

Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting at Lifton Community Primary School, 29th August 2019

These minutes are provisional until they are agreed and signed by the chairman at the next meeting of the parish council

Present: Cllr C Edmonds (Chairman), Cllr Moore, Cllr Measey, Cllr Willing, Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse, Cllr Glen, Cllr Sparrow, Cllr Elias, Cllr Elworthy and Cllr Parsons

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the PC meeting of 25th July 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Dispensations and Declarations of Interest: Cllr Willing declared an interest in Item no. 9.1 (1834/19/ARM). Cllr Edmonds declared an interest in Item no. 6.4 and Item no. 9.1 (1834/19/ARM).

4. Visiting speaker: None

5. Public Participation/Borough Cllr. Update

A parishioner reported that the lines in the road for the layby opposite the village shop were no longer visible and needed repainting. Councillors agreed that this should be reported to Highways.

Action: Clerk to contact DCC Highways and ask for the lines to be repainted for the layby.

A parishioner asked whether a Section 106 agreement still existed and if so, did it apply to the 20 houses detailed in Item no. 9.1 (planning application 1834/19/ARM). The Chair confirmed that Section 106 agreements did exist and that in relation to this particular planning application the Parish Council had had some input into the Section 106 agreement. The Chair agreed to forward details on the Section 106 agreement to the parishioner.

Action: Chair to send the Section 106 agreement to the parishioner via email.

Borough Councillor Update:

The Woodland Trust were offering free trees for schools and communities and applications were now being accepted. Councillors agreed to discuss this in more detail and requested that an item go on next month's agenda.

DCC were encouraging wild flowers on verges. The A30 West Devon drive complies with their project in relation to the cutting of verges and allowing wild flowers to thrive. The Chair would investigate whether some free wild flower seeds for the verge out to the west of village could be obtained.

Action: The Clerk to include an item on village trees on September's agenda and the Chair to look into obtaining free wild flower seeds.

6. General items

6.1 Highways Update

6.1.1 The speed data for Liftondown had been resent to Highways following last month's parish council meeting. In response, DCC Highways reported that they do not carry out traffic counts on the minor roads unless there is a major problem with vehicles using the road. There are normally parked cars along this section of road which creates its own traffic calming. If the parish feel vehicles

are exceeding the speed limit, they may wish to contact the Police, as this would be a matter for them to enforce.

The Clerk reported that the local PCSO had been invited to attend the parish council meeting in September and that the issue around speeding could be raised with her directly.

Two other issues had also been raised with Highways following the PC meeting in July which requested the moving of a narrow bridge sign at Liftdown/Heale Bridge and a request for a speed trial in Fore Street (following a request for a 20mph sign by a parishioner).

Highways reported that DCC think there would be no or very little improvement in moving the narrow bridge sign approx. 1m at Liftdown. The VAS is on a larger post, so new clips would be required, the private hedge would need to be reduced in width to prevent the sign from sticking out in the road, also the space for the VAS would be reduced.

The 30MPH speed limit for Fore Street is in line with DCC policy for this type of road and therefore DCC have no plans to introduce a 20MPH limit. Before a 20MPH limit could be introduced traffic calming would have to be created to bring the speeds down to 20MPH. DCC's collision data has been checked and there have been no accidents at this location recorded in the past 5 years.

Councillors agreed to accept the response from Highways as it stands.

6.1.2 The road over Southern Bridge, Tinhay, will be closed on 30 October 2019 from 9.30am to 3.30pm to enable provision of overhead fibre cabling to existing poles to take place. Full details including diversion information had been published on the parish website and on the main village noticeboard.

6.1.3 A tree or sapling is growing at Tinhay bridge, where it meets the bridge wall. If this continues to grow it may damage the bridge. Councillors agreed that the tree needs to be removed from the bridge at Old Tinhay.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways and request the tree on the bridge at Old Tinhay be removed.

6.1.4 The road sign on the A388 at Liftdown (East bound) warning road users of a narrow bridge (Heale Bridge) has reduced visibility due to an overgrown hedge; thus, reducing the impact of the sign. Highways need to trim hedge. Cllrs. felt that the warning sign, situated on the right-hand verge, is in the wrong place and a request is to be made to Highways to review the position of the sign in order to make it more visible to motorists approaching Liftdown from a westerly direction.

