

# LITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Meeting Extracts 2012

As published in the Church and Village Magazine

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### FEBRUARY 2012

At the February Parish Council meeting attended by 7 Councillors, County and District Cllr M Kiddle Morris, and 10 members of the public the following was considered:

**Finance:** the External Auditor had reached his decision regarding the objection to the accounts and this is expected before the March meeting. The Parish Council made donations to Royal British legion poppy appeal and to the Norfolk accident rescue service as it has done in previous years. It was agreed to donate an initial £300 to the event to mark the Diamond Jubilee. Finance for this is to come from the balance of the money that was given to the Parish Council from the closure of the old Village Fair account. The disbursement of those funds to village organisations left a balance in the account.

**Recycling:** Norfolk County Council Highways Department had visited the village and is still stating that the most suitable location within the village is on Tittleshall Road. Several parishioners again voiced their concern at this site as it could cause a highway safety issue and that as the bins are close to properties there could be disturbance from noise if the bins are filled late at night. They had suggested other sites that they felt were more suitable. It was agreed to contact the owners of these sites and to report back at the next meeting when a decision will be made whether to proceed with the siting of recycling banks.

**Highways:** There have been several accidents along the Dereham Road and both the Clerk and the County Councillor had contacted the Highways Department regarding gritting this section. Norfolk County Council is at present looking at the camber of the roads and water run off from adjacent fields but is not looking to grit this road.

Please remember the Dereham Road from Litcham to Gressenhall is not gritted. Parishioners are reminded that the gritted roads towards Dereham are either along the Mileham Road, B1145, and then to Dereham through Beetley on the B1146 or to travel through the Dunhams to the A47 at Necton.

The Highways and Community Rangers will be visiting the Parish, weather permitting, at the end of February and they will be requested to repair the 30m.p.h. sign on Lexham Road, the finger post on Tittleshall Road and potholes at the junction of Wellingham and Weasenham roads.

Concern was expressed that sugar beet lorries are loading along the Weasenham Road and then travelling through the village. The haulier is to be written to, to request that the travel to the main roads via an alternative route and not through the village.

**Community Car Scheme:** Four drivers have volunteered so it will be possible to start a scheme. The necessary documentation will be requested from Breckland Council and the financial matters will be decided at the next Parish Council meeting.

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## MARCH 2012

At the March Parish Council meeting, attended by six Councillors, County and District Councillor M. Kiddle-Morris, and 4 members of the public the following was considered:

**Finance:** The decision from the External Auditor had been received. In his report he considered that the objection did not identify any matters of significant concern nor were any of the transactions illegal. The report did highlight certain areas where there is scope for improvement in the Parish Council's procedural arrangements. These recommendations were put in place at this Parish Council meeting. Unfortunately the cost to the Parish Council and ultimately the residents of Litcham is a bill for £1650 plus VAT, which is recoverable, from the External Auditor. This represents about 27.5% of the Annual Precept and the Parish Council is considering the necessity to raise the precept in 2013 to recover the costs of this action.

**Recycling:** It was agreed that the Parish Council will not proceed with the installation of any recycling banks in the village as no suitable site has been identified.

**Highways:** There were several items raised for report to the Highways Authority and Breckland Council especially the need to refresh the signs on the road, pothole on Weasenham Road and to repair the 30mph sign on Lexham Road and to request Breckland Council to replace the Tittleshall Road sign.

The PCSO had been contacted regarding parking on Church Street and she is investigating the concerns.

**Speedwatch:** The last session had caught 13 vehicles all in excess of the speed at which they can be reported. The fastest of these was doing 47mph in a 30mph limit. All these vehicles will be reported to the police.

**Community Car Scheme:** The necessary documentation has not been received from Breckland Council but it was agreed at the meeting to contribute 10pence per mile to the scheme plus the necessary administration costs. It is hoped that Breckland Council will continue to support with 12.5 pence per mile and the remainder will be passed onto the passenger.

**Planning:** No objection was raised to single storey rear extension and alterations to the dwelling at Stannell House Back Street.

**The Green:** All the necessary searches and documentation has been received by the solicitor and the transfer should be signed before the next meeting. This will allow the new notice board and heritage map to be erected.

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# A P R I L 2 0 1 2

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 2 April attended by seven Councillors, County and District Councillor M Kiddle Morris and six members of the public. Reports were received from local organisations, the Chairman of the Parish Council, County and District Councillor and the Clerk. All these will be published on the website.

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## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

At the April Parish Council meeting attended by seven Councillors, County and District Councillor M Kiddle-Morris, and one member of the public the following was considered:

**Highways:** The poor state of Dereham Road is to be reported to Norfolk county council. This appears to be an ongoing problem and the Highways engineer is to be contacted to see if a long-term solution can be achieved.

