

Minutes of the Meeting of Litcham Parish Council held on **Monday 7 November 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 R Fagence  
Councillor J Jones  
Councillor C Lawrence

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris

Three parishioners.

In the part open to the public a parishioner raised the matter of the consultation on the Local Plan in that no one knew that there was a consultation. The Clerk stated that a notice had been placed on the notice board. The parishioner raised the matter of the access onto the B1145 from the proposed site. As part of the consultation a response had been received from a Consulting Engineer who had stated that the access off the B1145 would be sandwiched between existing dwellings. The splay would have to be 142metres and several trees would have to be moved. The document states that it would be a semi rural entrance but he believes that this should be rural. The bank will have to be removed and this will spoil the rural entrance into Litcham. Both fields behind Lexham Hall had been put in for planning, but the top field and half the lower field had been removed. He had spoken to the agent for the landowner who was amenable for the land between Butt Lane and Tittleshall Road to be included. Breckland Council had informed him that this parcel of land had been submitted but the agent had said that it had not. Letters from Historic England and Highways had been received both objecting to the proposal. He stated that it is the wrong place for development. A parishioner queried whether there had been any information regarding the telephone box. The Clerk stated that he had received a reply stating that a reply would be sent in due course.

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence had been received from District Councillor E Gould.

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.**

There were no DPIs

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

Councillor Fagence proposed and Councillor Anderson seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2016 having been circulated be approved. All were in favour and the minutes were duly signed.

**4. County and District Councillor Reports.**

The County Councillor reported that he had attended a meeting that day which had given the Leader a mandate to discuss devolution with other authorities. The feeling is that the idea of an Elected Mayor is not liked and he stated that the political balance is not there if it proceeds as most local councils in the two counties are conservative. A meeting on 21 November will decide if Norfolk County Council supports the proposals. It is likely that there will be a further increase in the Council Tax next year of 3.8% of which 2% is for Adult Social care and 1.8% which is the increase allowed by the Government. The new Chancellor will give his Autumn Statement on 23 November and there may be more money for local Councils in this statement.

The Clerk reported on behalf of the District Councillor who had stated that there are still grants available so if anything is required please apply. The post office is selling off

more telephone kiosks. There is a new Cabinet Member at Breckland Council following the resignation from the Cabinet of Charles Carter due to work commitments. Following this move Councillor Gordon Bambridge(Cons) will be taking over responsibility as Executive Member for Growth and Councillor Alison Webb (Cons) has been appointed Executive Member for People and Information. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Breckland Newsletter should be put anytime now and there is information in there about help Breckland can give to small businesses so I encourage parish councils to spread the word.

## **5. Matters to Report.**

### **5.1 Jubilee Hall.**

Councillor Anderson reported that there had been a meeting with CAN on 4 October and more information had been provided. The new person dealing with the matter did not have all the paperwork so the Committee has had to provide this again. There has been considerable correspondence with the diocese who again have not got all the documents. There is to be a meeting with the Trustees and CAN on 15 November. Bingo is to be held on 11 November.

David Shepherd of The Historical Society has been contacted about the records for the hall and he has provided some records regarding the school but he also has more documents in store which he will research.

### **5.2 Litcham Community Recreation Project.**

The meeting was adjourned.

A parishioner reported that there was nothing new to report. Play 2000 possibly has £5000 in the bank account. The project is still awaiting the opening of a new bank account.

The meeting was reconvened.

### **5.3 Dog Bin on Weasenham Road.**

The Clerk reported Breckland Council had stated that a bin could be sited opposite Litcham Close or No 6. It was agreed to site opposite No.6 and the Clerk will obtain the necessary licence from Norfolk County Council.

### **5.4 Access to the Churchyard from Druids Lane.**

The kissing gate had been blessed on 5 November with Worth the Wait beer from Beeston Brewery.

### **5.5 The Mount Tittleshall Road.**

The hedge had not been cut back so the Clerk will contact Norfolk County Council again.

### **5.6 Neighbourhood Watch.**

The Clerk will continue to persevere to get a response to the request for information.

### **5.7 Payphone.**

The Clerk had received two responses from BT Payphones stating that it has a large number of enquiries and will send a full response when possible.

### **5.8 Speedwatch.**

A parishioner had offered to be come the co-ordinator and the Clerk is investigating how to obtain the equipment.

## **6. Highways.**

### **6.1 Report on Highways Matters.**

The pothole on Weasenham Road near to Pound Lane had been repaired as had potholes on Dunham Road. The entrances off Dunham Road to Kempstone had not been repaired nor had the verge opposite The Limes on Mileham Road. One grip on Druids Lane still needs clearing. The Clerk had had correspondence from a parishioner regarding a pothole on Dereham Road and this has been repaired and it is also marked for a larger repair. The Clerk had requested that the verge at the junction of Druids Lane and Mileham Road be cut back to allow a better turning area for coaches. Breckland Council had been contacted regarding the sweeping of Back Lane.