It was reported that there had recently been an issue at Heale Bridge when a caravan became stuck and caused a traffic jam. Towards Lifton to Liftdown (Pike's Garage). The warning sign situated on the crossroads on the Holsworthy road is obscured and in the wrong place on the right-hand side on the A388. There is a sign to the left of the junction, however this is too high and not in the line of sight. On the approach to the bridge, signs look away from traffic; one is turned around and one, misshaped. It was noted that damage to the parapet on the bridge has occurred.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways and ask them to look at the whole approach (in both directions) and signage on/towards the bridge.

6.2 Bus shelter

The Clerk confirmed that Contractor A was due to undertake the work on the bus shelter on 9th August 2019. This date coincided with a weather warning for a storm therefore the work does not seem to have been undertaken. The Clerk was asked to contact the Contractor about the works.

Action: Clerk to contact Contractor and confirm start date for bus shelter work.

6.3 Local Emergency Plan for Lifton/Devon Communities Together

Devon Communities Together (DCT) provides help to formulate local emergency plans. LEPs anticipate, prepare for and respond to a wide range of situations that pose an immediate risk to health, life, property or the environment. Plans help to establish a list of volunteers to act as first responders, to support frontline services during an incident and to help the community to recover from an event.

Councillors were asked if they would like Lifton to have a local emergency plan. If so, DCT could either provide a short presentation to a future parish council meeting, a presentation on establishing a LEP to a community meeting, attend an information event, attend a workshop to start compiling a LEP or attend a forum event.

Councillors agreed that Lifton should have a local emergency plan with the Community Centre as the main hub and that Martin Rich, from Devon Communities Together, be asked to provide a short presentation at a future PC meeting.

Action: Clerk to contact Martin Rich, DCT and invite him to a future PC meeting to do a short presentation.

6.4 Council Tax Support Grant 2020/21

(The Chair left the meeting room during this item)

The Clerk reported that WDBC are inviting views from Town and Parish Councils on the possible withdrawal of the Council Tax Support Grant payment for 2020-21. Responses needed to be in by 30th September 2019. The current level of the CTSG for Lifton for 2019-20 is £608.

Councillors agreed that with so many other cuts in local grants, funds and services, it could not support the withdrawal of the Council Tax Support Grant for 2020-21.

Action: Clerk to respond to WDBC and report the unanimous decision by Councillors not to support the withdrawal of the CTSG for 2020-21.

6.5 Defibrillator

The Councillor to undertake the next monthly checks was confirmed.

6.6 Graveyard

The Contractor who cuts the grass in the graveyard had expressed concerns with people using glass jam jars for flowers in the cemetery. These were being hit by the mower when the grass is

being cut and could cause harm. Councillors agreed that a sign should be displayed asking people not to use glass jam jars in the cemetery and that all existing jars should be removed.

Action: Clerk to look into suitable signage to be displayed in the graveyard.

Councillors were also informed that the ground in the graveyard had become very uneven and that the areas around the graves needed work to level it out. The collapse of land meant that mowing with a wheeled machine in certain places was not possible and that only a strimmer could be used. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should obtain a quote from the Contractor for these works.

Action: Clerk to contact Martin Ashley & Sons Gardening Services to obtain a quote for levelling work at the graveyard.

6.7 West Devon Polling District and Polling Places Review 2019

WDBC are holding a review of the Polling Districts and Polling Places and they would like to hear people's views. Every 5 years, Councils have to hold a full review of the polling districts and polling places in their area and the initial consultation is now open until Friday, 20th September 2019. Councillors agreed that the Community Centre would be an obvious replacement for Church Hall once that was no longer available as a polling place.

Action: Clerk to circulate consultation details to Councillors via email and to include the link on the Parish website.

6.8 West Devon BT Payphone Kiosk Removal - Consultation

WDBC has been informed by BT that 28 public payphones have been identified for proposed removal on the basis of low usage. Parish Councils are being asked to consult on those earmarked for removal in their areas. Lifton has two payphones that have been identified for removal. Both are in a very poor state inside. The phone box on the green was used to make 8 calls in last the 12 months and the other phone box (located at Liftondown) was not used at all. Councillors were asked whether they wanted to keep both payphones, one or neither of them, or whether they wanted to adopt them instead.

