

## LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

### **DRAFT Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Littleham Village Hall on Thursday 11 January 2024 at 19.15**

**Present:** Councillors: G Gray, G Smith, R Gent, N Tregoning, S Read, I Lawrence A Longstaff and M Brooks.

**Also Present:** County Councillor L Hellyer

**Apologies :** Councillors: P Jollands (Chairman), S Beer (Vice Chair), and C Hassall.

District Councillor P Pennington

**In Attendance:** *David Edwards Clerk to the Council*

#### **2789 - WELCOME.**

**In the absence of Councillor Jollands, it was RESOLVED Councillor Gray take the Chair. The Chair welcomed everyone to the Meeting and apologies were accepted.**

**A minute silence will be observed as a mark of respect and to remember Rosemary Gent and David Pinney who both passed away recently.**

*[DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillors are invited to declare any declarable interest, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. They are also reminded to consider whether any items within their Register of Interests should be updated].*

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2790 - Public Open Question Time - The Council RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders and adjourn the Meeting to receive questions and comments from the public.  
(Time limited to 15 minutes in total - Public can only speak for 3 minutes per person)

There were no questions from the public.

**Report by County and District Councillors** (*Allowance should be made for the District and County Councillor to speak later in the meeting should they be unable to arrive in time*).

The County Councillor and District Councillor Reports had been circulated and noted.

#### ***County Councillor report***

After a break over Christmas and new year, meetings have started again. Today, I have been to a meeting on fostering. We have nearly 900 children in care and are actively recruiting foster parents. It takes about 6 months to become a foster carer, with checks and training. Foster families can come in all shapes and sizes and are needed for full time fostering, respite care and emergency care, for when a child is suddenly taken into care.

One of the main things going on at county Hall this month is the setting of the budget. I am on Childrens scrutiny and health and adult care scrutiny and both committees have additional meetings this month to look at the budget. The budget for the new financial year from this April, will be agreed at the full council in February.

When it is ready the budget book is about the size of the yellow pages book. The budget has to balance by law, so in order to increase the budget for one area, would mean taking the money from somewhere else.

Currently 50% of the budget goes on adult social care for people of working age, between 18-64 years. The council does not employ anyone on the minimum wage/national living wage, but recent wage increases have added £28million to the budget bill. This is because Dcc pays for care from residential and Nursing homes etc, who have all seen their bills go up.

The next biggest cost is Childrens services, with children with high needs being the biggest expense. We are a large rural county and school transport costs are also very high.

Adult care and childrens services are both statutory services. Currently, 70% (to 77%) of the budget gets spent on 3% of the population of Devon. You will have seen in the news that some authorities have declared themselves bankrupt and often cite the costs of adult social care.

We did get £6.7 million extra money from central government before Christmas, for highways repairs, and are promised the same amount again in the new financial year. Budget constraints are very frustrating for everyone, including our highways officers.

Please keep on reporting issues to Devon County council. If you google Devon County Council report a problem, a page will come up with icons e.g. potholes, drains, overgrown vegetation, streetlights etc. Just click on the appropriate icon and follow the simple instructions.

Alternatively, you can telephone the customer care desk. 0345 155 1015 Highways 0345 155 1004

Speeding, or mud/slurry on the roads is a matter for the police. They can be contacted in non-emergency situations, via the Devon and Cornwall police website. I am always happy for residents to contact me. [Linda.hellyer@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.hellyer@devon.gov.uk) Telephone 07828758360

### **Questions to the County Councillor:**

Reference was made to the Shutta Path where confirmation has been received that it is now on the Definitive Map as a Public Right of Way. The request to change to a Bridleway has been submitted. This will need to be considered when the full order (see Minute 2791) has been completed. Evidence Forms will be required(it is noted that several have already been submitted). The local Equestrian Group has its AGM soon and the members will be asked to complete the forms.

Councillor Brooks stated that the condition of the road from Panoramic House to the Village Hall is unsafe. The road is breaking up and there are potholes and uneven surfaces.

***District Councillor P Pennington report: ( The following items were received late in the afternoon and not noted until after the meeting).***

CT setting. Torridge will probably go for the maximum amount without triggering a referendum. Strategic Plan consultation. It appears getting the Barnstaple to Bideford railway is greater than all the housing issues the district faces.

