

LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT - Minutes of the Council Meeting held at Littleham Village Hall on Thursday 11 July 2024 at 19.15

- Present:** Councillor – N Tregoning - Chairman
Councillors: G Gray, S Read, M Brooks, G Smith, C Hassall and I Lawrence.
- Apologies :** Councillors P Jollands, A Longstaff and L Batty
District Councillor P Pennington
- Also Present:** County Councillor L Hellyer
- In Attendance:** *David Edwards - Clerk to the Council*

2850 - The Chair welcomed everyone to the Meeting, 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.

The Council RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders and adjourn the meeting.

Public Open Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

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 were noted. The report is attached to the Minutes.

A request was made to the County Councillor to arrange for the finger post at Littleham crossroads (opposite the Old Forge) to be repaired. The sign post at Moorhead Cross also remains broken. Councillor Brooks agreed to speak to the landowner at Moorhead Cross to ask if the hedge could be cut to improve vehicle visibility.

Councillor Hellyer advised that the County Council Public Rights Committee had approved the change of use for Shutta Path to a Bridle Way. The Council awaits formal notification from the Council Officers.

District Councillor Report:

There was no report from Councillor Pennington.

The Council questioned whether the permission had been granted for a new building at the property known as Carrysbrook House. The Clerk confirmed that he would contact the Planning Department at Torridge District Council.

19.40 hrs - County Councillor Linda Hellyer left the meeting
The Council reconvened

2851 - The Council RESOLVED to Approve Minutes 2840 – 2849 of the Parish Council meeting held on 06 June 2024.

Matters Arising - There were no matter arising.

2852 - PLANNING:

To discuss and/or respond to the following Planning Application:

Planning Application: 1/0537/2024/FUL

Proposal: Retrospective application for retention of building as open market dwelling (non compliance with condition 4 of 5 and planning permission 1/0651/2012/FUL)

Location: The Old Tallet, Hallsannery, Bideford, Devon

OS Map Reference: (E) 244972. (N) 124521

The Council RESOLVED that it had no objections.

6a. To discuss and make a response if necessary to the actions/works associated with:

Tree Preservation Order Number 003/2024

Land at Coach Drive Bideford.

(Please see also Emails from Councillor Hassall dated 26th June 2024 - shown below)

"I have now visited the site, which has already become a bulldozed building site and I attach (I hope) a couple of photos -- one of the entrance showing the thin remaining tree belt beside the A386, and a panorama of the whole devastation. The TPO seems a bit late as it seems to have been cleared at least a week or two and the TPO map includes the whole of the cleared area as well as the retained roadside belt.

The instructions on how to respond with comments seem positively archaic, requiring a written letter sent by pre-paid post !

I haven't had any response to my email yet,

I may email our TDC Councillor, Phil Pennington who is on the TDC Plans Committee and also owns adjacent land to the site, I believe.

This is also very close to the place where X-Links cable route is planned to tunnel under the river, so it's possible whoever has done the clearance is hoping to cash in on their need for a works depot about there - - but that's pure surmise on my part. If it is X-Links, I believe that is classed as a major infrastructure project and will bypass TDC's planning control.

If you're contacting TDC, it might be an idea to include Planning Control. as they are usually helpful even if it's not in their remit in this case."

Councillor Hassall explained that the Tree Preservation Order covered all the trees on this site. It appears that a gap has been created in the hedge to allow access from the main A386 road and some excavation work has been undertaken.

It was questioned if this is land affected by the Xlinks Cable route, but it is not included in the documents or maps provided by the Company.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Torrington District Council, acknowledging that this is subject to Enforcement action, but asks that the Council is kept informed of any developments.

2853 - FINANCE

Financial Year-End (documents attached and will form of the Minutes)

- To receive Internal Auditors Statement for financial year 2023-24 and supporting report.
- To approve the Cashbook as a reconciliation of the Bank balance £8197.09, including payments to:
 - Councillor N Tregoning - £25 {Chair Allowance} - Gift to Sue Beer in recognition of past service to the Council and community.
- To approve payment of £150.00 to P Russell - Internal Audit Fee.

The Clerk referred to the Internal Auditors statement and the items for future action:

- a. The value of the Fixed Assets to be included on the Accounting Statement.
- b. The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to be reviewed.
- c. Insurance values and replacement costs to be reviewed.

It was RESOLVED to approve the documents and payments.

2854 - To discuss any action the Council can take to support its policy for reducing the Carbon footprint and improving the bio-diversity in Littleham and Landcross.

It was noted that a Biodiversity Group Meeting had been arranged for 20 August 2024 at 2.00pm in the Village Hall. The Clerk referred to the Annual Parish Meeting in May when it was thought that the Climate Change Officer for Torrington and North Devon might be invited (Donna Sibley). The timescales were too tight therefore it might be an issue to discuss.

The option to install solar panels on the Village Hall was mentioned and this is an item that could be mentioned to Donna Sibley. In addition, other potential projects related to sustainable energy can be investigated.

2855 - PARISH PATHS:

- a. **To note the Definitive Map Review – Littleham Notification of parish report to the Public Rights of Way Committee Meeting at Devon County Council related to the application for a Public Right of Way to be approved . Reference E mail sent 28th June 2024.**

This has been discussed at the County Councillor Reports.

- b. To note the proposed replacement of the stile on Footpath 1 with a swing gate. The landowners have been informed and approved the work.**

The Clerk explained that this issue had arisen following the complaint from former Councillor Sue Beer that the stile was difficult to climb over and subsequent work by Councillor Lawrence to add a step. The landowner had complained that the work was not acceptable and asked that a swing gate be installed by the County Council registered contractor.

A quote has been requested and the Clerk will bring this back to the Council. It is noted that the landowner (Mr and Mrs Fishleigh) have agreed to supply the gate.

2856 - To consider correspondence & communications requiring attention. Emails circulated include:

1. DALC/NALC newsletter/updates/events
2. Public Sector - various
3. Devon County Council - various newsletters
4. Torridge DC – various
5. Torridge DC - Weekly Planning applications
6. Rural Services Network
7. The South West Cyber Resilience Centre.
8. ACRE - Action with Communities in Rural England.
9. Devon Communities Together -Landlines going digital

These were noted.

2857 - Items for next meeting and Next Full Council Meeting - to discuss that the Council has a recess in August with the next Meeting to be Thursday 05 September 2024.

It was RESOLVED that the next Council Meeting would be Thursday 05 September 2024

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the Meeting was closed 20.30hrs

Signed:

Councillor N Tregoning (Chair to the Parish Council)

Date.....