

LITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Extracts 2013

As published in the Church and Village Magazine

FEBRUARY 2013

At the February Parish Council meeting, attended by seven Councillors and County and District Councillor M Kiddle Morris the following was considered:

Planning: Applications: The Parish Council raised no objections to the variance of the original planning application for a revised access route to the solar farm on land to the west of Tittleshall..

Decisions: Permission had been granted for the installation of solar voltaic panels and associated works including inverter housings, access tracks and security fencing on land to the west of Tittleshall.

Highways: The Highways and Community Rangers are to be requested to repair round a manhole on Druids Lane, repair potholes on Dereham Road, Weasenham Road/Pound Lane junction and at Blenheim House, to clean the road name signs throughout the village, repair the bumpy road sign on Wellingham Road and cut the hedge back near to Keppel Close. The Clerk had had a long conversation with the Highways Engineer regarding the cattle grids on Dunham Road which are still flooding. He informed the Clerk that he had visited site with the designers and a new design is to be submitted. The County Councillor agreed to contact the Norfolk County Council to press for the changes to be implemented as soon as possible. The Highways Engineer will be contacted regarding the surface of the road at the Bull Inn as this is becoming a safety hazard and when the signs on the road will be refreshed as some white lining has been done but not all.

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

Objection to the accounts: The Parish Council has received a further communication from the external Auditor and the Clerk is to reply on behalf of the Parish Council.

Community Car Scheme: In response to the requests in this magazine five volunteers have come forward so the scheme will be able to function. The next stage is for all the documentation to be sorted for the drivers so it is hoped that the scheme should be able to start in March/April depending when the checks have been completed by Norfolk County Council.

MARCH 2013

At the March Parish Council meeting, attended by seven Councillors and County and District Councillor M Kiddle Morris and two parishioners the following was considered:

Planning: There were no planning applications or decisions to discuss at the meeting.

Highways: The Highways and Community Rangers had been in the village the previous week for two days and several items that had been reported had been repaired.

New problems of potholes on Lexham Road, Dereham Road and the footway on Butt Lane are to be reported.

The road name sign at the north end of Back Lane which had been reported previously as not being fixed correctly had now disappeared and this had been reported.

Dog Fouling. The Parish Council is concerned that again there has been an increase in dog fouling especially along Butt Lane, Church Street and the Common. Dog Bins are provided throughout the village and it is requested that all dog owners be responsible and clear up after their dogs. This is also necessary on the Common where there is also a dog bin in the car park to ensure that all paths are kept clear for the enjoyment of all.

The Parish Council will report any person seen not clearing up after their dog to the Dog Warden for further action to be taken including prosecution. If any parishioner sees dog fouling taking place please report the culprit to the Dog Warden on 01362 858500.

Objection to the accounts: The Parish Council had replied that it wished to make no further comment regarding the objections to the accounts. The external Auditor had stated that he felt that this was a sensible decision so that the matter could be brought to a conclusion.

The external Auditor will now commence his consideration of the objections.

Community Car Scheme: A meeting is still to be arranged with all the drivers to finalise the mass of paperwork needed to enable the scheme to commence.

A P R I L 2 0 1 3

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 2nd 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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

Planning: Decisions: Permission had been granted for the revisions to the original planning permission for the solar farm on land to the west of Tittleshall.

Highways: The road name sign at the north end of Back Lane had at last been replaced satisfactorily. Unfortunately the chevrons at the junction of Back Lane and Tittleshall Road had been damaged. This will be reported together with pot-holes on Mileham Road, Pound Lane, Tittleshall Road, Coronation Corner and the surface of the road at the junction of Butt Lane and Tittleshall Road. The No.32 bus service to Kings Lyn is to be withdrawn as it is not viable. At present it is not certain what service will replace this. The Parish Council is concerned about the ability for children to access the College of West Anglia and will be writing to Norfolk County council to express its concerns.

Speedwatch: It is hoped that a new co-ordinator has been found to run the Speedwatch scheme. It is hoped that a session will be held in the near future.

Objection to the accounts: The Clerk had spoken to the the External Auditor who had stated that he had almost completed his decision but wanted a few more pieces of information which will be forwarded to him.

