

## LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Littleham Village Hall on Thursday 04 April 2024 at 19.15**

**Present:** Councillors: S Beer (Vice Chair), C Hassall, M Brooks G Smith and I Lawrence

**Apologies :** Councillors: P Jollands (Chairman), G Gray, N Tregoning, A Longstaff, L Batty and S Read.

County Councillor L Hellyer and District Councillor P Pennington.

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

### **2820 - WELCOME.**

**In the absence of Councillor Jollands, the Vice Chair presided.**

**The Chair welcomed everyone to the Meeting and apologies were accepted.**

*[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.

**2821 - 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)

**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 Report had been circulated and noted. There was no written report from the District Councillors.

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

Since the last meeting, the consultation on devolution has closed. Both Devon County Council and Torbay Council will be looking at the responses prior to deciding at the end of April. I am going to another briefing about this on April 9<sup>th</sup> and there is a DCC full council to discuss this on April 29<sup>th</sup>. The aim is to have more say over housing, transport, adult education, jobs, and prosperity.

The decision to close the north Devon link centres was made by cabinet earlier in March. This was called in by Health and Adult care scrutiny, so that we could find out more about the mental health services that will be replacing the current drop ins. The buildings will be retained, and sessions run there by the mental health alliance as part of their statutory function.

For some considerable time, I have been asking the police and crime Commissioner to reopen the front office at Bideford Police station. She has visited the station, but the feeling seems to be that the building needs quite bit spent on it to restore the front office. There is no parking at the station for the public, and that access is not very good for folk with mobility issues, due to the steep steps. Instead, it is proposed to have a hub at the old harbourmaster's office on jubilee Square, which will be run in conjunction with the TDC community safety partnership. It won't be a front office as such, but their will be a Police presence which will hopefully deter anti-social behaviour in the town centre. It is not what I wanted but it is a start.

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

Councillor Brooks commented that she was going to raise the issue of the broken Finger Post at Moorhead Cross. Councillor Hellyer had previously made the point that the Finger Post was an indication to drivers of the crossroads when excusing the lack of white lines.

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

**2822 - To Approve Minutes 2809 – 2819 of the Parish Council meeting held on 07 March 2024.**

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

***Matters Arising -***

*2814 - The Clerk confirmed that the reply had been received from the Planning Officer related to Planning Application 1/001/2024/FUL and no further explanation had been given as to why the application had not been approved or the comment "Decline to Determine"*

Councillor Hassell advised that it was probably because the applicants had failed to provide the information required to satisfy the Planning Officer.

*2813 - The Clerk advised that the request had been made for a Devon County Highways Senior Manager to be the speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting, however, as a contingency measure the Annual Parish Meeting will be advertised to take place prior to the Council Meeting in May. This would satisfy the legislation. Should an acceptance be received from Devon County Council Highways Department a separate meeting can be arranged.*

**2823 - FINANCE:**

**It was RESOLVED:**

- **To ratify and approve the Cashbook as at 27.03.2024.** Councillor Beer to sign the Cashbook statement and Bank Statement to ratify the balance being reported. Balance as at

27.03.2024 - £6144.62.(the respective documents are attached and form part of the Minutes)

- **To ratify the payments agreed previously under the delegated Biodiversity events budget figure of £500:**

a) Tesco Stores ( refreshments re Wilder Littleham Event 16.03.2024) £41.97

b) TTS - stationery and paints for event as above £26.94

- **To ratify the payments received after the Agenda had been submitted and require payment prior to the next Council Meeting:**

a) Devon Association of Local Councils annual subscription £215.20

b) Torridge District Council re: Clerk Salary and Payroll administration £1055.84

**2824 - To receive an update on the actions of the Biodiversity Group and a brief report on the REACH Project related to community sustainable energy projects. See extract of E Mail from Donna Sibley - Sustainability and Climate Officer, North Devon and Torridge Councils.**

*There's an opportunity to work with Regen on an innovation project focused on the decarbonisation of rural areas. REACH: Rural Energy and Community Heat. The project has been funded by network users and consumers under the Strategic Innovation Fund, an Ofgem programme managed in partnership with UKRI.*