Best wishes for the new year.

Kind regards Phil

***It was RESOLVED to reconvene the Meeting***

**2791 - To Approve Minutes 2780 – 2788 of the Parish Council meeting held on 07 December 2023.**

**It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes.**

***Matters Arising -***

*2787 - It was noted that the Petition forms relating to Sir Geoffrey Cox MP letter dated 31 October 2023 need to be submitted by the end of January.*

*2786 - It was noted that the Shutta Path is now registered as a Public Right of Way and further information is awaited from Devon County Council regarding the installation of signing and other works to make it accessible. An item should be added to the Crosslet article to inform the residents.*

*Extract of the County Council resolution as follows:*

***The Committee considered the Report of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport (CET/23/90) which re-examined a proposal originally raised during the Definitive Map Review in Littleham parish in 2003-05. The Definitive Map Review was opened in the parishes of Littleham and Landcross in 2003, with an informal consultation carried out in early 2005. This consultation included a proposal to add a footpath along Upadown Lane in Littleham village.***

***During general discussion about the consultation, Members noted that no objection had been raised by the Parish Council***

***It was MOVED by Councillor Brook, SECONDED by Councillor Hellyer and RESOLVED that:***

***a Modification Order be made to modify the Definitive Map and Statement by adding a footpath along Upadown Lane, Littleham between points A – B, as shown on drawing number CCET/PROW/23/78 (Proposal 1). This would update the decision originally resolved by this Committee on 24 March 2005***

**2792 - PLANNING**

**To consider the Council response to the following application:**

Planning reference: 1/1133/2023/FUL

Removal of existing single storey extension and erection of single and partial double storey extension with porch.

Coach House, Littleham, Bideford Devon

**It was RESOLVED to recommend refusal with the following comments:**

The accuracy of the plans, which are unclear and rudimentary, need to be checked and ratified against the works. The applicant has cut down several mature trees and demolished a garage prior to planning approval. There have been no professional Wildlife Surveys. Recent surveys in the area

have identified the presence of at least 13 different bat species. The applicant has not stated what mitigation and enhancements he will undertake with regard to the wildlife which is required under the National Planning Policy Framework.

## **2793 - FINANCE:**

**a.The Council will RESOLVED the Precept for the Council Year 2024/2025 to be £6942.**

The draft budget provided of £6742 was increased by the addition of £200 to the Parish Paths budget.The following figures are as follows:

Defibrillator annual amount to set aside	£1000.00
Clerk salary	£2200.00
Hire of Village Hall	£ 300.00
DALC membership	£ 192.00
Auditor (Internal & external)	£ 400.00
Website costs	£ 350.00
Training ( costs expenses & travel)	£ 250.00
Community information/ marketing/communication	£ 150.00
Repairs & maintenance ( Bus shelter Notice boards)	£ 100.00
Grass cutting - Range Field	£1200.00
Parish Paths Partnership	£ 300.00
Biodiversity Projects	£ 500.00
Sub total	<b>£6942.00</b>

*This will result in an annual payment of £29.89 for a Band D property. Previous year the payment was £29.24. This represents an increase of 2.22%*

Councillor Brooks and Councillor Read had made several suggestions on future projects including a Pavilion or Bandstand on the Playing Field, contribution to repairs to the road at Church Lane, planting and general upkeep of verges. The planting or installation of planters adjacent to the Littleham bus stop.

The Clerk advised that these could be looked at in conjunction with other groups. The costs could be ascertained and funding sources investigated with the proposals brought back to the Council at a later date.

Councillor Lawrence expressed his concerns over the in balance of expenditure between Landcross and Littleham. It was felt that every item of expenditure regardless of location was considered on merit and without discrimination.

**b.To consider making any Grants to local Charitable organisations. An application was received from the Citizens Advice Bureau and Rosemary had asked that consideration be given to the North Devon Museum.**

**The Council RESOLVED not to make any Grants.**

**c. To consider setting aside a sum to fund a memorial for Rosemary and David.**

It is proposed that the Council work with the BioDiversity Group and Village Hall and rope off the corner where Pat Haddrell's tree is and plant more trees which would certainly be fitting way to remember Rosemary. That corner is never used for anything and would not interfere with any space requirements for the village fete.

