

LITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Extracts : September – December 2007

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 7

At the **September** meeting, attended by 7 Councillors and District Councillor Kiddle Morris, the following was considered.

Highways/Traffic Matters. A meeting with Norfolk County Council be arranged to discuss problems with the verge on Church Street near to the bridge , the junction of Pound Lane and Lexham Road, a possible extension of the speed limit on Mileham road and the problems of traffic on Back Lane when passing the entrance to the School playing field. Planning.

Applications: There were no objection to the installation of dormer windows and modifications to other windows at Flint Cottage, Front Street, the replacement of windows at Point House, Back Street although the members wished these to remain as timber, the erection of a two storey dwelling at 23 Church Street or the single storey extension to Priory Cottage, 34 Church Street.

Decisions. The members noted that permission had been granted for The Priory, Church Street, Norfolk Cottage, Tittleshall Road, Russell House, Front Street and that the application for the Old Rectory, Mileham Road had been refused. Enforcements. A letter from Breckland Council regarding the erection of a new garage at 3 Council Houses Lexham Road without permission was noted.

Appeals. The Planning Inspectorate's decisions regarding Valley Farm Watery Lane, Beeston were noted as the proposed development could have an environmental impact on Litcham. A detailed plan of pollution control has to be produced prior to any development taking place and the Parish Council at Beeston are monitoring this closely.

Finance. Payments for the Clerk's salary, street lighting maintenance and the cutting of the Churchyard were approved.

Other Matters. It was agreed to proceed to register the Green as an open space and response would be required from local residents on the use of the Green. The members felt that recycling facilities in Litcham could be improved but at present there is no suitable location for the banks. This problem is being pursued with other organisations to see if a suitable site can be found.

OCTOBER 2007

At the **October** meeting, attended by 5 Councillors, District Councillor Kiddle Morris and two members of the public, the following were considered:

Highways/Traffic Matters. A meeting with Norfolk County Council had taken place to discuss several highway matters within the Parish. Norfolk County Council agreed to improve the footpath on the Lexham Road at the junction with Pound Lane and to ensure that the vegetation is cut back to improve visibility, the verge along Dereham Road from Dunham Road to Holly Cottage, reposition the grip near to Dunham Road on Dereham Road and to cut back the vegetation between the new development and the bridge also on Dereham Road. The culvert on Druids Lane and the associated ditch are to be cleared as is the vegetation at the junction of Mileham Road and Druids Lane and to resite the finger post on the Druids Lane side of Mileham Road. The Parish Council is investigating the planting of bulbs on the verges of all the roads entering Litcham over the next few years. It was agreed to request the “Son Of Sam” speed signs showing the speed that the vehicles are travelling to be installed in Litcham for the two weeks that they are allowed.

Planning. Applications: The members raised no objection to the erection of a replacement garage at 3 Lexham Road. Decisions. The members noted that permission had been granted for Blenheim House, Church Street, Point House, Back Street, and Flint Cottage Front Street. Several members of the Parish Council are to attend a presentation from Breckland Council on the new Local Development Framework which will be the document for planning and development within the District into the 2020's. This important new legislation will affect the Parish in the way it may develop and it is crucial that the Parish's views are heard.

Finance. Payments for the Clerk's salary and to place an advertisement in the local press to advertise the adoption of the New Code of Conduct were approved. It was agreed to donate to the Dereham Citizens Advice Bureau.

Access to the new Graveyard from Druids Lane. A lengthy discussion occurred following a reply from the Parochial Church Council which does not want to have a public footpath through the churchyard. The Parish Council is to reply stating that it has never wished to have a signed footpath through the churchyard only a pedestrian access from Druids Lane to the new extension. The members feel that it is important to emphasize that many parishioners have requested this access.

Other Matters. The Open Space Society is to be contacted to obtain the necessary questionnaires for the evidence that the Green has been used for twenty years by parishioners. Agreement has been reached with Breckland Council to replace the tree by the notice board and funding is to be looked at to cover the cost of removing and replanting.

NOVEMBER 2007

At the **November** meeting, attended by 6 Councillors, District Councillor Kiddle Morris and one member of the public, the following was considered:

Highways/Traffic Matters. Norfolk County Council to be contacted to progress the repairs as agreed at the site meeting last month, not all items have been done.