*Our goal is to find 5-10 rural communities to work with over the next 2 months to co-create innovative approaches for meeting the local area's decarbonisation ambitions. These will then be taken forward into a second round of project funding to support feasibility studies.*

*If your organisation represents a rural community that is interested in developing low carbon projects, including renewable generation, EV charging, energy storage, or low carbon heat, then we want to hear from you!*

*I'm intending to put an EoI in for this project to work with a few communities in North Devon/Torridge, using the Local Plan Review and our ambitions to get community benefit from Floating Offshore Wind as a draw to get Regen to work with a group rather than one-on-one. So far Bratton Fleming are up for it. I've also contacted Braunton. Would Littleham and Landcross be interested in joining this?*

*You're not committing to anything at this stage, it's just an exploration to see what might be possible. These things always seem to come last minute, I have to get the EoI in by midday on Tuesday 19th March. I would make it clear in the EoI that if Regen weren't amenable to working with a group up here, then individual parishes would be interested in working separate with them.*

The Clerk explained that he had been working with the Chair, Councillor Jollands, to investigate the options and opportunities available within this scheme. The Clerk and the Chair had joined the recent Webinar related to the REGEN project.

To take this further and assess the options the Clerk has asked Donna Sibley to meet with the Council, representatives from the Church, Village Hall and Biodiversity Group.

**2825 - To consider, update and Resolve to approve any changes to the Council Policy documents:**

- Co - option Policy
- Management of transferable Data
- Risk Analysis
- Safeguarding policy
- Sickness & Absence policy
- Subject Access (to information) Request Policy

The Clerk explained that the Council is required to show the Auditor that the review of its policies had taken place. The documents had been emailed to all the Councillors prior to the meeting.

The Chair requested a review of the Risk Analysis being actioned for the Bus shelter and the Phone Box. The Clerk confirmed that he would review the current policy and amend if necessary. *(it is noted that the Clerk undertakes a specific monthly visual inspection and other interim checks. The Policy states that both assets are close to neighbouring properties and are seen regularly by residents passing by).*

**It was RESOLVED that the Policies be approved.**

**2826 - To receive an update on the procedures taking place with regard to the Shutta Path as a Public Right of Way. The Devon County Council Committee Minute reads as follows:**

With regard to Upadown Lane, the Public Rights of Way Committee resolved at its November 2023 that a Modification Order should be made to record the route as a public footpath. However, the report also stated that if further evidence supporting a higher status, i.e. that of bridleway, then this could be considered if received by May 2024. I acknowledge that you have sent in further user evidence forms supporting bridleway status, and I will be evaluating these shortly.

A further report will be taken to the next meeting of the Committee which is on the 11th July 2024, evaluating the new evidence in conjunction with that previously considered. Whatever the outcome of the Committee is, a formal Modification Order will be made. If the additional evidence is sufficient to support bridleway status, then an Order will be made for that status, but if not, an Order will be made for footpath as previously resolved. When a Modification Order is made, it has to be published publicly with copies sent to statutory consultees, affected landowners, and the relevant local authorities, including your Parish Council. Notices will be posted at either end of the route and in the local press. There is then a 6 week consultation period. If at the end of the consultation period, there are no objections, then the Order can be confirmed. If there are any objections, the process continues, but I will elaborate on that later if we get to that stage.

Councillor Brooks suggested that the Lane should be known as “the Shutta Track” which is the correct name and that which it is known by residents of long standing in the Village. Once the Legal Order is confirmed the Council can refer to the Right of Way as the Shutta Track in all future correspondence and minutes.

**2827 - To consider correspondence & communications requiring attention. Emails circulated include:**

DALC/NALC newsletter/updates/events

Public Sector - various

Devon County Council - various newsletters

Torrige DC – various

Torrige DC - Weekly Planning applications

The Rural Bulletin

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Cyber Resilience Centre

The correspondence items were noted, but comment was made on the number of items and their relevance to the work of the Council. The Chair made the point that by receiving all the information, Councillors can make their own decision on what they read. The Clerk said that he would try and reduce the number of items by selecting those that do have items that are potentially of interest.

**2828 - Items for next meeting and Next Full Council Meeting - 09 May 2024.**

*(Please can you ensure that any items for the next meeting are received by the Clerk by Monday 29 April 2024)*

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the Meeting closed at 19.50

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

Chair of the Council