Councillors agreed that the payphone on the village green should remain and the one at Liftondown could be removed. Councillors asked whether a BT payphone could be installed either inside or outside the Community Centre, provided it was not the Community Centres responsibility.

Action: Clerk to submit response to WDBC as outlined above. Clerk to contact BT to ask if payphone can be installed at the Community Centre.

7. Reports

7.1 QE11 report: None

7.2 Community Centre Report

A new boundary wall is going up in the car park. Further work needs to be undertaken to alter the terrain in the car park, subject to approval by the Planning Officer and providing it is not too expensive.

8. Finance

8.1 For payment

Clerk's salary	£389.33
Clerk's expenses (black and tri-colour ink) (incl £5.75 VAT)	£34.49
Martin Ashley cemetery cutting (incl £150 VAT)	£900.00
Martin Ashley green and verge cutting (Apr-Jul) (incl £165 VAT)	£990.00
Martin Ashley QE11 cutting (incl £32 VAT)	£192.00
Audit invoice (incl £40.00 VAT)	£240.00
Parish Online (incl £6.00 VAT)	£36.00
Community Centre room hire	£84.00

Proposed and seconded that all the above payments be made.

[Total payments: £2865.82]

Action: Clerk to make all payments

8.2 Payment received: None

8.3 Outstanding invoices: None

General matters relating to Finance:

8.4 External Auditor Report and Certificate 2018/19

The Clerk reported that the external auditor report and certificate for 2018/19 had been received from PKF Littlejohn LLP and that there were no matters arising. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been published on the parish website.

9. Planning

9.1 Applications:

1369/19/HHO - Proposal: Householder application for alterations & extensions to existing dormer bungalow. Site Address: 6 Park Road, Lifton PL16 0BL

Councillors looked at the plans for the extension to ground floor, first floor, garage, roof tiles and pitched roof. Historic England would not be commenting although the Conservation Officer would be. One resident objection had been received although their overall view was undecided. Councillors said that the elevations will be tidied up and the appearance enhanced. They can see no reasons for objections or no major issues.

PC decision: to support (10); all in favour

2412/19/ARM - Proposal: Approval of reserved matters following outline approval 01014/2015. Site Address: Land to the East of Liftondown, Lifton PL16 0EB

The design and access statement was good. Two long-term local residents who live and work nearby. Plan for family dwelling and domestic scale honey collecting. Will be screened from road. Adequate parking, turning etc. Contemporary design.

Councillors said that it was refreshing to see something different and contemporary.

Design is crisp and modern. Keep building at back of plot. Isolated dwelling in countryside.

PC decision: to support (10); all in favour

2387/19/OPA - Proposal: Outline application with some matters reserved for erection of dwelling. Site Address: 9 Ash Vale, Lifton PL16 0LB

Councillors were shown drawings. The parish council were offered this land in 2004 but did not take it on. No 9 is now owner. Restrictions/covenants on this land by Midas originally. Access to use existing drive and parking (no increase proposed). 3 parking spaces existing already; was this sufficient. Landscaping could be an issue re highways. People park their vans on it currently although there is no through traffic or junctions.

Councillors asked that their comment on parking and the loss of a garage at number 9 be noted; adequate parking needs to be considered.

PC decision: to support (10); all in favour

1834/19/ARM - Proposal: Application for approval of reserved matters following outline consent 2323/16/OPA (Appeal reference APP/Q1153/W/17/3170746) for residential development of up to 20no. dwellings with vehicular and pedestrian access. Site Address: Land South of North Road, Lifton, PL16 0EH

Councillors were asked to consider layout, scale, appearance and landscaping. The Chair had checked with the Monitoring Officer and he was allowed to comment on the application but would not be present at the vote. Surface water drainage plan had also been included so it could also be discussed by PC as part of this application.

Outline Planning Appeal conditions require water course assessment, surface water drainage and maintenance plans to be submitted to LPA/DCC for approval. It is likely that a management company would exist with residents paying service charges for the ongoing maintenance of the surface water drainage system.