It was noted that Councillor Jollands had obtained 2 trees from the Devon Wildlife Trust. There is no cost to the Council.

**The Council RESOLVED that in consultation with the Village Hall Committee the trees would be planted in an appropriate position in the Village Playing Field.**

**2794 - To discuss the response to emails and enquiries by the Council with regard to priority and the role of the Clerk and Councillor with regard to how each enquiry is dealt with. In addition to resolve the action to be taken with regard to the specific issues raised.**

**This relates to the following submissions from Mrs Marion Lawrence a resident of Landcross:**

*1. At the top of my lane(from Cornerways to Summer Ridge) there is a public footpath which gives access to the Tarka Trail commonly used by villagers, my main concern is that this public footpath is constantly being used by Tarka Trail users as a public convenience, I have lost count of the number of times I have walked down towards the bottom only to find men urinating just inside the entrance to the trail. I often have to stop and look in the opposite direction and wait whilst they do their deed to avoid embarrassment, when I walk with my two granddaughters it is very unpleasant and stressful, this is totally unacceptable in this day and age!*

*In answer to this problem, can I ask the Parish Council to consider cutting back part of the hedge to the secluded entrance, opening up this area and erecting a Public Footpath sign to discourage people urinating and defecating on a commonly used 'Public Footpath'!*

*2. Several years ago an entrance was created by Devon County Council to access the Tarka Trail on the corner of the main road that runs through Landcross, this is opposite the public footpath from Watertown Farm, many parishioners use these public footpaths as a route around the village, this is an extremely dangerous corner to cross, can the Parish Council consider the erection of two signs, one for each side of the road to warn motorists of pedestrians crossing and maybe some traffic calming measures and the reinstatement of the white line that denotes the edge of the carriageway.*

### **3.Submission from Mrs Jayne Brock a resident of Landcross**

*I have forwarded the email I received from Devon Highways in August regarding the grit bin on our land.*

*We would like it removed from our land as we intend to rebuild the wall that is falling down, the green grit bin is going to be in the way but we would also like it to be moved permanently to a new position within the lane in case other neighbours would like to use it.*

*when looking inside the bin it is very clear that this has not been used for many years and that the grit inside is no longer fit to use.*

*As the hill leading up to the main road that goes past our property is not the only way out, we feel on the very rare time when weather makes it difficult to climb the hill, us and our neighbours can take another route out to the main road.  
please can you advise us as to how we can arrange for this to happen.  
Kind regards, Jayne Brock*

The Clerk explained that the above submissions came to him by email and there had been delays due to the timing of the Council meetings for the items to be fully discussed. The issue of priority was noted and the concerns mentioned in submission 1 relating to public health were of greater urgency than the position of grit bins.

The Clerk confirmed that he had chased the Environmental Health Officer at Torridge District Council and suggested that a site meeting be arranged to discuss the actions to be taken.

**2795 - To discuss the maintenance and locations of the Grit bins.**

Councillor Brooks has made reference to the loss of the Grit Bin near to Robin Hill.

The owner of Newlands Landcross has asked that the Grit Bin outside their property is relocated as they need to rebuild the wall located by the Bin. (See Minute 2785 above).

**It was RESOLVED that the Grit Bin positioned at Moorhead Cross be moved to Robin Hill and the Grit Bin at Newlands Landcross be relocated on the verge adjacent to the A386.**

**It was RESOLVED that the installation of a Grit Bin between Furlong Farmhouse and Groves Cross Cottage be investigated.**

**2796 - To consider correspondence & communications requiring attention, E Mails circulated include:**

DALC/NALC - newsletter/updates/events

Public Sector - various

Torridge District Council - various

South West Cyber Resilience

The Rural Bulletin

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Devon County Council - various

Torridge DC - Planning applications

**These were noted.**

*Councillor Brooks proposed that a Litter Pick be organised.*

**Items for the next Council Meeting to be held on 01 February 2024 - Please note items for the Agenda to be sent to the Clerk by Monday 22 January 2024**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the Meeting closed at 21.15

Signed..... Date.....

Chair of the Council

