

LITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Extracts 2010

As published in the Church and Village Magazine

FEBRUARY 2010

February (2010) - Attended by 5 Councillors, District Councillor Kiddle Morris and one member of the public the following was considered:

Highways/Traffic Matters. Several potholes in the parish had been noted and these would be reported to the Highways Department. The sign on Dereham Road for Litcham had not yet been replaced and this would be requested again with the addition of Please Drive Slowly. Druids Lane had been added to the gritting route for the parish and it was hoped that the route to the Primary School would also be added in the near future although no decision had been received as yet, as there are a number of requests across the county to add roads to the routes. Concern was expressed at the poor parking on Church Street near the junction with Druids Lane and it was agreed to write to the High School to enquire if it was possible to put an article in their newsletter requesting that the junction be kept clear to ensure there is adequate visibility when accessing Church Street.

Finance. Payments for the Clerk's salary, cutting of the churchyard, the replacement light bowls and new photo-electric cells for the street lighting, and donations to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Open Spaces Society, and the Litcham Common Conservation Group were all approved.

Planning. The Parish Council had raised no objection to the proposed conservatory. shed, courtyard and fencing at nocks Cottage Front Street although concern was expressed that the style of fencing was not suitable for a conservation area and the application had received permission.

Other Matters. The Parish Council had received a quotation for the cutting of the churchyard for 2009 but it was agreed to request further quotations on a reduced cutting basis so that the area would only be cut four times per year not monthly as had been the programme in previous years.

Land Registry had been contacted regarding the parcel of land the gives access to the river between the allotments on Dunham Road and the land registry have confirmed that this is not registered but a caution has been placed on the land which means that it is not able to register the land until such time as this caution is removed. Therefore Land Registry is to be contacted to confirm the procedure to follow.

The street lighting had now been changed to the reduced period so that the lights do not remain in operation all night but up to midnight and from just before dawn. Complaints had been received about anti-social behaviour on Church Street but as none of these had been reported to the Homewatch co-ordinator no record of the complaints had been received by the police which makes any response difficult to justify.

Vacancy on the Parish Council. Following the resignation of Councillor Payne no election had been requested by a parishioner so the Parish Council may now co-opt a parishioner to the Council.

MARCH 2010

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.

APRIL 2010

April (2010) Attended by seven Councillors, County and District Councillor Kiddle Morris, and seven members of the public the following was considered:

Highways/Traffic Matters: The Clerk had met the Highways Engineer on 2 March to discuss the problems in the village and following the meeting the Highways Engineer had confirmed that he had spoken to the owner of Holly House regarding the overhanging hedge and this is to be cut back, the flooding on Dereham Road near to Bridge Farm will be monitored, Manor Drive had been repaired and most of the potholes had been repaired albeit with a temporary repair. Permanent repairs will be undertaken now the weather has improved. The car on Tittleshall Road has now been removed. A quotation has been received from Norfolk County Council for the erection of the kissing gate on Weasenham Road but a further quotation is still awaited from Norse. The following new problems are all to be reported to Norfolk County Council:-potholes in Pound Lane, Dereham Road and Druids Lane, the hedge opposite the School in Druids Lane and the damaged 40 m.p.h. sign on Lexham road.

Speedwatch: The Clerk is to contact Mileham and Tittleshall Parish Clerk for the names of the volunteers so that the group can commence the Speedwatch in the villages.

Heritage Map: A second meeting had been held with Signs of Life regarding the refurbishment of the Heritage Map and a draft layout had been received. It was agreed to have photographs of The Priory, Church, Litcham Hall, Bull P.H., Village Sign and the Old Tollhouse on the map provided the owners give their consent. Once this has been agreed a final draft layout will be prepared for approval.

Planning. Applications; no objection was raised to the application to install a plastic bunded oil tank and external oil fire boiler at 6 Church Street but the application for the conversion of ancillary accommodation to self contained holiday lets at the Bull P.H. was objected to as it was felt that this change would affect the long term viability of the public house.

Village Fair 2010: Finances from the old account had been received and it was agreed to donate £500 to the new fund to assist with the initial set up costs for the fair in June.

MAY 2010

May (2010) Attended by four Councillors, County and District Councillor Kiddle Morris the following was considered:

Election of Chairman: Councillor Mike Oldfield was elected Chairman of the Parish Council.

