

LITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Extracts 2015

As published in the Church and Village Magazine

FEBRUARY 2015

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

Youth Club: As this is no longer running the Parish Council hopes that there are some volunteers who would be willing to organise a club. The Parish Council has been approached by a charity who would assist with the initial organisation of a club. If anyone is interested please contact any Councillor or the Clerk.

Access to the Churchyard from Druids Lane: A meeting was held with the PCC and agreement has been reached for the Parish Council to install a kissing gate to allow access from Druids Lane to the graveyard. Quotations are being obtained for this and clarification on the size of gate that is needed. The Parish Council has agreed to donate a sum of money to the PCC equal to the cost of the grass cutting for the year. The churchyard should therefore be cut monthly from March to October, a maximum of eight cuts. The Parish Council is delighted that agreement has been reached on both these matters.

Highways: A parishioner raised the problem of parking on Church Street and the Highways Engineer is to be requested to meet on site to discuss this with the Parish Council and the parishioner. The Parish Council is disappointed that the footway at the junction of Lexham Road and Pound Lane has not yet been finished. Norfolk County Council will be contacted again regarding this and to side out Back Lane and to repair potholes on Lexham Road.

A complaint had also been received about the hedges on Front Street which are now overhanging the highway and causing difficulties to both pedestrian and vehicle users. The householders will be written to to request that the bushes and hedges be cut back to the property boundary.

Complaint Against Councillors: A parishioner had complained to Breckland Council that three Councillors had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct. Breckland Council had investigated the matter and had found that there is no evidence of a failure to comply with the Code of Conduct and the matter is now closed.

Speedwatch: The Speedwatch team has not been able to hold any sessions during November and it is unlikely that any more will be held until the spring. The team has been commended by the Safety Camera team about the number of vehicles that have been caught speeding. In all 46 vehicles who were doing more than 37mph have received letters in the summer period. More volunteers would mean that more sessions could be held. If any parishioner feels that they could spare an hour a month please contact the co-ordinator Gwen Page on 01328 701523.

Community Car Scheme: This is now up and running and any journeys can be requested through Liz Christie on 701 765.

MARCH 2015

At the **March** Parish Council meeting, attended by seven Councillors and two parishioners the following was considered:

Youth Club: As this is no longer running the Parish Council hopes that there are some volunteers who would be willing to organise a club. The Parish Council has been approached by a charity who would assist with the initial organisation of a club. If anyone is interested please contact any Councillor, the Clerk or Richard Bailey on 700 539.

Access to the Churchyard from Druids Lane: Formal agreement has been reached with the Parochial Church Council to install a kissing gate and for the Parish Council to donate to the cutting of the churchyard for 2015 season. Quotations are being obtained for the kissing gate and it is hoped that this will be installed within the next two months.

Planning: No objection was raised to the addition of canopies, erection of conservatory, replacement of temporary stables and a new access at Litcham Farm House Tittleshall Road. The Parish Council supported an application for the erection of detached dwelling on land off Drury Lane. Whilst this is outside the settlement boundary it was considered that in the light of its proximity to a business site this application should be supported.

Highways: A parishioner raised the matter of there having been two accidents in Manor Drive which although not serious highlighted the fact that there is no white lining at the exit from the Health Centre. Norfolk County council are to be requested to consider the addition of white lines at this point to ensure that vehicles remain on the correct side of the road. The potholes that are appearing on Pound Lane, Weasenham Road, Druids Lane and the B1145 Lexham Road and at Swan Cottages will be reported. The footway at the junction of Pound Lane and Lexham Road is unlikely to be completed until the next financial year which commences in April. Anglian Water is to be contacted regarding the number of tankers travelling into and out of the village. This again appears a disturbing occurrence and Anglian Water is to be reminded that the tankers should use the B1145 and not the Tittleshall Road.

Speedwatch: The Safety Camera Team have again been in the village following the successful sessions held by the Speedwatch Team. The team is intending to commence more sessions in the spring. More volunteers would mean that more sessions could be held. If any parishioner feels that they could spare an hour a month please contact the co-ordinator Gwen Page on 01328 701523.

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

A P R I L 2 0 1 5

At the **April** Parish Council meeting

MAY 2015

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

Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman: Councillor Oldfield was appointed Chairman and Councillor Mitchell was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

Planning: No objection was raised to the applications for a Super Eco House on land adjacent to Lime Kiln House or to the construction of two storey extension at Pendle Weasenham Road

Youth Club. As this is no longer running the Parish Council hopes that some volunteers would be willing to organise a club. The Parish Council has been approached by a charity who would assist with the initial organisation of a club. If anyone is interested please contact any Councillor, the Clerk or Richard Bailey on 700539.

At the **June** Parish Council meeting, attended by six Councillors and District Councillor E Gould the following was considered:

Access to the Churchyard from Druids Lane: At present the Parish Council is awaiting clarification from The Parochial Church Council on a couple of matters. The Parish Council is concerned about the long term commitment that the Parochial Church Council wants the Parish Council to agree to. If the Parish Council does not fund the grass cutting in the future then the Parochial Church Council has stated that it would be entitled to close the kissing gate without notice at its sole discretion. The members are worried that in the future it may not be able to support the grasscutting of the churchyard and that the kissing gate will be closed.

