

LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting and Precept Meeting held at Littleham Village Hall on Thursday 06 February 2025 at 19.15

Present: Councillors: N Tregoning (Vice Chair), S Read, I Lawrence and M Brooks.

Also present: County Councillor L Hellyer

Apologies : Councillor: P Jollands - Chairman, G Smith, L Batty, G Gray and C Hassall
District Councillor P Pennington

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

2903 - In the absence of Councillor P Jollands (Chair) it was Resolved that Councillor N Tregoning would chair the meeting. The Chair welcomed everyone and apologies were accepted.

2904 - Declarations of Interest

[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.

Public Open Question Time

There were no questions from members of 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 Report had been circulated and was noted. The report is attached to the Minutes.

2905 - To Approve Minutes 2895 – 2902 of the Parish Council meeting held on 09 January 2025.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved.

Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

19.20 - County Councillor Linda Hellyer arrived.

It was Resolved to suspend Standing Orders and adjourn the Council Meeting.

Questions and comments:

i. The County Council Elections will take place in May and it has been confirmed that a Unitary Authority will be created. The Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority also came into place on 5th February 2024.

- ii. Reference footpath 8 and the change to a Bridleway this will require an application to the Public Rights of Way Office at Devon County Council.
- iii. New road signs related to warning to drivers regarding horse riders are needed and Councillor Brooks will advise Councillor Hellyer the location.
- iv. It was noted that the new Neighbourhood Highways Officer is Sandra Brown.
- v. It was reported that the new finger post at Moorhead Cross requires repair.
- vi. Councillor Tregoning advised that Pheasant shooting had taken place outside the permitted times. This incident should be reported to the Police.
- vii. Councillor Lawrence gave an update on the repairs to Footpath 1 at Landcross and the “scraping” of the surface to remove the grass is outstanding.

The Council reconvened.

It was Resolved that item 8 Parish Paths Partnership be brought forward.

2906 - PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

(To discuss the meeting with a representative of the Riding Club and the actions to be taken. The notes will be attached and form part of the Minutes)

Councillor Read provided an update on the opening up of the track known as the Shutta Path. The designation as a Public Right of Way is due to be finalised by the County Council in the next few weeks.

A quote had been obtained from L&K PLANT Higher Grattons Kentisbury Ford Barnstaple EX31 4NB to clear the foliage and plant growth at a cost of £550 (Digger and flail £350 + vat per day Man and chainsaw £200 + vat per day).

The meeting with Councillor Phil Hackett s a representative and Field Officer of the British Horse Society had been useful and it highlighted the possibility of Bridleway 10 (running around the rear of the Rectory) be closed due to the danger that it is narrow and close to a part which falls away quite steeply.

The option for access to be maintained for horse riders is a change of Footpath 8 to become a Bridleway.

The initial action is to obtain the agreement of the adjoining landowners (Mr C Witheycombe and Mr and Mrs Penny). Councillors Brooks and Read will draft a letter and bring to the Council at its next meeting.

It was RESOLVED that the Council instructs L & K Plant to undertake the clearance of the Shutta Track at a cost of £550.

The Clerk explained that the action of cutting prior to its official approval as a Public Right of Way may be a legal risk should an issue arise in the short term prior to the official sealing of the legal documents.

19.55hrs - County Councillor Hellyer left the meeting.

2907 - VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

To resolve the action the Council takes with regard to Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on 08 May 2025.

Councillor Brooks gave her thoughts on possible actions which included:

- i. The lighting of a Beacon
- ii. Street parties

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the next Meeting.

2908 - FINANCE:

The Council RESOLVED to Approve the Cashbook and Bank balance as at 30 January 2025. The balance of the Bank account £8703.92 reconciles with the Cashbook. The Cashbook is attached and forms part of the Minutes.

2909 - BIODIVERSITY GROUP

(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. Up date on recent Biodiversity Group Meeting and Lottery Grant Application).

It was noted that the Lottery Grant had been declined. Councillor Brooks suggested an enquiry be made to Groundworks. There were no further comments.

2910 - COUNCIL DOCUMENTS & ARCHIVE

(To discuss the action to be taken with regard to the papers remaining in the Village Hall).

This item was deferred to the next Council Meeting.

2911 - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - (To be held between 01 March and 01 June)

(To discuss the format, date and subject to be discussed).

This item was deferred to the next Council Meeting.

2912 - XLINKS

(To discuss and consider the Council response/views on the recent up date regarding the Planning and Development process).

It was noted that the Planning Inspectorate accepted the Application on 19 December 2024. It has now progressed to the Examination stage which allows an opportunity for representations to be made in writing. Representations must be received by the Planning Inspectorate by 13 March 2025.

It was noted that no representations would be made by the Council, however, individual Members would make representations separately.

2913 - DEVOLUTION

(To discuss the actions now being taken with regard to changes to the Local Government structures and to make an appropriate response to the Devon Local Council Association. The Association is asking its Member Councils to provide its views on how it sees any changes to the structures impacting on its individual communities).

This item was noted, however, there is some confusion over the timescales and how the process will be structured. It is a view that more information and updates will be published in the future to allow a more considered response.

2914 - TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL HOUSING STRATEGY

(To consider the views of the Council on the document and to make a response if appropriate).

This item was noted. Although not part of the strategy Councillor Brooks expressed her concerns that a number of houses on the new building estates are being purchased by Birmingham City Council.

2915 CORRESPONDENCE

To note the correspondence & communications received and consider any action (Agenda items for future meeting)requiring attention. Emails

circulated include:

- DALC/NALC newsletter/updates/events Devon Local Nature Partnership
- Public Sector - various
- Devon County Council - various newsletters
- Torridge DC – various
- Torridge DC - Weekly Planning applications
- South West Cyber Resilience
- The Rural Bulletin
- Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

- Items for next meeting and Next Full Council Meeting 06 March 2025 - to be confirmed.**

(Please can you ensure that any items for the next meeting are received by the Clerk by Monday 27 February 2025)

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.The Meeting was closed at 20.40hrs

Signed..... Date.....
Councillor P Jollands - Chair