Plan includes 8 affordable homes, four 1-bed flats and four 2-bed houses. Flats situated near to North Road. Possible risk of overlooking into amenity space of neighbouring property (Stone Acre). Bungalows were not part of design/plan.

The Street scene was shared with Cllrs. External lighting was meant to be part of application. Layout/design discussed. Mix of finishes, block paving, timber-framed, air source heat, solar panels to be offered as an optional extra and 2 houses with log burners. 1 resident concerned about exterior cladding. Flood risk assessment report – pervious pavements recommended. Construction plan included – looks fine – recommended that site traffic to use Tinhay entrance to avoid traffic congestion along North Road. Landscaping discussed and felt to be acceptable.

2 resident comments were on the planning portal (one objection, one undecided) and a separate email had been sent by a resident whose comments were shared with Councillors. They expressed the following concerns:

1. The proposed adopted foul water sewer to be added to the existing sewer pipe.

SW Water would have to guarantee that the pipe which runs through our property is flushed every 3 months to prevent excessive build-up of fat etc. which if not done causes sewage overflows onto our property and at the junction on the other side of the bridge near the river during heavy rainfall on a regular basis (these have been noted by myself and recorded by SW Water). Flushing has been done sporadically but not regularly. Another 20 properties would exacerbate the problem.

2. How will the silt and debris that will be increased with the surface water runoff via the ditch be controlled and prevented from overloading our pond during the construction period. At present we

have to dredge our pond at least once a year during the summer ourselves to keep the silt level at the entrance of the overflow pipe to a manageable level.

3. Who will the owner of the wetland/bio diversity/green area be after the properties are sold to individuals?

4. Who will be responsible for the regular maintenance of the ditch along the border, wetland, green areas and fences at the southern end of the land for the life of the development?

5. How will any possible mosquito infestation be prevented on the drainage pond during periods of prolonged dry weather?

Summary of Parish Councillor comments and concerns:

The view of new properties from the North Road elevation is very bland, overpowering and ugly.

Has the safety of the attenuation pond been addressed (given there is a school and children close by)?

What protection is there for the neighbouring water course and pond from flooding?

Questioning viability of having units with wood log burners given environmental impact.

All views of parishioners to be reflected.

Has the impact of climate change (increase in rain etc.) on existing draining system been considered?

(Cllr Edmonds left the room prior to the vote)

PC decision: to support (5); not support (3) and (1) abstained. Chair did not vote.

Majority vote to support.

2546/19/TCA - Proposal: T1: Ash ? initial deadwood removal (exempt works), fell to ground level, western side and central crown died back significantly (suspected Ash dieback), large diameter deadwood already dropping into garden below, grandchildren of neighbours regularly play under canopy), tree unlikely to recover, will decline further over time, wish to replace as near as possible to base with Sessile Oak standard. Large Diameter Deadwood to be removed under Five-day Notice indicated in Fig1 & Fig2. Site Address: The Arundell Arms Hotel, Fore Street, Lifton PL16 0AA.

PC decision: to support (10) with no comment; all in favour

2410/19/HHO - Proposal: Householder application for proposed elevation changes. Site Address: 2 Hannaford Road, Lifton PL16 0BD

PC decision: to support (10); all in favour

9.2 Approvals: None

9.3 Refusals: None

9.4 Appeals: None

General matters relating to planning:

9.5 2389/19/AGR - Agricultural Determination Application: Nethercott Farm, Polson Bridge, Launceston PL15 9QU. Application for prior notification for agricultural storage building. *(There is no statutory consultation requirement on the application above – this was for information only).*

10. Correspondence

The Clerk had received Ash Dieback Advice from DCC and had placed the information leaflet on the Parish website and included details in the latest Lyfton Times newsletter. DALC's Annual Report 2018/2019 had also been received.

11. Councillors' items for future agenda.

Village trees

Short presentation on Local Emergency Plans by Devon Communities Together

Next Meeting

7.00pm, Thursday, 26th September 2019, Venue tbc, Lifton

Meeting closed at 21:15

SIGNED..... Date.....