**6.2 New problems.**

The Nar valley Way is being cut along the wrong hedge in the wrong field and this will be reported. The footway along Lexham Road needs clearing back. The County Councillor will be requested to progress the extended H-bar at the junction of Druids Lane and Church Street.

**6.3 Local Highway Improvement.**

The Clerk had received the proposals for the additional signage along Mileham Road and he will clarify the contents. There were queries as to how this will be activated and whether the existing VAS sign will be removed. However the members were more concerned about Back Lane and improvements to the exit from the playing field.

**7. Planning.****7.1 Applications.**

There were no applications to consider.

**7.2 Decisions.**

There were no decisions to report.

**7.3 Local Plan.**

The Clerk had responded as follows:-

The Parish Council would support the development of either of these two sites. Litcham has no play area and at present no land on which to construct a play area. There are also many problems with the parking at the Primary School at drop off and collect times. The development of either of these sites would, if the number of dwellings is in excess of 25, provide funding and land for a play area and also if agreement could be reached with the landowner and area for parking for the Primary School and maybe land to construct in the future a new village hall. The Parish Council decided not to support the site on Pound Lane when this was consulted on as part of the Local Development Framework but this time feels that there is considerable merit in the proposal and the benefits that would ensue for the village. The Parish Council would prefer to see the two parts of the village being joined and the site on Pound Lane would accomplish this. However it is realised that the highway constraints may make this unacceptable and therefore the access onto the Lexham Road B1145 may well be acceptable to the highways authority as a satisfactory access could be built giving access onto a B road that has a speed limit.

The assessment states that this site is for 20 houses but it would be a greater benefit to the parish if this is increased to 25 so that more funding is triggered for the parish and the local schools and community.

The Parish Council has discussed the possibility of other sites within the parish but as no other sites have been submitted it is not possible to comment on these.

The Clerk will e-mail the Planning Policy Team to state that it would look carefully at other sites following the comments from a parishioner.

**8. Finance.****8.1 Budget.**

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

**8.2 Donation to RBL Poppy Appeal.**

Councillor Old field proposed and Councillor Anderson seconded the resolution that £60 be donated. All were in favour.

**8.3 Balances and Cheques for Authorisation.**

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

**Balances :-****Bank of Ireland.**

Balance at 31 08 16	5447.56
Less Direct Debit- E-on- 12 09 16-54.63	

Cheques authorised 05 09 16-481.22

535.85

Plus Interest 05 09 16-0.46	
Breckland Precept-4250.00	
Breckland Rate Support Grant- 259.00	
NCF Community Car-24.74	<u>4534.20</u>
Balance at 30 09 16	9445.91
Less un-presented cheques authorised 03 10 16	<u>1110.67</u>
Balance at 03 10 16	8335.24
Plus float for Community car	<u>100.00</u>
Balance at 03 10 16	8435.24

Amount available for Section 137 : 511x £7.42= £3791.62

Spend to Date :£0.00

Cheques for authorisation:

407	B J Leigh	Salary-Oct 305.15 less PAYE 61.00	244.15
408	HMRC	PAYE-Oct	61.00
409	Mrs E Christie	Community Car September	4.05
410	Mid Norfolk Citizens Advice	Donation	200.00
411	Litcham PCC	Donation to assist with grass cutting	490.00
413	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Donation	60.00

#### **8.4 Funding for Roadside Nature Reserve 104**

The reserve is on Wellingham Road and Norfolk County Council has not cut this this year and removed the cut vegetation. It will only cut the roadside reserves every other year and will not be removing the cuttings. A parishioner asked if the Parish Council would consider funding the cutting and removal. It was agreed to consider this when a definite cost has been obtained. The parishioner also stated that the hedge needs cutting to allow more light onto the reserve.

#### **8.5 Precept 2017/18.**

A draft precept had been circulated and this will be decided at the December meeting. A small increase may well be considered to ensure that there are sufficient funds to finance items that have normally been provided by other agencies.

#### **8.6 Long Meadow.**

The ponies had escaped from Long Meadow onto the Common. The fencing needs attention as there are several posts which need replacing and strengthening. Harry Lawrence will be requested to repair this as soon as he returns from holiday.

### **9. Correspondence for circulation.**

The following correspondence would be circulated.

#### **9.1 Clerks and Councils Direct November 2016.**

### **10. Matters for the next meeting.**

#### **10.1 Dates of Meetings for 2017.**

### **11. Date of the next meeting.**

This was confirmed as Monday 5 December 2016 at 7.30p.m. to be held at The Jubilee Hall, Litcham.

The meeting closed at 2111.