The constant movement of vehicles from the Sewerage Works on Dereham Road through the village and the associated problems of smell and excessive lighting are to be raised with Anglian Water.

**Speedwatch:** The last session had caught 22 vehicles all in excess of the speed at which they can be reported. The fastest of these was doing 47mph in a 30 mph limit and several were above 40 m.p.h. All these vehicles will be reported to the police. These reports are logged from all parishes so that if a vehicle is caught in more than one Speedwatch this contributes to the totting up process. It is hoped that the new team in Beeston parish will soon be trained and operational.

**Community Car Scheme:** The contract with Breckland Council was signed and this contract confirms that it will contribute 12.5 pence per mile to the scheme. The Clerk and the co-ordinator are to meet with all the drivers to process the necessary documentation.

**Planning: Applications.** No objection was raised to the application for the installation of three small-scale wind turbines (14.97m to hub, 5.6m diameter blades) at Coronation Farm, Litcham Road, Mileham.

Decisions. Permission had been granted for the single storey rear extension and alterations to the dwelling at Stannell House Back Street.

**The Green:** All the necessary searches and documentation has been received by the solicitor, the documentation has been received and the transfer should be signed before the next meeting once the transfer has been checked. This will allow the new notice board and heritage map to be erected.

**Street Lighting:** A new contract is due from June 2012 and the current contractor has forwarded a contract and further quotations are to be obtained before deciding on the company. This is in accordance with the financial regulations of the Parish Council.

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## MAY 2012

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

**Election of Chairman:** Councillor Oldfield was unanimously elected Chairman for the current year.

**Election of Vice-Chairman:** Councillor Carter was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman for the current year.

**Highways:** The constant movement of vehicles from the Sewerage Works on Dereham Road through the village and the associated problems of smell and excessive lighting have been raised with Anglian Water but no reply has as yet been received.

The following problems on the highways will all be reported to Norfolk County Council:- the sign and pot hole on Lexham Road, the pothole on Dereham Road, the surface outside the Bull and whether the footway at the junction of Lexham Road and Pound Lane will tarmac filled back to the wall. The non-sweeping of Back Lane is again to be pursued with Breckland Council and the road name sign on Tittleshall Road and Back lane are to be followed up.

The closure of Dunham Road for the installation of the cattle grids was discussed and the County Councillor is consulting with the Highways department on this closure.

**Community Car Scheme:** The contract had been received back from Breckland Council and once the Jubilee celebrations are complete the Clerk and Co-ordinator will meet to finalise the documentation needed and the fares payable by the passengers.

**Planning: Applications.** No objection was raised to the application for the single storey side extension to provide entrance porch & bike/bin store at Lime Kiln House Back Lane.

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## JUNE 2012

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

**Vacancy on the Parish Council:** A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council caused by the resignation of Trevor Carter. Breckland Council is to be informed to commence the necessary procedure to fill the vacancy.

**Highways:** Anglian Water has responded to the request from the Parish Council regarding the tanker movements through the village. It confirmed that the Anglian Water has had to tanker to ensure that there are no pollution incidents and it apologised to residents of the village for the inconvenience. The sewage works is now operating within its compliance limits and as such there should be a marked improvement in tanker movements i.e. with approximately only 1 routine sludge removal by tanker per week. The closure of Dunham Road for the installation of the cattle grids has been amended by Norfolk County Council to commence on 23 July after the schools have closed for the summer holidays. The diversion route will now be via Longham and Wendling to the A47 and then to Necton and along C117 Dunham Road from Necton to Great and Little Dunham.

**Planning: Applications.** The appeal against the refusal by Breckland Council to grant listed building consent by the proposed conversion of ancillary accommodation to two self contained holiday lets at the Bull has been dismissed. The Inspector had not been convinced that the proposal would enhance the chances of the business surviving thereby ensuring the ongoing protection of the historic building and allowing the appeal would result in harm to the special architectural and historic interest in the property.

**Bulk Fuel Buying Syndicate:** The Parish Council is considering setting up a buying syndicate to obtain cheaper fuel oil. There is a need for a volunteer to co-ordinate the requirements for this. If any parishioner wishes to volunteer to assist with this would they please contact any Councillor or the Clerk.

**Diamond Jubilee Event:** This was a very successful event with more people attending than had been anticipated. A final sub-committee meeting is to be held in June and after this meeting the final figures will be known.

