

Minutes of the Meeting of Litcham Parish Council held on **Monday 3 October 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
District Councillor E Gould

Eight parishioners.

1. Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest.

Councillors Lawrence declared a DPI under Appendix A in Agenda Item 6.3 having submitted a parcel of land into the Local Plan.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Anderson proposed and Councillor Lawrence seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 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 stated at the last meeting that the consultation had shown that the majority was in favour of devolution. Now that the figures had been analysed carefully overall there was a majority of 57% against devolution and an elected mayor. Norfolk County Council is now to debate the issue on 21 November not 3 November as had been reported previously. The Secretary of State will not decide whether to proceed until 3 November. The County Councillor feels that the proposals may be thrown out by Norfolk County Council. If a District Council agrees to proceed and Norfolk County Council it may be that the District Council can proceed on its own.

Norfolk County Council's budget is forecast for a £22 million overspend this year. The budget had been agreed by all parties. This £22 million is on top of the projected overspend that has been covered by the use of reserves as it would have been £40 million if the reserves had not been used. It is likely that there will be further increase in the Council tax next year of 3.99% of which 2% is for Adult Social care and 1.99% the maximum that it can be raised without a referendum.

The District Councillor stated that more had been in favour of devolution when telephoned that when responding on-line, by letter or through the tear off leaflet. The Local Plan is available for all to respond to not just the Parish Council. The Anglia LEP has just agreed to grant £2.3million to Snetteton for improvements including a new power plant.

5. Matters to Report.

5.1 Jubilee Hall.

Councillor Anderson reported that the person dealing with the change to a charity at CAN had had an operation and the new person is meeting the next day with the committee.

5.2 Litcham Community Recreation Project.

The meeting was adjourned.

A parishioner reported that a flyer had been circulated throughout the village requesting that parishioners support the inclusion of a parcel of land in the Local Plan as it would enable as Play Area site to be obtained plus funds for the play area. It may also be possible to improve the parking at the primary school and obtain a new village hall. In answer to a query from a parishioner it was confirmed that plans have been drawn up for the proposed site in outline form. It is necessary to have 25 houses to trigger the necessary agreements and funding to proceed with the play area

The meeting was reconvened.

5.3 Dog Bin on Weasenham Road.

The Clerk reported that he had confirmed with Breckland Council that the bin on Butt Lane could be used for dog waste and Councillor Anderson will place the new stickers on the bin. However it had still been requested that a bin be provided on Weasenham Road and the Clerk will contact Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council regarding this. The Dog Warden will be contacted to install a sign on the passing place pole on Butt Lane.

5.4 Access to the Churchyard from Druids Lane.

The kissing gate had been installed and a parishioner had confirmed that he can now access the churchyard in a motorised scooter. There had been several favourable comments regarding the gate.

5.5 The Mount Tittleshall Road.

The Clerk had written to the owner again. The hedge had not been cut back so the Clerk will contact Norfolk County Council. The District Councillor stated that there had been work done on the property but to keep reporting it as empty. A parishioner reported that rats had been seen running across the road from the property.

5.6 Neighbourhood Watch.

The Clerk will chase a response to the request for information.

5.7 Complaint against A Councillor.

The Chairman had received a letter from a parishioner requesting that a Councillor be removed from the Parish Council. The Clerk had responded that any complaint about a Councillor should be referred to Breckland Council.

5.8 Street Lighting on Manor Drive.

The area had been checked and residents spoken to who had stated that there is not as great a problem as had been reported. Councillor Jones reported that the light is going out on Dereham Road.

6. Planning.

6.1 Applications.

There were no applications to consider.

6.2 Decisions.

The following decisions were noted.

6.2.1 3PL/2016/0839/CU Corner Stores Mileham Road-change of use from Corner Shop to residential. Permission.