The Son of Sam speed signs have been ordered for the village but it is not known when these will be erected. Quotations are to be obtained to replace the posts on the Green to deter parking there. A finger post had been broken at the junction of Weasenham and Wellingham roads and Norfolk County Council are to be contacted.

Planning. Applications: There were no objections to the replacement of a flat roof on existing garage with a pitched roof at The Old Rectory Mileham Road or to the domestic extension at Cedaville Front Street.

Decisions. Permission had been granted for the proposed extension and alterations to the existing dwelling at Lime Kiln Barn Back Lane, the erection of a garage at 3 Council Houses Lexham Road and the single storey extension too Priory Cottage Church Street. The application for a proposed dwelling at 23 Church Street had been withdrawn.

Enforcements. The members agreed to contact Breckland Council Enforcement Officers regarding the selling of goods in front of 5 Lexham Road. Other Matters.

The members who had attended a presentation from Breckland Council on the new Local Development Framework, the document for planning and development within the District into the 2020's, reported on the meeting. The Parish Council is concerned that the sustainability of the village has been reached for the support infrastructure and is closely monitoring the proposals for development in the village.

Finance. Payments for the Clerk's salary, the cutting of the graveyard, the booklet on Getting Greens Registered and a donation to Dereham Citizens Advice Bureau were approved. The precept for the financial year 2008-2009 was discussed at length.

It was agreed to reduce the amount charged per household and to use money from reserves to finance the year. Other Matters. The Parish Council agreed to support the holiday activity programme organised by Breckland Council and to proceed with the questionnaire for registering the Green. These questionnaires will be available at the Post Office or from the Clerk. If you have used the Green in the past please obtain a form and fill it in and return to any Councillor or the Clerk.

DECEMBER 2007

At the **December** meeting, attended by 6 Councillors, District Councillor Kiddle Morris and two members of the public, the following was considered:

Highways/Traffic Matters. Norfolk County Council Highways Inspector had visited the Parish and was dealing with the broken finger post. The members noted a letter from a parishioner regarding the planting of bulbs on the verges and after discussion it was decided that Councillor Lawrence would consider the request to plant with native wild flowers and the matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

Planning. Applications: The members raised no objection to the amendment to the height of the roof at Cedaville, Front Street. Decisions. The members noted that permission had been granted to replace the flat roof on existing garage with a pitched roof at The Old Rectory Mileham Enforcements. Breckland Council Enforcement Officers and Peddars Way had been contacted regarding the selling of goods in front of 5 Lexham Road and the proliferation of vehicles at 7 Weasenham Road.

Finance. Payments for the Clerk's salary and the street lighting maintenance were approved. The precept for the financial year 2008-2009 was set at £6000 a reduction on the previous year of £1875. the reserves that the Parish Council have will be used to finance the remaining expenditure for the year. It was agreed to donate to the Open Space Society, Litcham Common Conservation Group and Norfolk Accident Rescue Service.

Other Matters. It was reported from the Community Action Group meeting which is the meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Team of the police, Breckland Council and other public bodies. The targets for the current two months are to increase patrols in the town centres to deter anti-social behaviour, continuing the presence in Sandy Lane to attempt to reduce the anti-social behaviour at Sheddick Wood and the play areas and to attempt to erase problems at The Maltings in Dereham. The workshop on the proposed unitary authority for Norfolk was discussed. At present no decisions have been made by the local authorities but at present a system of unitary authority is likely unless it is proved that the cost of this would be excessive.

The members agreed to invite representatives from Norfolk Rural Community Council and Breckland Council to a Parish Council meeting to discuss an affordable housing survey for the village. The members were concerned that vandalism had occurred at the Jubilee Hall and to the wall of the bungalow next to the hall and have requested that the Safer Neighbourhood Team targets this as a priority over the next two months.

The Parish Council would like to wish all parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2008.

End of extracts for 2007

Monthly Meetings to which all parishioners are welcome, are held in the Jubilee Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m. and the first part of the meeting is made available for public discussion and to bring matters to the attention of councillors. Council meetings will normally take place on the first Monday of each month, but this could be subject to change in any one month. Please consult the Notice Board for the date or contact the Clerk on 01362 861112.

The full minutes are available for viewing by any parishioner by contacting the Clerk.