

LITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Extracts 2015

As published in the Church and Village Magazine

FEBRUARY 2016

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.

M A R C H 2 0 1 6

A P R I L 2 0 1 6

Prior to the Parish Council meeting the Annual Parish Meeting was held. Unfortunately there were no representatives of organisations present to present their reports. The reports received will be attached to the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and posted on the website.

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

Planning: Applications: The Parish Council raised no objection to the retention of a waterless toilet on approved Lexham Solar Farm 3PL/2012/1020/F. **Decisions:** Permission had been granted to convert the garage and the erection of two storey side extension at Willow House Druids Lane.

Highways: Whilst a number of problems had been repaired by Norfolk County Council there are still a number that do not appear to be able to be resolved. The Clerk will contact the Highways Department again to try and have the potholes on Pound Lane, Dereham Road and the edges of the Mileham Road and Tittleshall Road repaired.

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.

Play Area: The first Committee meeting had been held on 1 April consisting of 6 members and a name had been chosen-Litcham Community Recreation Project. A further meeting is to be held on 29 April.

Access to the Churchyard from Druids Lane: A site meeting has been agreed and it is hoped that agreement will be agreed on the site for the new gate at this meeting.

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

The Community Car Scheme has proved to be very popular but there is a shortage of drivers. At present there are only three drivers. This is causing some strain on the ability to provide the service. If any parishioner can give a few hours of their time each month for the benefit of other parishioners please contact Liz Christie on 701765. Please do not forget that you may need this service yourself in the future.

The next meeting of Litcham Parish Council is due to be held on **9 May 2016** at the Jubilee Hall to follow at 7.30p.m. 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 on 01362 861112 or on the Litcham website.

M A Y 2 0 1 6

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

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman: Councillor Mike Oldfield was unanimously elected Chairman and Councillor Mitchell Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

Planning: Applications: The Parish Council raised no objection to the erection of Super Eco House, with associated, with associated garage, access and landscaping (revised scheme) & removal of conditions 7 & 8 on3PL/2015/0460/F nor to the erection of single storey rear and side extension at Point House Back Street. **Decisions:** There were no decisions to report.

Highways: The rangers are due in the village in May and several items that have not been repaired will be reported again. In addition it will be requested that the drains and gulleys on Church Street are cleared and on Tittleshall Road. New potholes on Tittleshall Road will be reported and the Give Way sign on Druids Lane that has been hit and turned. The concerns of parishioners about parking at the Primary School were raised again. The Parish Council has no authority to act in this matter and if the vehicles are parked and causing an obstruction then the police is to be informed. The Clerk will contact the PCSO to see if it is possible to attend a meeting.

Access to the Churchyard from Druids Lane: The site meeting was held and it was agreed at this meeting to site a kissing gate on Druids Lane. The Parochial Church Council has applied for permission for this and at the sub committee it was recommended for approval. This now has to be approved by the main committee and it will take 28 days after this before formal approval is given.

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

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JUNE 2016

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

Planning: Applications: There were no applications to consider. **Decisions:** Breckland Council had granted permission for the retention of a waterless toilet on approved Lexham Solar Farm 3PL/2012/1020/F.

Highways: The items that were reported last month do not appear to have been repaired. The following therefore will be reported again. Norfolk County Council will be requested that the drains and gulleys on Church Street are cleared and on Tittleshall Road, potholes on Tittleshall Road and the Give Way sign on Druids Lane that has been hit and turned. In addition Norfolk county Council is to be contacted regarding the verge at the playing field as only a small width has been cut which means that there is still a visibility problem. The Clerk had contacted the PCSO regarding the parking at the Primary School and she has promised that she will attend site at the peak times.

Access to the Churchyard from Druids Lane: This has been approved by the main committee and the date for any comments to be made is 16 June.

Street Lighting: the new LED lamps fitted to the street lamps do not go out as did the old ones at midnight but are dimmed to save 50% of the usage.

Dog Bin on Weasenham Road: An increase in dog fouling has been reported and the Parish Council is requesting clarification from Breckland Council whether its policy on collection of dog waste has changed. The Parish Council will consider this matter again at its next meeting and may consider the purchase of another dog bin. The Dog Warden is to be requested to visit the area to see if any further signage would be appropriate.

