it has no powers to intervene. The members felt that the Parish Council had only tried to resolve issues and that it was necessary for mediation to resolve the dispute over the tenure of the trustees. The comments from the nominated trustees were noted but the Parish Council will continue to strive to ensure that the Charity can operate with all the trustees.

Telephone Box on Weasenham Road: It was agreed to sell the telephone box after the electricity supply has been removed.

Registration of the Green; A further fourteen copies of the supporting evidence questionnaire had been forwarded to Cambridgeshire County Council prior to the deadline of 1 March. It is hoped that this additional evidence will prove sufficient for the parcel of land to be registered as a green. Village Fair 2010: this is to be held on 19 June and it is hoped that by the next meeting the finances in the account will be transferred to the Parish Council and a decision can be made on the distribution of the funds.

FULL MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Litcham Parish Council held on **Monday 1st March 2010**, in The Jubilee Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present

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

County and District Councillor Kiddle Morris

3 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor C Holland had sent his apologies but these were not accepted.

2. Declaration of Interest.

Councillor Lawrence declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7.3 as her son is to be requested to tender. 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 Mitchell proposed and Councillor Anderson seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 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.**

A further 14 copies of the questionnaire had been forwarded to Cambridgeshire County Council for consideration.

4.2 Heritage Map.

The Chairman and Councillor Lawrence had met Chris Hood from Signs of Life and a proposal for the layout had been seen using a mix of illustrations and photographs and further photographs are to be obtained from Ron Shaw. The proposed layout would be within budget and a further meeting is planned to discuss additional information and Chris Hood will then prepare a draft for consideration. At present the layout is to include notes on the Common, the Village Sign, the Church, Bull, and the Nar Valley walk.

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

This is to be done in the next month.

4.4 Cleaning of the War Memorial.

The Clerk had obtained a quotation from H Brett & Son to clean the War memorial at a cost of £600. It is recommended that this be done in late summer and it was agreed to await the outcome of the cleaning by the young offenders team before deciding.

4.5 Village Fair 2010.

The meeting was adjourned.

Les Raven reported that this has been planned for 19 June and a meeting is to be held on 4 March to decide who is doing what and who is organising. Some confusion had arisen from the previous meeting as to the eventual destination of the money raised on each stall and this had upset some parties who felt that they would not be able to keep the money and did not like being told by an outsider what they could or could not do with the money. It is hoped

that the next meeting will clarify this. Les Raven is arranging for the money to be withdrawn from the accounts and it will then be deposited in the Parish Council account.

The meeting was re-convened.

The members agreed to await receipt of the money before deciding on its distribution. The Clerk reported that he had received a telephone call from John Mitchell who was worried that needy organisations within the village should take precedence over those with healthy bank balances and had requested that he be informed of any proposed distribution.

4.6 Planting of Tree.

The District Councillor has forwarded the necessary form to Breckland Council to obtain permission to remove and replant.

4.7 Emergency Plan for the Village.

The Clerk had met the Emergency Planning Officer from Breckland Council on 2 February and it was agreed to place a notice in the Church and Village Magazine and to deliver and collect a questionnaire to all dwellings.

4.8 Post and Wire fence at Long Meadow

This had been completed but concern was expressed that there is both post and rail and post and wire and the fence had not gone far enough. The gate can also be lifted off and needs adjusting. The cheque would be withheld and the Clerk would contact Jamie Dodd to ascertain why the specification had been altered.

4.9 Breckland Town and Parish Council Forum 24 February.

The Chairman had attended and reported it was a good buffet and a nice goody bag had been given to all delegates with wind up torch and energy saving bulb. There were a series of presentations on the A47 which would not be dualled in the near future but there should be improvements to the Drayton Hall Lane junction in Scarning and the new Honingham roundabout. The Police Inspector from Swaffham outlined the way the police had tried to engage with the public, Richard Wills talked about Pride in Breckland, there was a presentation on energy saving primarily aimed at business and the Chief Executive informed the meeting of the Local Government Review. The timetable for the elections and the possible joint back office functions with South Norfolk District Council.

4.10 Breckland Funding Fair 18 May.

No one would be attending this.

5. Planning.

5.1 Primrose House Mileham Road.

A letter had been received from the Planning Enforcement Officer at Breckland Council and the Clerk would confirm the outcome of the investigation.

6. Correspondence for circulation.

The following correspondence had been received and would be circulated.

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| 6.1 | Breckland council training Events |
| 6.2 | Norfolk Link February 2010 |
| 6.3 | Energy Saving Trust |
| 6.4 | NSPCC Helpline |
| 6.5 | Open Space Spring 2010 |
| 6.6 | The Playing Field Winter 2010 |

7. Highways

7.1 General.

The Clerk reported that the Highways department had confirmed that the surface water at Weasenham road would be monitored, the potholes should all have been repaired

and the kerbing on Front Street would be inspected. The Clerk is to meet the Assistant Highways Engineer in Litcham on 2 March to tour the village and the following would be reported:-

the hedge at Holly House, the state of Dereham Road, the footpath on Lexham Road/Pound Lane, the lack of a bus stop sign, Manor Drive and the bank on Mileham Road.

