

Minutes of the Meeting of Litcham Parish Council held on **Monday 1 February 2016**, in The Jubilee Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Councillor M Oldfield (Chair)
Councillor C Mitchell
Councillor M Anderson
Councillor L Christie
Councillor J Jones
Councillor C Lawrence
Councillor R Fagence

District Councillor E Gould

Eight parishioners.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence had been received from County councillor M Kiddle Morris.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.

Councillor Lawrence declared a DPI under Appendix A having submitted a parcel of land into the Local Plan.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Anderson proposed and Councillor Jones seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December and 22 December 2015 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed.

4. County and District Councillor Reports.

The District Councillor reported that the Local Plan which is being consulted on is a plan for 20 years and the Parish Council needs to consider the implications for the parish for these twenty years,. A play area is needed in the village and a possibility is to site this on the parcel of land that has been submitted by Breckland Council as part of its agreement with Breckland Bridge between Wellingham and Weasenham Roads. This development would provide the funds for a play area. The Parish Council would need to support this if it would like a play area and this support is needed for it to be incorporated in the Local Plan. The comments from parishioners should also be lodged with Breckland Council.

5. Matters to Report.

5.1 Jubilee Hall.

The Big Lottery fund has turned down the application at present for funding. Councillor Anderson has applied to four other agencies for funding. An event is planned for the first week of March.

5.2 Access to Back Lane from the School Playing Field.

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the High School but no date had been agreed for a meeting on site.

5.3 Litcham Play Area.

The meeting was adjourned.

A parishioner reported that she had circulated a questionnaire regarding a play area to all households in the village the responses received back had confirmed that there was unanimous support for a play area and that the responses indicated that there was no concern about the play area being sited away from the centre of the village. A discussion was held about the sites that are possible for the inclusion of a play area which were on the School Playing field, the Common, on land between Weasenham and Wellingham Roads

and on Pound Lane. The options available are to obtain the land and funding from developments on sites that may be developed in the future. It was agreed that a Committee would be formed to run a future play area and to maintain it. This committee would consider raising funds to purchase land if no land is made available from future developments.

The meeting was reconvened.

5.4 Freedom of Information Request.

The Clerk had received a request under the Freedom of Information Act for all information that is held by the Parish Council on the fish and chip shop in Litcham. The Clerk had replied stating that he had no information on this in the Parish Records that he holds.

5.5 Kissing Gate on Druids Lane.

The Clerk had received confirmation from Breckland Council that no planning permission is needed for this. He informed the meeting that he had not been able to send the letter to the PCC as not all Councillors had responded to his letter. It was agreed at the meeting that this could be sent.

6. Planning.

6.1 Applications.

6.1.1 3PL/2016/0060/F-Pilgrims Barn-conversion of barn to single dwelling including two single storey extensions-revised scheme.

No objection was raised to the application.

6.2 Decisions.

There were no decisions to report.

District Councillor E Gould withdrew from the meeting.

Councillor Lawrence withdrew from the meeting.

6.3 Consultation on the Breckland Local Plan Preferred Directions.

It was agreed to hold a further meeting to discuss the response.

Councillor Lawrence rejoined the meeting.

7. Highways

7.1 Report on Highways Matters.

The Chairman reported that he had reported a pothole on Church Street in early January to be informed that there was a dispute as to whether Norfolk County Council owned this land. The County councillor will be contacted regarding this. The following had all been reported to Norfolk County council- the gulley opposite the Village Hall had had the tarmac washed away. There is still a lump in the Tittleshall Road, there is flooding on Dereham Road where the Dudgeon Cable crosses the road, there is a pothole forming on Druids Lane near to the school gate and the junction of Pound Lane and Weasenham Road needs repair. None of these had been repaired and they will be reported again.

It was reported in Norfolk Matters that Parish Councils can buy a Highway rangers 'top-up' service for £300 per half day visit for two rangers. In the consultation on the budget there was a possible change to the grit bin service. No further information has been received on either of these. The Highways Rangers will be in the parish the week commencing 22 February..