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

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Accounts: The accounts for the financial year April 2015 to March 2016 were approved. These are available for examination by any parishioner by contacting the Clerk

J U L Y 2 0 1 6

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

Planning: Applications: No objection was raised to the infill of semi enclosed courtyard for provision of extension to two classrooms at Litcham Primary School. However concern was raised regarding the increased parking that would ensue at the school during collection time and this would be raised in the response to Norfolk County Council. The inability to download the plans by councillors would also be raised. No extension had been possible for the amended plans for the erection of single storey rear and side extension at Point House, Back Street. The amended plans moved the extension away from the corner detailing of the existing building therefore leaving it unharmed and some points of detailing were amended in order to better reflect the existing building. **Decisions:** Breckland Council had granted permission for the erection of single storey rear and side extension at Point House, Back Street, the conversion of barn to single dwelling including two storey extensions at Pilgrims Barn Church Street and for the erection of detached dwelling on land adjacent to Anvil House Butt Lane.

Highways: There was concern that the items reported previously had not been repaired or cleared and these will be reported again. In addition potholes on Dereham Road, outside the Bull at the crossroads and on Tittleshall Road will also be reported. The County Council will also be requested to cut back the verges on various roads as the signs in many places are obscured.

Access to the Churchyard from Druids Lane: The approval for the installation of this has been received and it is hoped that this will be installed prior to the next meeting.

Street Lighting: The new LED lamps have been fitted to the remaining poles and a new tariff for the reduced consumption is to be requested.

Dog Bin on Weasenham Road: Breckland Council will be contacted as it has been reported that dog waste may now be placed in ordinary bins that have the requisite signage .

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

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S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 6

At the **September** Parish Council meeting which was attended by seven Councillors, County Councillor M Kiddle Morris and three parishioners the following was considered:

Planning: Applications: There were no applications to consider. **Decisions:** Norfolk County Council had granted permission for the infill of semi enclosed courtyard for provision of extension to two classrooms at Litcham Primary School. Breckland Council had granted permission for the erection of super eco house with associated garage, access and landscaping (revised scheme) and removal of conditions 7&8 on 3PL/2015/0460/F on land adjacent to Lime Kiln House.

Highways: The verges on Mileham Road that are encroaching into the highway are to be reported. The Highways Department are also to be requested to cut back the verge at the Druids Lane/ Mileham Road junction as this is not allowing large vehicles to turn into Mileham Road without affecting the verge.

Dog Bin on Weasenham Road: Breckland Council had been contacted regarding the placing of dog waste in the litter bin near to the school. Breckland Council is not in favour of allowing dog waste to be placed in a bin close to a school. The Parish Council has therefore decided to request that the bin on Butt lane be used for dog waste as well. The Dog Warden will be asked to visit the parish to see if he can help with the problem. Any instances of dog fouling can be reported to him on 01362 858500.

Please clear up after your dog and place in the bins provided or take home and place in the green wheelie bin.

External Audit: The External Audit had been completed with no comments from the Auditor. The Annual Return may be inspected by any parishioner by contacting the Clerk.

Neighbourhood Watch: The Parish Council is keen to ensure that this continues but there is no coordinator for the scheme. **If any parishioner would be willing to take this on please contact the Clerk.**

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

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OCTOBER 2016

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

Planning: Applications: There were no applications to consider. **Decisions:** Breckland Council had granted permission for the change of use from Corner Shop to residential at the Corner Stores Mileham Road.

Local Plan: Two parcels of land had been submitted to Breckland Council for inclusion in the Local Plan. This Local Plan will determine the future of planning in the district including the allocation of housing until 2036. The two parcels of land are to the rear of Litcham Hall and to the west of Pound Lane. Several residents voiced their objection to these sites as it could result in an urban estate within a rural village and that it would not stop at the twenty houses proposed. It was stated that there is land available for infill but none of the sites for infill mentioned had been submitted for the Local Plan. Other parishioners felt that these sites would be advantageous to the village as it may well enable a play area to be constructed on land that has to be donated to the village by the developer. The District Councillor stated that Breckland Council went out to landowners requesting the submission of land and these are the only parcels of land submitted. The Parish Council decided to support either of the two parcels of land submitted as this would be advantageous to the village. All parishioners may comment on the plan either on-line at consult.breckland.gov.uk, in writing to Planning Policy Team at Breckland Council Elizabeth House Walpole Loke Dereham NR19 1EE or by e-mail to planningpolicyteam@breckland.gov.uk