6.3 Local Plan.

Councillor Lawrence withdrew from the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

A parishioner stated that he would be affected personally by the proposed development as would other residents on the B1145. He felt that estates should not be built in rural villages and if the development proposed proceeded it would not stop at 20 houses. A very large visibility splay would be needed onto the B1145 at the exit point proposed as it is on a bend and would be dangerous as there is considerable speeding at this point. There is a lot of

space for infill within the village, for example along Pound Lane as far as the Primary School where there would be space for at least 12 houses. There is also space on Butt Lane up to Pound Lane and beyond. This would bring the two parts of the village together. It might also be possible to create a new street from Pound Lane to Tittleshall Road which would create considerable space for housing without it being an estate. He stated that landowners could be approached to have their land included. The District Councillor stated that Breckland Council had requested landowners to submit parcel of land into the Local Plan and this is the only one submitted so Breckland Council can only consult on this one. Another parishioner felt that this was a poor way of planning and that every plot would be the same. Greater consideration should be given to infrastructure prior to a development. The District Councillor stated that there is no point having land within a settlement boundary that will not be built on. A parishioner stated that the inclusion of this parcel of land would enable the parish to obtain a play area and possibly a new village hall as at present there is no land for a site. A parishioner requested whether the Parish Council supported the inclusion of this land and a question was also raised about services. The District Councillor stated that the housing needs to proceed before grants are available for services such as more school places and sewerage.

The meeting was reconvened.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had heard the views and it was necessary to vote on whether it would support the inclusion of the sites. Three Councillors voted in favour of the inclusion and three against. The Chairman cast his casting vote in favour of the inclusion of the sites as he felt that the benefit for the parish outweighs the objections.

It was therefore agreed that the Clerk would respond supporting the inclusion of both sites in the Local Plan.

Councillor Lawrence rejoined the meeting.

7. Highways.

This item was taken prior to the planning to allow the County Councillor to attend another Parish Council meeting.

7.1 Report on Highways Matters.

The County Councillor confirmed that the post on which the SAM2 sign is erected on Back Street is in the wrong place and he will request this to be moved. He will also contact the school regarding the improved signage. The flooding on Druids Lane had been reported by several people and the gulley and one grip had been cleared but one still needs clearing. The new reporting system has thrown up a few problems which Norfolk County Council are looking into. At present it is not possible to have more than One account per e-mail address.

7.2 New problems.

The County Councillor will report the poor cleaning of the roads following surface dressing as this has been paid for but it has not been done properly. Back Lane has not been swept lately. There is a small pothole at the junction of Pound Lane and Weasenham Road, on the Dunham Road and the entrance to Kempstone. The ironworks on Dereham Road which had been reported before will be reported again. The County Councillor will contact the Highways Department to try and get Mileham Road outside the Bull Inn repaired.

County Councillor M Kiddle Morris withdrew from the meeting.

8. Finance.

8.1 Budget.

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

Balances :-

Bank of Ireland.

Balance at 31 07 16	5501.73
Less Direct Debit- E-on- 12 08 16	<u>54.63</u>
	5447.10
Plus Interest 05 08 16-	<u>.46</u>
Balance at 31 08 16	5447.56
Less un-presented cheques authorised 05 09 16	<u>481.22</u>
Balance at 05 09 16	4966.34
Plus float for Community car	<u>100.00</u>
Balance at 05 09 16	5066.34

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

Spend to Date :£0.00

Cheques for authorisation:

400	B J Leigh	Salary-Sep 305.15 less PAYE 61.00	244.15
401	HMRC	PAYE-Sep	61.00
402	Mrs E Christie	Community Car July and August	43.97
403	G&G Fencing	Kissing Gate on Druids Lane	462.00
404	C Millward	Grass cutting of The Green	210.00
405	Litcham Jubilee Hall	Donation to assist with external lighting.	25.00
406	T T Jones Electrical Ltd.	Maintenance Sept- Nov 2016	64.55

8.3 Donation to Mid Norfolk CAB.

Councillor Mitchell proposed and Councillor Jones seconded the resolution that £200 be donated as last year. All were in favour.

9. Correspondence for circulation.

The following correspondence would be circulated.

- 9.1 CPRE.
 9.2 Clerks and Councils Direct September 2016.
 9.3 Dudgeon Offshore.

10. Resolution was passed under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude members of the public and press in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be conducted.

11. Complaint against the Clerk.

A complaint had been received regarding the Clerk. This item had already been dealt with in 2015 so it was decided that no further action be taken. The decision of the Council would be communicated to the complainant.

12. Matters for the next meeting.

There were no matters for the next meeting.

13. Date of the next meeting.

This was confirmed as Monday 7 November 2016 at 7.30p.m. to be held at The Jubilee Hall, Litcham.

The meeting closed at 2046.