

LITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Extracts 2017

As published in the Church and Village Magazine

FEBRUARY 2017

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

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

Local Plan: The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk had had a meeting with the Planning Policy Team at Breckland Council regarding additional sites that had been put forward for the Local Plan. It was raised at this meeting that a possible entrance to housing could be made on Lexham Road further from the centre of the village and access the site from the rear of the former Council Houses on Lexham Road. This would give access to either of the sites to the north of Lexham Road. The other site between Pound Lane/Butt Lane and Tittleshall Road was also discussed and it was suggested that no traffic should be able to access Pound Lane but exit the site onto Tittleshall Road. There was concern raised that this would still bring traffic along Tittleshall Road to the crossroads at the Bull Inn. Pedestrian access to the Primary School and a parking area could still be provided for without more traffic using Pound Lane. The Parish Council is to write to the planning policy Team stating that it is still in favour of development within the village and would support any of the three sites submitted provided a suitable traffic management arrangement could be achieved.

Dog Bin on Weasenham Road: The licence has been received and the dog bin will be ordered and erected. 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.

Highways: The Parish Council is to report the following to Norfolk County Council:- a sign on Lexham Road which is obscured, the poor state of the lay by on Tittleshall Road, a school sign in the hedge on Wellingham Road, the hedge at the Mount on Butt Lane again, the junction of B1145 Mileham Road and Druids Lane, a pothole opposite the Jubilee Hall on Church Street, the white lining of Front Street/Church Street and to side out Back Lane so pedestrians are able to get off the road safely

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. The PCSO is also to be requested to visit the village as there is still parking on the extended H-bar at the junction of Druids Lane and Church Street.

MARCH 2017

Prior to the Parish Council Meeting the Annual Parish Meeting was held.

Reports were received at the meeting from the County Councillor, Local Organisations and the Chairman of the Parish Council. These will all be posted on the village website.

At the **February** 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 delivery of the dog bin is awaited and will then be erected. 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.**

Highways: The Parish Council had been informed by Norfolk County Council that the potholes on Dereham Road had been repaired but this pothole has now appeared again and will be reported. The footway beside the telephone box at the Post office is programmed for a small scheme which will be carried out later in the year. The Parish Council is pleased that the hedge at the Mount on Butt Lane and Tittleshall Road has been cut back. The lay by on Tittleshall Road has patching programmed and the white lining at the junction of Front Street and Church Street will be programmed but nothing will be ordered until the weather is suitable. Back Lane has no official pedestrian refuges but the Highways Inspector has programmed a sweeper to sweep both sides of the carriageway to assist with anyone walking along this section. The hedges that are obscuring signs have all been programmed to be cleared and all signs to be cleaned. A resident had contacted the Parish Council regarding the speed of vehicles along Butt Lane and that the vehicles are mounting the pavement. It is hoped that the cutting of the hedge at The Mount will assist with vehicles being able to be passed. The Parish Council is to request that the SAM2 sign be erected on the passing place sign to obtain the data of the speed of traffic. The potholes on Dereham Road, Mileham Road and at Swan Cottages on the B1145 are to be reported. The gulleys on Druids Lane are again to be requested to be cleared and improved.

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.

APRIL 2017

At the **April** Parish Council meeting that was attended by six Councillors, Country Councillor M Kiddle Morris and five members of the public the following was considered:

Planning: Applications: The Parish Council raised no objection to the externally illuminated fascia sign at the Post office 12 Church Street or to the variation on the tome limit at the Solar Farm on land to the west of Tittleshall. No objection was raised to the application for two detached single storey dwellings and garages on land to the rear of Fourways Mileham Road although the Parish Council did raise concerns on the sight lines available when exiting the properties onto Tittleshall Road. **Decisions:** There were no decisions to report.

Dog Bin on Weasenham Road: The dog bin has been erected on the site agreed by Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council. 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 wish to have a scheme in operation within the village but this is not possible without a coordinator. **If any parishioner would be willing to take this on please contact the Clerk.**

Highways: The Parish Council had reported to Norfolk County Council again that the pothole on Dereham Road had been repaired but this pothole has now appeared again. A further pothole near to the fishing lakes on Dereham Road had also been reported. Potholes on Druids Lane and Pound Lane will also be reported. The repair to the drain on the junction of Church Street and Front Street is still oozing water and this will be reported again.