Election of Vice-Chairman: Councillor Trevor carter was elected Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

Highways/Traffic Matters: Wellingham Road is to be closed to allow resurfacing work to be undertaken. The following matters are to be reported to Norfolk County Council:- the gulleys on Church Street need jetting, the hedge on Druids Lane has not been trimmed nor has the hedge at Holly Hose, there are potholes in Druids Lane and at the Mileham/Church street junction, the edge of Butt lane needs repair and there is still some uneven surfaces on Wellingham road that have not been marked for repair. The contract for the barrier at Kepple Close is to be awarded to Norfolk County Council.

Litcham Common Management Committee had requested that cattle grids be positioned on the Dunham road to allow free access to each side of the road for the ponies. Norfolk County council are conducting a feasibility study on the matter and will report back in due course.

Speedwatch: The Clerk had contacted Mileham and Tittleshall Parish Clerk for the names of the volunteers so that the group can commence the Speedwatch in the villages but no names had been forwarded. If no names are forwarded in the next month then the training will proceed with the members from Litcham.

Heritage Map: New photographs had been taken of the sites in the village to be featured on the Heritage map and the layout should be available at the next meeting.

Planning. Applications; no objection was raised to the application relocate an existing mobile classroom and erection of new purpose built dance studio at Litcham high school. Decisions: permission had been granted to install plastic bunded oil tank in garden and external oil fired boiler at 6 Church street. The application to convert to 2 self contained holiday lets at 1Church street had been referred to the Development Control Committee on 10 May

Village Fair 2010: the money received from the previous account was not the total amount in the accounts and a new cheque is awaited. £500 was donated to the new fund to assist with the initial set up costs for the fair in June.

Accounts: the accounts for the year April 2009 to March 2010 were approved.

JUNE 2010

At the June (2010) meeting attended by seven Councillors, County and District Councillor Kiddle Morris, and two members of the public the following was considered:

Registration of The Green: Confirmation had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council that the application to register The Green as an open space had been duly made. There is now a six week consultation period during which time any objections can be raised to the application.

Highways/Traffic Matters: The problems reported the previous month are to be reported again plus the gulleys in Church Street which have been cleared but are blocked again. The barrier at the rear of Kepple Close should be fitted in the next month.

Village Sign: It was agreed to proceed with the repainting and refurbishment of the village sign as well as the bench alongside it. Permission had been received to remove the tree near to the sign and replant. Breckland Council is to be contacted again regarding the species of tree recommended, which was hawthorn, to enquire if a different species of tree could be planted.

Speedwatch: Following the report in the last edition that no names had been received from either Mileham or Tittleshall the Clerk had been contacted by residents of Tittleshall. The names of the volunteers had been forwarded to the police and the training has therefore been arranged for 14 July commencing at 9.30 a.m. at the Jubilee Hall Litcham. It is likely that there will be in excess of ten people for the training from Litcham and Tittleshall.

Heritage Map: A draft layout of the proposed map was available at the meeting. There was a long discussion regarding the inclusion of several dwellings within the parish that are not shown on the draft. It was also agreed that the orientation of the map is confusing to some but it had been suggested that it is better to orientate as it is being looked at rather than the normal north/south. The situation of the Post Office is to be included on the map.

Village Fair 2010: The full amount remaining in the old village fair account had now been received and this is to be split between the following organisations:-Parochial Church Council, Methodist Chapel, Jubilee hall, Manor Drive Social Club, Friends of the Health Centre and the Historical Society.

Emergency Plan: These had been included with the parish magazine and already over ten copies had been received. The Parish Council thanks all who have replied and requests that all who have not, please return the questionnaire in the prepaid envelope.

JULY 2010

At the July meeting attended by five Councillors, County and District Councillor Kiddle Morris, and three members of the public the following was considered:

Registration of The Green. The consultation period ends on 16 July and no further correspondence had been received.

Highways/Traffic Matters: Several white lines need refreshing and these are to be reported to Norfolk County Council together with the problem of the verge on Back Lane which needs cutting and Back Lane also needs sweeping. The surface of Mileham Road has become smooth and the Highways Department is to be requested to re-surface it. The barrier at the rear of Kepple Close has been erected.

Village Sign: the sign is to be removed in the next week to be refurbished and repainted.

Speedwatch: the training has been confirmed for 14 July and there is likely to be 14 people attending which includes several volunteers from Tittleshall.

Heritage Map: the new map is in the process of being printed with all the amendments requested after the last meeting.

Village Fair 2010: the fair was a success and although no one was present to report on the exact amount raised it is believed to be about £2500.

Emergency Plan: over fifty questionnaires had been returned and the Clerk is to collate all the comments.

War Memorial: The community payback team had cleaned the memorial except the top cross. It was agreed not to request a professional cleaning company to do any further work on the memorial during this year.