7.2 New problems.

The ironwork on Druids Lane near to the rear school gate, the gulley opposite the Village Hall which has been marked twice but not repaired, the ironwork on Lexham road opposite No.1, the surface of the road at the bottom of both drives to Kempston, potholes on Dereham Road and Tittleshall Road, the surface of the road at the lay by

on Tittleshall Road, and the entrance to the Bull car park, and outside the main entrance to the school, the gulleys and grips on Druids Lane and on Wellingham Road, and the footway on Church Street outside No 6. All these matters will be reported.

7.3 Ditch to the South of Mouse Cottage.

The Clerk had received an e-mail from Lexham Estates stating that it does not own this ditch. It was agreed to contact the County Councillor to try and resolve this matter.

7.4 Traffic Calming on Tittleshall Road and Front Street.

The Clerk confirmed that the data from the SAM2 sign place on Tittleshall Road had not shown that there was excessive speed. He had informed the parishioner who had requested that a concealed entrance sign be placed on the existing post. It was agreed not to support this request.

Norfolk County Council had confirmed that it would not support any weight restriction on Front Street as it is a B road and it is likely that HGV users are turning into Front Street as opposed to Back Street as it is easier and potentially safer to negotiate the turn at this point. In addition to this it does not have any incident data which identifies the need for changes to the current arrangements on either of these sections.

7.5 Parking at Litcham School Primary Site.

Nothing further had been received on this.

7.6 Request for Bollards on Church Street.

The meeting was adjourned.

A parishioner stated that he had previously requested that bollards be sited on the footway outside his property. He now would like the bollards set back from the road edge either side of the driveway access as he has problems in entering and exiting his property. An alternative would be to have double yellow lines outside the property or an extended H-bar. He stated that he would prefer to have bollards fitted to the footway. Councillor Fagence stated that he had no objection to the siting of bollards provided that they are at least a metre from the kerb. Councillor Jones stated that he would like to visit site again as he had concerns about the danger to pedestrians as these would be unlit. The parishioner stated that Norfolk County Council will not speak to him without the support of the Parish Council.

The meeting was reconvened.

It was agreed to contact Norfolk County council to enquire if bollards could be sited on the footway or an alternative method of restricting parking.

8. Finance.

8.1 Budget.

Councillor Jones proposed and Councillor Anderson seconded the resolution that the budget which had been circulated be approved. All were in favour.

8.2 Balances and Cheques for Authorisation.

Councillor Anderson proposed and Councillor Christie seconded the resolution that the following balances and cheques for authorisation be approved. All were in favour.

Balances :-

Bank of Ireland.

Balance at 30 10 15	12799.23
Less Direct Debit- E-on- 12 11 15-54.63	
Cheques authorised 07 09 15-120.00	
Cheques authorised 05 10 15-150.00	
Direct debit Open Spaces Society-45.00	
Cheques authorised 02 11 15-720.32	
Cheques authorised 07 12 15-905.46	
Direct debit E-on 11 12 15-52.87	<u>2048.28</u>
	10750.95
Plus Interest 05 11 15-1.14	
Breckland C/Car- 25.00	
Interest 07 12 15-1.04	<u>27.18</u>

Balance at 31 12 15	10778.13
Plus float for Community car	<u>100.00</u>
Balance at 31 12 15	10878.13

Amount available for Section 137 : 497x £7.36= £3657.92
Spend to Date :£50.00

Cheques for authorisation:

363	B J Leigh	Salary-Jan-257.88 less PAYE 51.60	206.28
364	HMRC	PAYE-Jan	51.60
365	T T Jones Electrical Ltd	Streetlight maintenance Jan- Mar 2016	63.53
366	Mrs E Christie	Community Car	86.05
367	Beetley Parish Council	16.66%of subscription to Society of Local Council Clerks	27.83
368	Information Commissioner	Data protection	35.00

8.4 Donation to Norfolk Age UK.

It was agreed unanimously not to donate.

9. The Green.

9.1 Problems.

There were no problems to report.

10. Correspondence for circulation.

The following correspondence would be circulated.

10.1

Clerks and Councils Directs January 2016.

10.2

T T Jones.

10.3

Mid Norfolk Citizens Advice Bureau.

10.4

Litcham PCC.

11. Matters for the next meeting.

There were no matters raised for the next meeting.

12. Date of the next meeting.

This was confirmed as Monday 7 March 2016 to follow the Annual Parish meeting which will commence at 7.00p.m. to be held at The Jubilee Hall, Litcham.

The meeting closed at 2052