Community Car Scheme: The meeting has been arranged for 10 April with all the drivers to finalise the mass of paperwork needed to enable the scheme to commence. Once the CRB checks have been received back from Norfolk County Council the scheme will be able to commence.

MAY 2013

At the May Parish Council meeting, attended by six Councillors, County and District Councillor M Kiddle Morris and two parishioners the following was considered:

Elections: Chairman: Councillor Mike Oldfield was re-elected Chairman of the Parish Council for the next year. **Vice-Chairman:** Councillor Chris Mitchell was re-elected Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Green: The matter of the tables and benches on The Green was discussed with the landlord of the Bull Inn. The Parish Council agreed to allowing these to be placed on the Green but the situation will be monitored to ensure that there is no unruly behaviour. The Bull will also be ensuring that this area is not used after 9.00 p.m. and the area will be cleared of all glasses and litter. The problem unfortunately does not stem from customers of the pub but from youths who have decided to use the area in the evening. Signs are to be placed on the tables stating that these can only be used by customers of the pub and this will be strictly enforced by the pub. The Parish Council does not wish to curtail the use of the area for the enjoyment of customers of the pub but understands the concerns of local residents.

Dog Fouling: There has been an increase in the instances of dog fouling throughout the village. Please would all dog owners clear up after their dogs. There are dog bins on the Common and on The Green for the disposal of the dog waste-please use them or take your dog waste home and use your green wheelie bin.

Speedwatch: The new co-ordinator arranged a session in the last month and this caught 11 vehicles in excess of the 37m.p.h. speed that is the speed set by the police for reporting vehicles. Of these 3 were HGVs and all the vehicles will be reported to the police. Another session is planned in the near future. If any person wishes to join the Speedwatch team please contact the co-ordinator Gwen Page on 701523.

Objection to the accounts: The decision of the External Auditor had been received and this found that the Parish Council had not acted illegally in any of the transactions that had been objected to. The full decision will be posted with the minutes on the website. The cost to the Parish of the objections to the 2011-202 accounts was £1750 which explains why it was necessary to increase the precept to cover these costs.

Community Car Scheme: The CRB checks have been completed by the Parish Council and these will be forwarded to Norfolk County Council.

JUNE 2013

At the June Parish Council meeting, attended by seven Councillors, County and District Councillor M Kiddle Morris and one parishioner the following was considered:

The Green: There had been no further comments regarding the use of the tables and benches on The Green and the members were pleased to see how well used this is becoming. The company that is installing the solar farm to the north of Litcham have agreed to cover the costs, from their community fund, of new posts for the edge of the Green. The Parish Council is to obtain prices for this work before proceeding.

Dog Fouling: There has been an increase in the instances of dog fouling throughout the village. Please would all dog owners clear up after their dogs. There are dog bins on the Common and on The Green for the disposal of the dog waste-please use them or take your dog waste home and use your green wheelie bin. The Dog Warden had been contacted and he is to visit the village to look at the problem and to advise on additional signs and possibly extra dog bins.

Speedwatch: A further session is planned in the near future. The Speedwatch team needs additional members to enable more sessions to be undertaken. If any person wishes to join the Speedwatch team please contact the co-ordinator Gwen Page on 701523.

Highways: Whilst the Highways department had filled many potholes recently there are still some on Dereham Road, Mileham Road and at Coronation Corner which will all be reported.

JULY 2013

At the July Parish Council meeting, attended by seven Councillors, County and District Councillor M Kiddle Morris the following was considered:

Community Car Scheme: The scheme still needs more drivers to ensure all requests for transport can be accommodated. If anyone has a few hours a month to spare to drive parishioners to appointments at hospitals and other medical related journeys please contact the co-ordinator Liz Christie on 01328 701765. Drivers are paid 45 pence per mile for journeys that is the maximum permissible without incurring income tax.

Methodist Chapel: The Methodist Chapel is undergoing a major refurbishment that includes new flooring, new heating system and a total re-decoration. The Parish Council has agreed to donate a sum of money in this financial year and to consider again in the next financial year to assist with this cost. The chapel is made available to parishioners for community use and needs to maintain the fabric of the building to the best standard possible and the Parish Council felt that this was a worthwhile utilisation of its funds for the benefit of the parish.