**The Green:** Unfortunately the contract had not been received from Norfolk County Council for the Parish Council to sign. The solicitor acting for the Parish Council is actively pursuing completion of this. Until such time as this is signed and the land is in the ownership of the Parish Council no decision will be made on the planting of a new tree.

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## JULY 2012

At the July Parish Council meeting, attended by six Cllrs, County and District Cllr M Kiddle Morris, and three members of the public the following was considered:

**Election of Vice-Chairman:** Councillor Mitchell was elected Vice-Chairman to replace Trevor Carter.

**Vacancy on the Parish Council:** The notice advising of the vacancy has been posted on the notice board and the due date for the receipt of requests to hold an election is 23 July. If no request is received by then the Parish Council is free to co-opt a member.

**Highways:** The flooding on the Mileham Road is to be reported again as the road became virtually impassable following the heavy rainfall. Several other problems are also to be reported including the footway along Lexham Road, several signs that need repair and potholes and cracking of roads.

**Speedwatch:** A new co-ordinator is required for the scheme as Trevor Carter has more responsibility at Breckland Council so would like to relinquish the role. If any parishioner would like to volunteer for the role please contact any Councillor or the Clerk. If you need more information on the role please contact Trevor Carter on 701668

**Planning: Applications.** The Parish Council raised no objection to the application the internal alterations and refurbishment and replace external joinery at Manor Farmhouse Church Street. The members raised no objection to the repainting of the shop front, replace fascia pane and window vinyls at the Post Office Church Street although it was felt that a heritage colour would be more appropriate for the façade rather than a bright colour. Decisions: Permission had been granted for the single storey extension to provide entrance porch and bike/bin store at Lime Kiln House back Lane.

**Bulk Fuel Buying Syndicate:** The Parish Council is considering setting up a buying syndicate to obtain cheaper fuel oil. There is a need for a volunteer to co-ordinate the requirements for this. If any parishioner wishes to volunteer to assist with this would they please contact any Councillor or the Clerk.

**The Green:** The contract had been received from Norfolk County Council for the Parish Council and this was signed at the meeting. This will be returned to the solicitor and it is hoped that the transfer of ownership will be concluded prior to the next meeting.

**Diamond Jubilee Mugs:** The Parish Council has still some Commemorative Mugs that have not been given to children under 11 within the Parish. Would parents of any child who has not received their mug please contact Mike Oldfield on 01328 701443.

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## SEPTEMBER 2012

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

**Vacancy on the Parish Council:** No request had been received by Breckland Council for an election so the Parish Council is now free to co-opt a member to the Parish council to replace Trevor Carter. If any person wishes to be co-opted onto to the Parish Council would they please contact the Clerk or any Councillor.

**Highways:** Norfolk County council had responded regarding the flooding on the Mileham Road, as it was necessary for an attendance on site when the road flooded again. The landowner is to be contacted to attempt to stop the run-off onto the road from the fields.

The problem with the noise from the recently installed cattle grids was raised by a parishioner. The contractor was due to attend site the day after the meeting to rectify all the faults.

The refreshment of some of the white lines and signs on the road had been carried out and Norfolk County council are to be contacted regarding the remainder

**Speedwatch:** A new co-ordinator is required for the scheme as Trevor Carter has more responsibility at Breckland Council so would like to relinquish the role. If any parishioner would like to volunteer for the role please contact any Councillor or the Clerk. If you need more information on the role please contact Trevor Carter on 701668

**Planning: Applications.** The Parish Council raised no objection to the application for a replacement conservatory at 3 Pound lane. Permission had been granted for the internal alterations and refurbishment and replace external joinery at Manor Farmhouse Church Street and for the repainting of the shop front, replace fascia pane and window vinyls at the Post Office Church Street.

**Bulk Fuel Buying Syndicate:** A volunteer has come forward to organise the bulk fuel buying syndicate and more details will be published in the next issue.

**Diamond Jubilee Mugs:** The Parish Council has still some Commemorative Mugs that have not been given to children under 11 within the Parish. Would parents of any child who has not received their mug please contact Mike Oldfield on 01328 701443.

**The Green:** The transfer of the ownership of the Green has now been completed.

**Objection to the Accounts:** a parishioner has made three objections to the accounts which will inevitably incur additional expense for the Parish Council and ultimately all parishioners a sizeable sum because of the costs of the External Auditor. It will probably be necessary to recover these costs through an increase in the precept for 2013/2014.

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## OCTOBER 2012

At the October Parish Council meeting, attended by six Councillors and one member of the public the following was considered:

**Vacancy on the Parish Council:** Richard Fagence was co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Trevor Carter.