The application for a Local highway improvement to the signage on Mileham Road for children crossing the road had been approved by Norfolk County Council. The money for this will be forwarded to Norfolk County Council so that the erection of the new signage and remote controlled operation can be installed. This is to be funded by Norfolk County Council the Parish council and Litcham School.

Defibrillator: The Parish Council is still investigating the installation of a defibrillator for use at all times in the village. There is already one at the Health centre and School but these are not available all the time. Both organisations will be contacted to see if these could be made available 24 hours per day. If this is not possible then a defibrillator could be sited in the telephone box near to the Post Office.

MAY 2017

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

Elections: Councillor M Oldfield was elected Chairman and Councillor C Mitchell Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

Planning: Applications: There were no applications to consider. **Decisions:** Breckland Council had given permission for the externally illuminated fascia sign at the Post office 12 Church Street.

Neighbourhood Watch: A parishioner has volunteered to become the co-ordinator of the scheme. As Norfolk Police have lost all the details of the previous scheme the Parish Council has to start again. The Clerk will be contacted the police and the Area Co-ordinator for Breckland to have the new Neighbourhood Watch scheme set up. The old scheme had volunteers for different areas of the village and if this is still needed in the new scheme the Clerk will be contacting those people again to see if they are still willing to continue.

County Councillor Report: County Councillor M Kiddle Morris was re-elected at the elections on 4 May for a further four years . He reported that following the elections there are 55 Conservative Councillors, 17 Labour, 12 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent. There is to be full Council meeting on 15 May at which Councillor Cliff Jordan will be elected Leader and Councillor Alison Thomas Deputy Leader.

District Councillor Report: District Councillor Gould reported that the entrance to the Cherry Tree Car Park has been resurfaced. The garden waste scheme is self funding with 21,000 brown bins in use. Breckland Council is hoping not to have a food waste bin as it would prefer to educate people to throw away less. The next consultation phase of the Local Plan has been delayed until June

Highways: The Parish Council had reported all items to Norfolk County Council and these are all being investigated. The SAM2 sign had been erected on Butt Lane but this had shown that there is not a serious issue of speeding and the speeds at which vehicles are travelling is not high enough for the police to take action.

Accounts: The accounts for the year ending March 31 2017 were approved. These will be posted on the website together with the report of the Internal Auditor.

Defibrillator: The Parish Council is still investigating the installation of a defibrillator for use at all times in the village. There is already one at the Health Centre and School but these are not available all the time. Both organisations had been contacted to see if these could be made available 24 hours per day but no reply had been received from either. If this is not possible then a defibrillator could be sited in the telephone box near to the Post Office.

JUNE 2017

At the June Parish Council meeting which was attended by seven Councillors and Country Councillor M Kiddle Morris the following was considered:

Planning: Applications: There were no applications to consider. **Decisions:** Breckland Council had refused permission for the 2 detached single storey dwellings and garages on land to the rear of Fourways Mileham Road. The reasons for refusing then application were noted and included the impact on local heritage assets, the urbanisation of part of the conservation area and to protect the amenity of the future occupiers as there would be limited access to natural light. These reasons are contrary to Breckland Council's Planning policies.

Neighbourhood Watch: There are vacancies for local coordinators for the following areas:-

Rectory Meadow and Druids Lane

Pound Lane, Back Street, Front Street and Lexham Road.

The north end of Tittleshall Road.

Weasenham Road and Keppel Close.

Lexham Road West, Hall Farm Hose and Coronation Cottages.

If any parishioner wishes to assist please contact the Clerk.

County Councillor Report: No committee meetings have been held since the elections so there was nothing to report. The meetings start the week commencing 12 June.

Highways: The Parish Council will report to Norfolk County Council the following:- the verge on Front Street from the footway towards Manor drive, the surface of the road at the junction of Mileham Road, the potholes outside Tithe Barn Mileham Road, the school signs on Wellingham Road and Druids Lane and the delimit sign on Lexham Road which are all hidden because of vegetation. The SAM2 sign will be erected again on Butt Lane to check the speed of vehicles travelling from Tittleshall Road. At present Norfolk County Council has stated that at present there is no possibility of having a part time one way system for Pound Lane and Butt Lane.