Planning. No objection was raised to the extension of time limit to pp 3PI/2007/0585/F to demolish existing kitchen addition and store and erect 2 storey annex at Lime Kiln House Back Lane or to the installation of a ménage for personal use and change of use of land from grazing to ménage at Litcham Farm House Tittleshall Road. Permission had been granted for the relocation of existing mobile classroom and erection of a new purpose built dance studio at Litcham high school.

Site Specific policies and Proposals Preferred Options Consultation. The parish Council considered the proposed settlement boundary for the village and whilst having no objection to the proposals from Breckland Council felt that land should be made available for a limited development of housing. It was therefore agreed to request that a parcel of land on Butt lane be included in the settlement boundary to allow a small number of houses to be built over the next few years.

SEPTEMBER 2010

At the September Parish Council meeting, attended by five Councillors, County and District Councillor Kiddle Morris, and three members of the public the following was considered:

Highways/Traffic Matters: Several issues are to be raised with the Highways Department including the footway outside Litcham Hall, the drains on Church Street, and some signs which either have been damaged or can be rotated. The Speed Awareness car (SAM) had visited the village on three occasions and the results were noted. It was agreed to request that the speed limit on Mileham Road be extended past the school playing field and the 30 m.p.h. speed limit on Lexham Road be extended to include the 40 m.p.h. section.

Village Sign: the sign had been removed but the painter has had to have an operation so the finished sign and bench should be replaced in the next few weeks.

Speedwatch: the training had been undertaken but little has been done in Litcham as it was during the school holidays. The members from Tittleshall have been very active in both Tittleshall and Mileham. It is expected to commence in Litcham during September. The speed of vehicles using Front Street as they leave the Lexham Road is to be monitored by the Speedwatch team following concern raised by a parishioner at the meeting.

Heritage Map: the new map has been printed and the outcome of the registration of The Green is awaited so that the new notice board can be sited with the map included.

Village Fair 2010: it was confirmed that £2557.60 had been raised at this years fair. Planning has already started for another fair on 25 June 2011.

Planning: Whilst no objection was raised to formation of access to C222 Litcham Road and the construction of haul road to the quarry at Punch Farm, concern was raised that the application states that the route for the vehicles from the quarry could pass through Litcham. This concern is to be expressed to Norfolk County Council and the possible use of trackers to give the data is to be requested. Permission had been granted for the extension of time limit to pp 3PI/2007/0585/F to demolish existing kitchen addition and store and erect 2 storey annex at Lime Kiln House Back Lane and to the installation of a ménage for personal use and change of use of land from grazing to ménage at Litcham Farm House Tittleshall Road.

Litcham Relief in Need Charity: it was reported to the Parish Council that the review of the Charity Commission's decision in connection with the charity not to intervene by using its regulatory powers had been completed. The decision of this review, which had been requested by the nominated trustees, upheld the decision not to intervene as there are no grounds that would justify the use of the regulatory powers. The members then considered the letter received from the Charity stating that the two nominated trustees had been disqualified by their non-attendance at any meeting over a six month period.

The Parish Council decided to appoint two new nominated trustees, Trevor Carter and Paul Snelling with immediate effect.

The next meeting of Litcham Parish Council is due to be held on Monday 4th October 2010 at 7.30p.m. at the Jubilee Hall. All parishioners are cordially invited to attend and the first part of the meeting is set aside for parishioners to raise issues with the Parish Council.

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

OCTOBER 2010

At the October Parish Council meeting, attended by three Councillors, County and District Councillor Kiddle Morris, and one member of the public the following was considered:

Highways/Traffic Matters: the Chairman and Clerk had toured the parish with the Highway Technician and pointed out the problems with the footway outside Litcham Hall, the drains on Church Street, the surfacing on Front Street, some signs which either have been damaged or can be rotated which had previously been reported, together with the problems of the drainage on Druids Lane and Dereham Road and the white lining on many of the roads in the parish.

It was reported at the meeting that the new surfacing on Butt Lane and Pound Lane was already showing signs of potholes.

A parishioner had complained about the state of the verge on Back Lane and these last two matters would also be reported.

Speedwatch had not been active as the person who coordinates the information at Norfolk Police had been on holiday. It is not certain at this time what will happen to the Community Speedwatch Schemes because of the cuts in government funding. Norfolk County Council is to commence the Highways and Community Rangers scheme which had been trialed last year. For full details on the scheme please visit the website. The parish will be visited four times per year and work that is required can be forwarded to Norfolk County Council by the Clerk.