Planning: No objection was raised to the erection of a detached garage at 33 Wellingham Road.

Highways: Norfolk County Council had confirmed that the road in Manor Drive is not wide enough for a white line to be painted in the centre of the road as had been requested following representation from a parishioner. The footway at the junction of Pound Lane and Lexham Road had been installed as far back as the existing wall and Breckland Council have been requested to move the existing road name sign if possible. Anglian Water has confirmed that the tankering has now been completed and that in future it will look to use the B1145 and not the Tittleshall Road.

The Common: The litter bin in the car park on The Common is always full to overflowing and the Parish Council has agreed to purchase a larger bin and donate this to the Common provided that this will still be emptied by Breckland Council. The tenant of Long Meadow is continuing to access the land he rents by driving over the ancient barrow. He will be written to requesting that he uses the correct access.

Speedwatch: More volunteers would mean that more sessions could be held. If any parishioner feels that they could spare an hour a month please contact the co-ordinator Gwen Page on 01328 701523.

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

JUNE 2015

At the **June** Parish Council meeting

JULY 2015

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

Planning: No objection was raised to the application for the provision of a double class base modular accommodation for a period of five years at Litcham School primary site. Permission had been granted by Breckland Council for the construction of two storey extension and replacement porch at Pendle Weasenham Road, the erection of detached dwelling on land off Drury Lane, the erection of detached garage at 33 Wellingham Road, the proposed canopy, portico, conservatory, replacement stable block/garage and new access at Litcham Farmhouse and for a Super Eco House on land adjacent to Lime Kiln House.

Youth Club. As this is no longer running the Parish Council hopes that there are some volunteers who would be willing to organise a club. The Parish Council has been approached by a charity who would assist with the initial organisation of a club. If anyone is interested please contact any Councillor, the Clerk or Richard Bailey on 700539.

Access to the Churchyard from Druids Lane: The Parish Council is to proceed with the submission of a plan to the Parochial Church Council for the new kissing gate. The Parish Council is still concerned about the long term commitment to the donation to assist with the cutting of the grass in the churchyard.

Highways: Norfolk County Council is to be requested to maintain the footways in Litcham as it appears that the footway along Lexham Road has not had the verges cut or the hedge lowered. The footway between Back Street and Front Street does not appear to have been sprayed again this year. Norfolk County Council is to be reminded as it was reported last year and Norfolk County Council confirmed that it would be added. The sign on the footway at the junction of Pound Lane and Lexham Road is to be moved by Breckland Council. This footway is also to be reported to Norfolk County Council as the grass is already coming through the surface.

The Common: Breckland Council has confirmed that it will empty a second litter bin on the Common. The tenant of Long Meadow is now accessing the land he rents by using the correct access.

Speedwatch: A session was held on 17th June during which 34 vehicles were recorded doing speeds between 35 and 52mph of which 19 were doing over 37mph.

More volunteers would mean that more sessions could be held. If any parishioner feels that they could spare an hour a month please contact the co-ordinator Gwen Page on 01328 701523.

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

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

SEPTEMBER 2015

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

Planning: No objection was raised to the application for a change of use of storage building to steel fabrication at The Barn adjacent to Coronation Farm Litcham Road Mileham or to the erection of a dwelling on land adjacent to Anvil House Butt Lane. Permission had been granted for the provision of a double class base modular accommodation for a period of five years at Litcham School primary site.

Youth Club. As this is no longer running the Parish Council hopes that there are some volunteers who would be willing to organise a club. The Parish Council has been approached by a charity who would assist with the initial organisation of a club. If anyone is interested please contact any Councillor, the Clerk or Richard Bailey on 700539.

Highways: A comprehensive list of problems with the roads in and around the village has been compiled and all the defects will be reported to Norfolk County Council. The Highways Department had however repaired the potholes on Pound Lane and had sided out Back Lane but other items reported such as Tittleshall Road, the footway along Lexham Road and the footway at the junction of Pound Lane and Lexham Road which has weeds growing through the new asphalt will be added to the list being sent. Unfortunately the Peelings Coaches' service to Fakenham on Thursday Market Day has been withdrawn. This service is a commercial service, not supported by Norfolk County Council and will not be replaced. There are alternative services but to markets on different days.

Finance: The External Audit had been completed with no comments from the Auditor. The Annual Return is available for any parishioner to inspect by contacting the Clerk. The Parish Council has agreed to donate £500 to the Jubilee Hall to assist with the renovation of the building.

Speedwatch: No session had been able to be held in July or August. Norfolk County Council is to be requested to assess the junction of Front Street and Back Street for the siting of the SAM2 sign provided that there is adequate visibility along Lexham Road. This would give additional data which can be passed to the police.

More volunteers would mean that more sessions could be held. If any parishioner feels that they could spare an hour a month please contact the co-ordinator Gwen Page on 01328 701523.