Defibrillator: The Parish Council has had no answer to its request to see if the existing defibrillators would be available 24 hours per day. Therefore the Parish Council will support the installation of a defibrillator in the telephone kiosk.

JULY 2017

At the July Parish Council meeting which was attended by seven Councillors and Country Councillor M Kiddle Morris and one member of the public the following was considered:

Planning: Applications: The Parish Council objected to the erection of two detached dwellings with associated access, landscaping and servicing on land adjacent to Lime Kiln House. This site is outside the settlement boundary and whilst the Super Eco house has been granted permission outside the settlement boundary and close to the proposed new dwellings the Parish Council felt that there was no similar outstanding architectural merit in these dwellings. The Parish Council was also concerned that by granting permission for these two then there would be more applications for dwellings on this site. The Parish Council raised no objection to the new porch and alterations to external materials, roof, walls and windows at 31 Church Street. The Parish Council also raised no objection to the amendment to position of parking on land adjacent to Anvil House Butt lane. **Decisions:** Breckland Council had granted permission for the variation of condition at the solar farm on land to the west of Tittleshall.

Neighbourhood Watch: There are vacancies for local coordinators for the following areas:-
Rectory Meadow and Druids Lane

Pound Lane, Back Street, Front Street and Lexham Road.

The north end of Tittleshall Road.

Weasenham Road and Keppel Close.

Lexham Road West, Hall Farm House and Coronation Cottages.

The PRISH Council agreed to purchase new signs for the scheme as the old ones state Homewatch not Neighbourhood Watch.

If any parishioner wishes to assist please contact the Clerk.

County Councillor Report: The Local Highway Partnership Scheme will be running gain in 2018/19. The Government has given a further £35 million to the County for Adult Social Services but it will still be necessary to cut the budget by a further £125 million.

Highways: The Parish Council will report to Norfolk County Council the following:- the footways on Lexham Road and Church Street and the finger post on the junction of Tittleshall Road and Butt Lane which appears to have lost the name of Wellingham off it.

JULY 24th (PLANNING)

The Parish Council

SEPTEMBER 2017

At the Parish Council meeting held on **24 July** which was attended by six Councillors and District Councillor E Gould the members considered two planning applications. The Parish Council objected to both applications, the first to the detailed plans for the erection of three dwellings at 8 Church Street and to the demolition of the existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling at 10 Church Street. For both these applications there was major concerns on the additional traffic accessing and egressing the sites which could impact severely on the Post office and shop. The access is not in the ownership of the applicant and there does not appear to be any agreement on access past the shop to the new dwellings. This access is quite narrow and could restrict the size of vehicles to the dwellings which again could impact on the viability of the shop.

At the **September** Parish Council meeting which was attended by seven Councillors and two members of the public the following was considered:

Planning: Applications: The Parish Council objected to the erection of two detached dwellings with associated access, landscaping and servicing on land adjacent to Lime Kiln House. This site is outside the settlement boundary and whilst the Super Eco house has been granted permission outside the settlement boundary and close to the proposed new dwellings the Parish Council felt that there was no similar outstanding architectural merit in these dwellings. The Parish Council was also concerned that by granting permission for these two then there would be more applications for dwellings on this site. The Parish Council raised no objection to the new porch and alterations to external materials, roof, walls and windows at 31 Church Street. The Parish Council also raised no objection to the amendment to position of parking on land adjacent to Anvil House Butt lane. Decisions: Breckland Council had granted permission for the new porch and alterations to external materials, roof, walls and windows at 31 Church Street, to the amendment to position of parking on land adjacent to Anvil House Butt Lane and for the demolition of the existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling at 10 Church Street. The application for the erection of two detached dwellings with associated access, landscaping and servicing on land adjacent to Lime Kiln House had been withdrawn by the applicant.

Neighbourhood Watch: There are vacancies for local coordinators for the following areas:-

Rectory Meadow and Druids Lane: Pound Lane, Back Street, Front Street and Lexham Road: the north end of Tittleshall Road; Weasenham Road and Keppel Close and Lexham Road West, Hall Farm House and Coronation Cottages.