Dog Fouling: There has been an increase in the instances of dog fouling throughout the village. Please would all dog owners clear up after their dogs. There are dog bins on the Common and on The Green for the disposal of the dog waste-please use them or take your dog waste home and use your green wheelie bin. The Dog Warden had been contacted and he is to visit the village to look at the problem and to advise on additional signs and possibly extra dog bins.

Speedwatch: A session had been held which had caught two vehicles although there had been little traffic on that day. The Speedwatch team needs additional members to enable more sessions to be undertaken. If any person wishes to join the Speedwatch team please contact the co-ordinator Gwen Page on 701523.

Highways: The potholes on Dereham Road, Mileham Road and at Coronation Corner which were reported last month have still not been filled. The Highways Department will be reminded of these. Additional potholes on Pound Lane, Back Lane, Church Street, the footway on Lexham Road as well as overgrown vegetation on Druids Lane, Weasensham Road and Dunham Road, and the gulley outside the Jubilee Hall which has been damaged will all be reported. A request had been received from a parishioner to ensure the markings on Tittleshall Road are refreshed and the Highways Department will be contacted regarding this.

SEPTEMBER 2013

At the September Parish Council meeting, attended by six Councillors, County and District Councillor M Kiddle Morris and four parishioners the following was considered:

Dog Fouling: There has been an increase in the instances of dog fouling throughout the village. Please would all dog owners clear up after their dogs. There are dog bins on the Common and on The Green for the disposal of the dog waste-please use them or take your dog waste home and use your green wheelie bin. The Dog Warden had visited the village to look at the problem and to advise on additional signs and possibly extra dog bins. He had met the Chairman and looked at the sites with the worst dog fouling. The names of those responsible are to be forwarded to the Dog Warden. If you are aware of someone who is not cleaning up after their dog, please call Mike Gardiner, the Dog Warden on 07771 617417 with a note of times, dates and a description of the owner.

Speedwatch: A session had been held which had caught seventeen vehicles travelling between 37 and 48 mph. The Speedwatch team still needs additional members to enable more sessions to be undertaken. If any person wishes to join the Speedwatch team please contact the co-ordinator Gwen Page on 701523.

Highways: Several potholes in the village are to be reported and overgrowing vegetation on several signs in the village are to be requested to be cleared. The new grit bin near the Primary school is to be sited in September and Norfolk County Council requested to fill it. The cattle grids on Dunham Road appear to be noisier than after the remedial work and Norfolk County Council will be informed of this.

The Green: Several complaints had been received about the noise from drinkers on The Green and the Inn is to be written to.

Planning: Applications: No objection was raised to the application for the minor material amendment to the land west of Tittleshall to enable a an additional structure to be erected on site or to the application for the erection of detached building for the storage of wood for fencing business at Coronation Farm Litcham Road although the Parish Council did request that there is adequate screening of the building from the road.

Decisions: The application to demolish existing rear porch and erection of two-storey extension at 6 Dereham Road had been refused permission.

Objection to the accounts: Two objections and three questions had been received by the External Auditor from a parishioner objecting to the accounts. The Parish Council had replied refuting the objections and answering the questions. The External Auditor now has to write to the complainant who has a right to reply. No further communication had been received from the External Auditor at the time of the meeting.

The full minutes are available for viewing by any parishioner by contacting the Clerk on 01362 861112 or on the Litcham website.

OCTOBER 2013

At the October Parish Council meeting, attended by seven Councillors and one parishioner, the following was considered:

Dog Fouling: There has been an increase in the instances of dog fouling throughout the village. Please would all dog owners clear up after their dogs. There are dog bins on the Common and on The Green for the disposal of the dog waste-please use them or take your dog waste home and use your green wheelie bin. The Dog Warden had visited the village to look at the problem and to advise on additional signs and possibly extra dog bins. He had met the Chairman and looked at the sites with the worst dog fouling. The names of those responsible are to be forwarded to the Dog Warden. If you are aware of someone who is not cleaning up after their dog, please call Mike Gardiner, the Dog Warden on 07771 617417 with a note of times, dates and a description of the owner.

Speedwatch: A session had been held which had caught eight vehicles travelling between 37 and 45 mph and a cautionary letter had been sent by the police to a person who is known to a Councillor and had been caught speeding in Litcham by the Speedwatch team.. The Speedwatch team still needs additional members to enable more sessions to be undertaken. If any person wishes to join the Speedwatch team please contact the co-ordinator Gwen Page on 701523.