Dog Bin on Weasenham Road: Breckland Council had agreed that the dog bin on Butt Lane can be used for dog waste as well. Signs had been received for this and they will be placed on the bin. A new sign is to be requested to be placed on the passing place pole on Butt Lane regarding dog fouling and the penalties that may occur. Breckland Council will also be asked if a new bin can be sited on Weasenham Road near to where the telephone box used to be. Any instances of dog fouling can be reported to the Dog Warden on 01362 858500. **Please clear up after your dog and place in the bins provided or take home and place in your green wheelie bin.**

Neighbourhood Watch: The Parish Council is keen to ensure that this continues but there is no coordinator for the scheme. **If any parishioner would be willing to take this on please contact the Clerk.**

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

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N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 6

At the November Parish Council meeting which was attended by seven Councillors, County Councillor M Kiddle Morris and three parishioners the following was considered:

Planning: Applications: There were no applications to consider. **Decisions:** There were no decisions to report.

Local Plan: A parishioner raised the matter of the Local Plan stating that to give access onto the B1145 from the proposed development a large splay would have to be constructed. This would involve removing several fine specimens of trees which would spoil the entrance into Litcham. He also stated that a better site could be found than that submitted which would not affect the rural village. Breckland Council will be contacted to confirm if other sites have been submitted or if they can be in the future.

Access to the Churchyard from Druids Lane: This had been blessed at a topping out ceremony on 5 November with a glass of Beeston Brewery "Worth the Wait" beer.

Dog Bin on Weasenham Road: Breckland Council had agreed that a new dog bin can be sited on Weasenham Road and had suggested two sites. It was agreed to request that this be sited opposite number 6 Weasenham Road and Norfolk County council will now be contacted for permission.. Any instances of dog fouling can be reported to the Dog Warden on 01362 858500. **Please clear up after your dog and place in the bins provided or take home and place in your green wheelie bin.**

Neighbourhood Watch: The Parish Council is keen to ensure that this continues but there is no coordinator for the scheme. **If any parishioner would be willing to take this on please contact the Clerk.**

Speedwatch: A parishioner had volunteered to coordinate a new Speedwatch team and the Clerk has contacted the police to obtain the equipment and to have the training undertaken.

Highways: Norfolk County Council had written to the owner of the hedge on Tittleshall Road but this had not as yet been cut back. Norfolk County Council will be contacted again.

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

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County Councillor's Report: He reported that the Council Tax from Norfolk County Council is likely to rise by 3.8% but this may be amended following the autumn statement from the new Chancellor.

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 6

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

Planning: Applications: There were no applications to consider. **Decisions:** There were no decisions to report.

Dog Bin on Weasenham Road: The Parish Council is awaiting the permission to site the dog bin on Weasenham Road. Any instances of dog fouling can be reported to the Dog Warden on 01362 858500. **Please clear up after your dog and place in the bins provided or take home and place in your green wheelie bin.**

Neighbourhood Watch: The Parish Council is keen to ensure that this continues but there is no coordinator for the scheme. **If any parishioner would be willing to take this on please contact the Clerk.**

Speedwatch: Unfortunately the parishioner who volunteered to become the coordinator is no longer able to do so. **If any parishioner would be willing to take this on please contact the Clerk.**

Highways: The Parish Council agreed to support the school in its efforts to improve the signage along Mileham Road for the times that pupils are crossing to the playing field. This will entail applying to Norfolk County Council as a Local Highway Improvement Scheme which if successful the County Council will fund 50% of the cost. The Parish Council and High School will fund the other 50% jointly.

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

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Precept: The Parish Council has decided to raise the precept this year. The precept was reduced in 2015 and remained the same in 2016. Unfortunately there are several items that the Parish Council will have to fund in the future, for example the Roadside Nature Reserve, which have always been funded by other authorities. The members were mindful that there may be a change to the legislation on Parish Council precepts so it was felt that it was prudent to raise it this year so that there would be a higher base from which to start in the future if there is new capping legislation. This will enable the Parish Council to support future projects within the parish, for example a new play area.

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.

END OF EXTRACT FOR 2 0 1 6

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.

Litcham Parish Council - Extracts 2015

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