7.2 Car on Tittleshall Road.

The police had not actioned this and this will be raised on 2 March

7.3 Kissing Gate on Weasenham Road.

The Clerk is meeting on site on 2 March.

7.4 Speedwatch.

Seven people in Litcham are registered and awaiting training but the members from Mileham and Tittleshall are still not known so that three separate groups can be formed and undergo joint training. The Clerk will contact the parish clerk of the two parishes to try and get the names so that the process can be speeded up and those that have

volunteered do not lose interest.

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.

Bank of Ireland.

Balance at 31 12 09	15025.36
Less cheques authorised 07 12 09-222.98	
Direct Debit E-on 18 01 10- 41.24	<u>264.22</u>
	14761.14
Plus interest- 05 01 10	<u>0.01</u>
Balance at 31 01 10	14761.15
Less unrepresented cheques authorised 07 12 09-20.00	
unrepresented cheques authorised 01 02 10-451.63	<u>471.63</u>
Balance at 01 02 10	14289.52

Amount available for Section 137 :469 x 6.15= £2884.35

Spend to Date :£ 790.00

Cheques for authorisation:

057	B J Leigh	Salary-February-222.98 Telephone April 2009-March 2010-48.00	270.98
058	Jamie Dodd	Cancelled	

Councillor Mitchell withdrew from the meeting.

8.3 Purchase of telephone kiosk on Weasenham road.

Councillor Carter proposed and Councillor Anderson seconded the resolution that the kiosk be sold to Councillor Mitchell at a cost of £400 once the electrics had been removed which the Clerk had been quoted £253 by EDF. The Clerk is to check this figure as it should be possible to disconnect at the pole and should therefore be cheaper.

Councillor Mitchell re-joined the meeting.

9. Litcham Relief in Need Charity.

The meeting was adjourned

9.1 Reports from Nominated Trustees.

Councillor Holland stated that the Parish Council should not be involved in the administration of the Charity nor has it any powers to intervene. He cited several letters that he and the Parish Council had received from the Charity Commission going back to 2007. All of this reiterated the statement made by the Charity Commission in its letter of 8 March 2007 when it stated that the scheme provides for the influence of the Parish Council in the appointment of trustees but the nominated trustees are not there to represent the views of the Parish Council and once appointed must act in the **best interests** of the Charity. Another letter stated that the object of the Charity is Relief in Need not the provision of allotments.

Mr Piffero stated that the Parish Council is acting outside its remit and referred to a conversation and subsequent correspondence with Ian Vargeson, The Democratic Services Manager at Breckland Council. Mr Piffero suggested that the Parish Clerk had possibly acted independently and not with the support of the Parish Council. He also stated that a resolution had been passed by the trustees to sell the land and this had not been rescinded.

Councillors Holland and Anderson withdrew from the meeting.

The meeting was re-convened.

The members agreed that the Parish Council had solely been trying to resolve the differences between the trustees and fully supported the Clerk. The members also felt that it is necessary to mediate and resolve the dispute. The comments of the nominated trustees were noted but the Parish Council would continue to strive to ensure that the differences within the Charity are resolved so that it may work for the benefit of the community.

Councillor Anderson rejoined the meeting
Councillor Holland did not rejoin the meeting

9.2 Minutes of the Charity.

No response had been received following the request for the minute book to be given to the minutes secretary.

9.3 Planting of a Hedge at the junction of Dereham and Dunham Roads.

No objection had been raised to the planting of a hedge on the allotments at the junction of Dereham and Dunham Roads provided it does not encroach on the highway or affect visibility.

10. Land at Wellingham Road.

This item was taken after item 3 to allow the District Councillor to attend another meeting. He reported that there are 70 parcels of land that Breckland Council own for which a valuation is needed before deciding on the future use of them Independent Surveyors have been used and the two options proposed have both been turned down by the asset management group as not being viable and these proposals will be considered by Cabinet on 15 April. The land could be put forward as being suitable for amenity land such as a play area or allotments, it could be transferred to the Parish Council or offered to adjoining residents if the owners wish to increase the area of land owned. Councillor Carter proposed and Councillor Anderson seconded the resolution that the Parish Council respond to the letter by requesting that the land be transferred to the Parish Council provided that the transferor and transferee pay their own solicitors

costs of the transfer. All were in favour.

10. Matters for the next meeting.

10.1 Standing Orders

11. Date of the next meeting.

This was confirmed as Tuesday 6 April 2010 at 1930 to be held at The Jubilee Hall, Litcham.

The meeting closed at 2114