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

OCTOBER 2015

At the **October** Parish Council meeting, attended by six Councillors, County Councillor and one parishioner the following was considered:

Planning: There were no applications to consider and no decisions to report.

Youth Club. As this is no longer running the Parish Council hopes that there are some volunteers who would be willing to organise a club. The Parish Council has been approached by a charity who would assist with the initial organisation of a club. If anyone is interested please contact any Councillor, the Clerk or Richard Bailey on 700539.

Highways: The comprehensive list of problems with the roads in and around the village that had been compiled for the previous meeting had all been reported to Norfolk County Council. A response had been received stating that all the defects would be investigated and any remedial action needed programmed. The hedge and overhanging trees on Pound Lane are to be reported and the landowner contacted. The Highway Community rangers are to be requested to cut back the verges outside the bungalow on Church Street and the Old Fire station. The County Councillor is investigating the ownership of the ditch along Church Street to the bridge to ensure that this is cleared of brambles and any obstructions prior to the winter.

Kissing Gate on Druids Lane: Plans of the proposed kissing gate are to be forwarded to the Parochial Church Council for approval.

Finance: The Parish Council is considering upgrading the lamps in the streetlights to LED over a period. This would be more efficient and use less electricity with a saving on those costs of about 80%. Clarification is being sought to ensure that these lamps will be low light emission.

Speedwatch: Unfortunately the coordinator has decided to cease coordinating the sessions. Therefore a new coordinator is required to maintain the Speedwatch capability in the village.

If any person would like to take this task on then please contact any Councillor or the Clerk.

More volunteers would mean that more sessions could be held. If any parishioner feels that they could spare an hour a month please contact the Clerk.

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

NOVEMBER 2015

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

Planning: No objection was raised to the conversion of barn to single dwelling including two single storey extensions at Pilgrims Barn 38 Church Street provided that the existing flint wall is kept and not demolished and a red brick wall built. The erection of a dwelling on land adjacent to Anvil House Butt Lane had been refused permission by Breckland Council.

The Green: A lorry had driven over the edge of the Green and this had been repaired by John Madden for which the Parish Council is very appreciative and commends his community spirit.

Highways: The hedge on Pound Lane had been reported to the landowner and he had confirmed that this would be cut back in this years cutting programme. The Highway Community Rangers had been requested to cut back the brambles and nettles alongside the footway and the verges outside the bungalow on Church Street and the Old Fire station. Norfolk County Council is still investigating the ownership of the ditch along Church Street to the bridge.

The dropped ironwork on Church Street near to the Anglian Water pumping station is to be reported.

Winter Gritting Routes: The Parish Council wishes to remind all vehicle users that the Dereham Road through to Gressenhall is NOT gritted by Norfolk County Council. The Highways Department provide at least one gritted route to all villages. The B1145 through Litcham is gritted as is the Dunham Road and the Tittleshall Road as far as Tittleshall but not from Tittleshall to Fakenham.

Kissing gate on Druids Lane: Plans of the proposed kissing gate have been forwarded to the Parochial Church Council for approval.

Finance: The Parish Council agreed to upgrade the lamps in the street lights to LED over a period. This would be more efficient and use less electricity with a saving on those costs of about 80%. These lamps are white light and point down which should ensure there is minimal light pollution. It was agreed to replace 10 of the lamps in this financial year and 10 next year.

Speedwatch: Unfortunately the coordinator has decided to cease coordinating the sessions. Therefore a new coordinator is required to maintain the Speedwatch capability in the village.

If any person would like to take this task on then please contact any Councillor or the Clerk.

More volunteers would mean that more sessions could be held. If any parishioner feels that they could spare an hour a month please contact the Clerk.

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

DECEMBER 2015

At the **December** Parish Council meeting, attended by six Councillors, County Councillor M Kiddle Morris and one parishioner the following was considered:

Planning: There were no planning applications to consider.

Highways: The SAM2 sign which records speeds of vehicles had been erected on Tittleshall Road. This was in response to a request from a parishioner for traffic calming measures on Tittleshall Road to reduce the speed of vehicles. The data will be used to determine if there is a speeding problem before consulting Norfolk County Council. The County Councillor is to discuss with Litcham School the problems of parking at the Primary School site to ascertain if any improvement can be achieved.

Kissing gate on Druids Lane: The plans of the proposed kissing gate have been approved by the Parochial Church Council but the Parish Council needs to check if planning permission is needed and to clarify the terms under which the gate will be allowed by the Parochial Church Council.

Finance: The Parish Council set the precept for the next financial year at the same level as last year. This should mean that amount that each household pays as the proportion of the Council Tax to the Parish Council does not increase.

Speedwatch: Unfortunately the coordinator has decided to cease coordinating the sessions. Therefore a new coordinator is required to maintain the Speedwatch capability in the village.

If any person would like to take this task on then please contact any Councillor or the Clerk.

More volunteers would mean that more sessions could be held. If any parishioner feels that they could spare an hour a month please contact the Clerk.

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

END OF EXTRACT FOR 2 0 1 5

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>