If any parishioner wishes to assist please contact the Clerk.

Highways: The Parish Council was concerned that problems that have been reported are not being repaired and these problems will be reported to the County Councillor.

OCTOBER 2017

At the **October** Parish Council meeting which was attended by six Councillors, County Councillor M Kiddle Morris, District Councillor E Gould and eight members of the public the following was considered:

Planning: Applications: A presentation was given to the Parish Council on a proposed development on the land owned by Breckland Council between Weasenham and Wellingham Roads. This had been put forward for the Local Plan but severe constraints had meant that this was not assessed as suitable for inclusion. The developers believe that these constraints have been overcome and will be submitting a planning application in due course for the site. The representatives intimated that there would be space available for a play area but until such time as the planning application is received it will not be known the exact extent of this area or where it will be sited. No objection was raised to the development site at Lime Kiln house Back Lane for a proposed dwelling including means of access. Decisions: There were no decisions to note.

Neighbourhood Watch: There are vacancies for local coordinators for the following areas:-

Rectory Meadow and Druids Lane
Pound Lane
Back Street
Front Street and Lexham Road
the north end of Tittleshall Road
Weasenham Road and Keppel Close and Lexham Road West
Hall Farm House and Coronation Cottages.

If any parishioner wishes to assist please contact the Clerk.

The new signs for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme have been ordered and the coordinator will be contacting all who have said they will be coordinators in due course.

Highways: The Parish Council is still concerned that problems that have been reported are not being repaired and it is hoped that the County Councillor and Clerk will be meeting the new highways Engineer in due course.

County and District Councillor Reports: The County Councillor and District Councillor both reported that the budget setting process has commenced. The County Councillor stated that the County Council has to save £125 million over four years and it is likely that Council Tax will rise for the next two years by 4.9% which is 3% for Adult Social Services and 1.9% for other departments. The Police and Crime Commissioner is considering a business plan to take over the Fire and Rescue Service as well. At present the Fire and Rescue Service is part of Norfolk County Council and it is likely that the Council would object to it being devolved to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

NOVEMBER 2017

At the **November** Parish Council meeting which was attended by five Councillors and three members of the public the following was considered:

Planning: Applications: There were no applications to consider.

Decisions: The erection of 3 dwellings at 8 Church Street had been approved.

Neighbourhood Watch: There are vacancies for local coordinators for the following areas:-

Rectory Meadow and Druids Lane: Pound Lane, Back Street, Front Street and Lexham Road: the north end of Tittleshall Road; Weasenham Road and Keppel Close and Lexham Road West, Hall Farm House and Coronation Cottages.

If any parishioner wishes to assist please contact the Clerk.

The new signs for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme have been received and these will be attached to street furniture in due course. The coordinator will be contacting all who have said they will be coordinators in due course.

Highways: The Clerk had visited the village with the new Highways Engineer and had looked at many of the on-going problems. It is hoped that following this meeting these will now be resolved. The sign for Watery Lane at the junction with the Dereham Road which had been demolished had been reported to Breckland Council.

County and District Councillor Reports: The County Councillor reported that the budget setting process is continuing and the County Council aims to set a four year budget by looking at the way it delivers services and putting in place ways of delivering the services currently enjoyed in a smarter more efficient way.

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan is being reviewed and the call for sites has finished. The Council is now assessing these sites and the results will be issued for public consultation in the spring of 2018. The nearest mineral site submitted to the process is in Beeston adjacent to Back Lane.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service will soon be relocating their call response and operations HQ to Wymondham to co-locate with the police. This will ease the budget on the Fire Service. The Fire Service is currently recruiting retained fire-fighters but as they must be available within 5 minutes of their fire station recruitment is difficult.

There is no intention of ceasing to provide a mobile library service but it may be delivered in a different way and urban libraries could save costs by sharing buildings with other council services.

Two new committees have been formed. The first, the Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee to oversee Better Broadband for Norfolk and looking forward to installation of fibre to properties and better mobile phone coverage.

The second, the Business and Property Committee is to oversee economic development and the management of the Council's property portfolio and how the Council can create jobs and to take a more commercial approach to property management.

DECEMBER 2017

END OF EXTRACT FOR 2017

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>