Highways: The cattle grids on Dunham Road still appear to be noisier than after the remedial work and Norfolk County Council had been on site to investigate the problem. The refreshing of the white lines and signs on the roads in the village is to be reported to the Highways Department again. The potholes, hedges and dropped ironwork will be reported to the Highways Department.

Grass Cutting of the Churchyard: The Parish Council has decided not to renew the contact for the grass cutting of the churchyard. The cutting is not the responsibility of the Parish Council but of the Parochial Church Council. The PCC has been informed that the Parish Council will not undertake the cutting from the end of this cutting season but will make a donation to the Parochial Church Council to assist with the cost of cutting. The surplus from the cost of the cutting is to be donated to other organisations within the village to assist with any maintenance or upkeep that is needed.

Planning: Applications: There were no applications to consider.

Decisions: The application for the minor material amendment to the land west of Tittleshall to enable an additional structure to be erected on site had been granted permission.

Objection to the Accounts: A copy of the letter from the External Auditor to the objector had been received by the Parish Council. The objector has now the opportunity to respond to this letter before the Parish Council may make any further comments and the External Auditor makes his decision.

NOVEMBER 2013

At the November Parish Council meeting, attended by six Councillors the following was considered:

Highways: The flooding on Mileham Road had been reported and the Highways engineer had met the landowner on site to ensure that this does not flood again. It is hoped that the remedial action will be successful. The Clerk had met the Highways Engineer to discuss a possible trod on Tittleshall Road near to Back Lane under the Local Highway Improvement Parish Partnership Scheme. The Highways Engineer will report back to the Parish Council on the cost and feasibility. Whilst the Highways Engineer was in Litcham he was shown the problems of the hedging on Druids lane near to the telephone exchange and the footway at the corner of Lexham Road and Pound Lane and these will be dealt with when the Community Rangers are next in Litcham.

Nar Valley Way: Councillor Lawrence had attended a meeting at Swaffham regarding Walkers are Welcome registered villages. The registration of a village for this in other areas has increased the trade for the local businesses and the Parish Council is awaiting a visit from one of the officers concerned with this to explain the Walkers are Welcome registration.

Planning:

Applications: No comment was made on the application for the installation of two lights on the elevation of the operating building at the solar park to the west of Tittleshall.

Decisions: Breckland council had refused permission for the erection of a detached building for the storage of wood for fencing business at Coronation Farm Litcham Road Mileham..

Objection to the Accounts: A further letter had been received by the External Auditor and forwarded to the Parish Council. The Parish Council; has decided to make no further comments as it feels that it has responded fully.

Next meeting of Litcham Parish Council is due to be held on 2 December 2013 at the

DECEMBER 2013

At the **December** Parish Council meeting, attended by seven Councillors and one member of the public the following was considered:

Highways: The flooding on Mileham Road had occurred again and the Highways Engineer will be informed so that alternative measures can be taken.

The Highways Engineer had reported back to the Parish Council on the feasibility of a trod on Tittleshall Road. Unfortunately this is not a suitable site because of its proximity to the road on a bend and because of the problems that would ensue with the ditch. Recently a vehicle has driven over the verge and collapsed part of the verge into the ditch, which will be reported.

The hedging on Druids Lane near to the telephone exchange has been cut back but the footway has not been sided out along Lexham Road near to Pound Lane.

The loose ironwork on Church Street, and potholes on B1145 and Tittleshall Road will all be reported.

Precept: It was agreed to maintain the precept at the same figure as last financial year which is £9500. Whilst the precept is the same as last year households may see an increase in their amount as at present Breckland Council is not paying any Rate Support Grant to Town and Parish Councils as it did last financial year. The final decision on the payment of this will be made at the Cabinet meeting in December.

Community Car Scheme: This is now up and running and any journeys can be requested through Liz Christie on 701765.

The Green: The Parish Council had still not heard whether the cost of new posts for The Green will be paid for by Solar Century but it is hoped a decision will be heard in the next month.

Objection to the Accounts: No decision has been received from the External Auditor on the objection to the accounts.

END OF EXTRACT FOR 2 0 1 3

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