Pumping Station at Dereham Road: no response had been received from Anglian Water so the company will be reminded and it is hoped that the area and building will be tidied.

Village Sign: the sign had been replaced after it had been repaired and painted.

Registration of The Green: no decision had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council but the Clerk had been informed that no objections had been raised and a report was being prepared to present to the responsible officer for approval. Once this had been received Norfolk County Council would be approached so that the new notice board can be sited on The Green. Nothing further had been received from Norfolk County Council following the contact made to state that this parcel of land is surplus to its requirements and the Parish Council could have the opportunity to purchase it for a nominal sum.

Finance: the audit for the year 2009/10 had been completed and the External Auditors raised no comments on the accounts. The Annual Return is available for any parishioner to view or copy by contacting the Clerk.

NOVEMBER 2010

At the November Parish Council meeting, attended by five Councillors, County and District Councillor Kiddle Morris, and four members of the public the following was considered:

Highways/Traffic Matters: some of the problems reported the previous month had been attended to by Norfolk County Council but some of the painting of the road markings had not been completed. The Highways and Community rangers are to visit the parish in the next few weeks and the team is to be requested to clear the footway at the junction of Lexham Road and Pound Lane as well as Back Lane as a priority. The new surfacing on Butt Lane and Pound Lane which is already showing signs of potholes is to be reported again. As the charger for the radar gun had not been working properly Speedwatch had not been active but it is hoped to commence again in the next week.

Pumping Station at Dereham Road: Anglian Water had replied to state that maintenance to the area will be carried out within fifteen working days from 18 October. A report is to be forwarded to the Parish Council after the inspection by the maintenance manager and any further work needed will be identified.

Village Sign: the bench near to the village sign has not been replaced as the timber that was supplied to replace the slats was sub-standard. It was agreed to obtain a new sign to replace the No Parking Private Access sign that is currently in place. The tree near to the sign is due to be lopped in the coming week prior to a new tree being planted.

Registration of The Green: confirmation had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council that no objections had been received and the area is now classified as a Village Green. Norfolk County Council had confirmed that the area will be added to the definitive Village Green map and Registers. As the area is considered surplus to requirements by Norfolk County Council the Parish Council is to request that it purchases the parcel of land. It is hoped that the cost of this will be nominal with both sides paying their own solicitors costs.

Finance: the Precept for the financial year 2011-2012 was agreed not to be increased and this will remain the same as the current year. Quotations had been received from two contractors for the cutting of the churchyard and it was agreed to award the grass-cutting contract for 2011 season to C.G.M.

DECEMBER 2010

At the December Parish Council meeting, attended by five Councillors, County and District Councillor Kiddle Morris, and five members of the public the following was considered:

Litcham Jubilee Hall: following a meeting of the trustees of the Jubilee Hall the Parish Council had been contacted to consider its future. The trustees had decided that that the hall was no longer financially viable and unless a single business tenant could be found the premises would have to be sold as a site for residential purposes. The management committee of the hall informed the members that in their opinion the hall is still viable. Plans are in hand to improve the hall and this could well generate more bookings and income. After a lengthy discussion the Parish Council decided that the hall should be kept for the benefit of the village and would hope that the trustees would re-consider their decision.

Highways/Traffic Matters: the Highways and Community rangers had been in the parish and had made an excellent job of clearing the footpath at the junction of Pound Lane and Lexham Road.

Several matters are to be reported to Norfolk County Council but this will not be considered until the weather improves. Speedwatch had been active on a Saturday and had caught several offenders.

Planning: no objection was raised to the application for a single storey rear extension after demolition of conservatory & new roofs to dormer windows at Paddock Lodge Lexham Road.

Pumping Station at Dereham Road: as no maintenance had appeared to have been carried out Anglian Water is to be contacted to ascertain when the work will be completed.

Registration of The Green: confirmation had been received from Norfolk County Council that the land at Church Street Litcham known as Litcham Green had been registered as a Village Green under the unit number VG185. Norfolk County Council had also forwarded copies of the Register Inset Map showing the area registered. The Parish Council is still trying to purchase the parcel of land from Norfolk County Council.

Finance: the Parish Council agreed to support the work of the Litcham Common Conservation Group by donating £250 to assist with the cost of insurance and purchase of new tools.

END OF EXTRACT FOR 2010

Monthly Meetings

All parishioners are welcome to attend the monthly meeting that are held in the Jubilee Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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 or via the Litcham Webiste at www.litcham.org

Downloadable PDF of Full Minutes and Extracts are available on the Meeting Page:
http://www.litcham.org/Litcham/Litcham_Parish_Council___Meetings.html