**Highways:** The cattle grids on The Common have been repaired which appear to have reduced the noise and it was agreed to raise the matter of a reduced speed limit across The Common along the Dunham Road within the area of the new cattle grids with Norfolk County Council.

The Highways and Community Rangers are to be requested to cut back the vegetation around the school signs on both Pound Lane and Druids Lane and replace the footpath sign at Druids Lane at the junction with Church Street.

**Speedwatch:** A new co-ordinator is still required for the scheme as Trevor Carter has more responsibility at Breckland Council so would like to relinquish the role. If any parishioner would like to volunteer for the role please contact any Councillor or the Clerk. If you need more information on the role please contact Trevor Carter on 701668

**Planning: Applications.** The Parish Council raised no objection to the single storey extension to the side of the property at 1 Keppel Close.

The members objected to the installation of two micro scale wind turbines at Lime Kiln House as it was felt that this would be a visual intrusion into the rural landscape at a point that would be visible from roads leading into Litcham and the Nar Valley Walk.

**Decisions:** Permission had been granted for the replacement conservatory at 3 Pound Lane.

**Bulk Fuel Buying Syndicate:** If any person is interested in becoming part of the syndicate would they please contact Lynn Flowerdew on 01328 700267.

**The Green:** The land registry document on the transfer of the ownership of the Green has not yet been received.

**Objection to the accounts:** The Parish Council had responded to the External Auditor regarding the objections to the accounts and these comments will be forwarded to the objector. It is hoped that a further response will be received from the External Auditor by the next Parish Council meeting.

**External Meetings:** Representatives of the Parish Council are attending meetings staged by Breckland Council on the possible changes to Council Tax benefits and the savings that will have to be made by Breckland Council over the next four years to balance the shortfall in the funding from central government. This could mean that the funding for some items that have always been provided free by Breckland Council will have to be met by the Parish Council. This will obviously impact on the precept and the members will commence discussions on this at the next meeting. The Parish Council will be considering all its expenditure to attempt to maintain the precept as low as possible and mitigate any increased funding necessary for the services that have in the past been provided free by Breckland Council.

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## NOVEMBER 2012

At the November Parish Council meeting, attended by six Councillors and three members of the public the following was considered:

**Planning: Applications:** The Parish Council is to request a meeting with Breckland Council at the site for the photovoltaic panels on land to the west of Tittleshall bordering the Wellingham Road. The site is about 25 hectares in size and would be covered with the photovoltaic panels. There would also be security fencing, cameras and associated buildings on the site. The Parish Council felt that this site was the industrialisation of an unspoilt rural area and felt that more detailed information was needed.

The Parish Council will be objecting to this application as it felt that it was the industrialisation of a tranquil rural area.

The members raised no objection to the proposed orangery at the Old Rectory Mileham Road or to rebuild the rear extension and erection of a porch to front and flue for wood burner at The Elms, Back Lane.

**Decisions:** The single storey extension to the side of the property at 1 Keppel Close had been granted permission.

**Highways:** The flooding on Mileham Road does not appear to have improved despite work having been carried out by Norfolk County Council. It is to be informed of this again. The Highways and Community Rangers are to be requested to cut back the vegetation around the give way sign on Pound lane, repair the sign outside the chip shop in addition to those already reported.

**Speedwatch:** A new co-ordinator is still required for the scheme as Trevor Carter has more responsibility at Breckland Council so would like to relinquish the role. If any parishioner would like to volunteer for the role please contact any Councillor or the Clerk. If you need more information on the role please contact Trevor Carter on 701668

**Bulk Fuel Buying Syndicate:** If any person is interested in becoming part of the syndicate would they please contact Lynn Flowerdew on 01328 700267. The first order is likely to be placed in January 2013.

**The Green:** The land registry document for the transfer of the ownership of the Green has been received by the Parish Council. After nearly six years the Parish Council now owns the parcel of land on Church Street opposite the Bull Inn. The Parish Council is now considering the replacement of the wooden posts around the edge of the Green and the possibility of planting a new tree.

**Objection to the accounts:** No response has been received from the External Auditor on the objections to the accounts.

**External Meetings:** Representatives of the Parish Council attended meeting staged by Breckland Council on the possible changes to Council Tax benefits. At present the Parish Council Precept is not affected by the changes to the Council Tax Benefit system but as this has not been finalised by the government this may change. The Parish Council will have to fund the Parish Council elections in 2015 and thereafter. The cost of these elections is shared between the Parish Council, District Council and the Government if a parliamentary election is also held at the same time.

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## DECEMBER 2012

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### END OF EXTRACT FOR 2012

#### 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](http://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](http://www.litcham.org/Litcham/Litcham_Parish_Council_Meetings.html)