

Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the QE11 Pavilion, Leat Road on 22nd July 2021

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 Dunn, Cllr Elias, Cllr Lees and Cllr Measey

1. Apologies: Cllr Elworthy, Cllr Glen, Cllr Parsons and Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse

2. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting 24th June 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Dispensations and Declarations of Interest: Cllr Measey declared an interest in item 10.1 on the agenda (planning application 2531/21/OPA).

4. Visiting Speaker: None

5. Scheme of Delegation & Business Continuity (in event of not holding meeting in August)

Councillors formally approved the latest Scheme of Delegation in the event that a parish council meeting is not held in August 2021.

Motion: To formally adopt the latest Scheme of Delegation: proposed, seconded; all in favour (5).

6. Public Participation/Borough Cllr. Update:

Public Participation: In agreement with Councillors, the Chairman invited the members of the public present to speak.

A local resident expressed concerns about traffic on North Road. They reported the increase in vehicles accessing the amenities (village school and doctors' surgery); the difficulty passing along the road due to parked cars; and issues with speeding. They also reported that emergency vehicles could have difficulty accessing properties due to inconsiderate parking. They felt the situation would only get worse once the new housing development was occupied. The resident also reported that the rubbish collection did not take place on its regular day as the Western Power work had blocked the road.

The Chairman provided an update on how the Parish Council had reported traffic issues in various locations around the village, including North Road and Darkey Lane, to the local Police and DCC Highways. The Parish Council did not have powers to set speed limits or parking restrictions. He was aware of the issues with the bin collection at Arundel Close and had worked with WDBC to ensure the rubbish was collected.

The Chairman has arranged for the WDBC Mobile Locality Officer to monitor parking in Arundell Close in effort to prevent further issues with refuse collection.

The Clerk read out the response received from DCC Highways regarding speeding in the village and along North Road (please see minutes of 25th March 2021 – item 5.1 for the full response).

The Clerk agreed to pass on the above concerns raised by the resident to the local PCSO and to put in a further request for the Police Camera Safety Partnership Team to undertake speed checks in the village.

Representation was made by the applicants in relation to planning application 2531/21/OPA (item 10.1 on the agenda). For the last four years, they were responsible for the farm at Wooladon which included a large number of livestock, laying hen units and various poly-tunnels situated at the top end of Lifton. They had to deal with things like temperature control, electric failures etc., at all times of day and night and felt that it would be beneficial to be on-site to manage these activities. An

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agricultural appraisal had been carried out to support this application. The proposed dwelling would consist of a 4-bed family home for the farm manager and his family.

Borough Cllr. Update:

A mobile broadband booster voucher scheme was now available to local residents and businesses. A voucher for £800 could be applied for to help obtain the boosters.

WDBC are undertaking a survey for a community-led electric car and bike club; Details of the survey would be shared with Councillors via email.

WDBC had developed a new Corporate Plan. The plan covered the next 20 years, focusing on the next 3 years with 8 main themes. The plan would be put out for public consultation for 6 weeks with the delivery plans launched in September. The Clerk would circulate the link to all Councillors.

WDBC confirmed that Highways England have agreed to clear the fly-tipped rubbish near Yeat Farm/Stone Cross.

7. General items:

7.1. Highways Update

The Clerk provided a report to Councillors prior to the meeting regarding the following issues that had been reported to Highways since the last meeting as follows:

Overgrown Vegetation on Park Road – DCC Highways response: Further to your communication received on 24-June-2021 the record was completed on the 30-June-2021. The following information is now available; Due to a change in policy in 2015, DCC no longer cut urban grass verges, unless it's for visibility. The Neighbourhood Highway Officer has checked this location, & unfortunately this verge would not meet DCC policy to cut the grass. Therefore, DCC will not be able to help with your request.

Fallen Tree on Fore Street - Reported to Highways, Western Power and the Police on 1st July 2021.

Trip hazard on Fore Street - DCC Highways response: Further to your communication received on 25-June-2021 the record was completed on the 08-July-2021. The following information is now available; I've taken a look at the parish's enquiry regarding the cable over the path outside 7 Fore Street. When I inspected the location, there was no cable or evidence of one. Therefore, DCC aren't able to send an enforcement letter, unless the officer see's the offence & classes it has a hazard. With more & more electric cars now being purchased, it is not something DCC will be able to police, as most of the time the charging of the vehicle will be when the officers aren't working. If the parish feel this is a hazard, would they be able to speak with the property owner, as local minor issues that as a county council we don't have the resources to spend time policing.

Pothole on Fore Street – DCC Highways response: An assessment for this report was completed on 19 July 2021. The officer entered the following comments: The problem has been repaired.

Fox & Grapes, Tinhay - Signs on footpath – DCC Highways response: The Neighbourhood Highway Officer had a chat with the landlord & he has agreed to put the sign where the vehicles park, which is

in front of the hall. So, this would not affect the width of the path & still give his sign the same amount of visibility.

Overgrown Vegetation at The Crescent – DCC Highways response: Further to your communication received on 09-July-2021 the record was completed on the 14-July-2021. The following information is now available; Due to the bird nesting season which is currently in place, DCC can only ask landowners to cut their hedge if it's classed as a safety defect. The Neighbourhood Highway Officer has inspected this hedge yesterday, & agrees the hedge does need attention but would not class it as a safety defect. DCC will send a letter to the landowner requesting they cut the hedge, but at the present time DCC would not be able to take action if the landowner does not cut the hedge. Thank you for bringing this to DCC's attention.

The Clerk also informed Councillors that Highways England would be undertaking tree safety work along the A30 between Bodmin and Okehampton with effect from 26th July 2021. Work would be undertaken during the day and/or night-time to fell trees suffering from ash dieback.

7.2. Public Footpaths

The Vice-Chairman provided an overview of the discussion held at last months' meeting. The Clerk provided the following quote for the Lifton footpath and bridleway maps from Launceston Print Ltd, as follows: 500 for £129 or 1000 for £189 plus VAT where applicable.

The Vice-Chairman suggested that some additional text be added to the front of the leaflet encouraging residents/visitors to feedback and to report any issues with the footpaths to the Parish Clerk via email.

Councillors agreed that the request for feedback should be included on the leaflet and agreed that 1000 leaflets be ordered from Launceston Print Ltd. **Proposed, seconded; all in favour (5).**

Action: The Clerk to order 1000 footpath leaflets from Launceston Print Ltd.

7.3. Community Speedwatch

The Chairman provided an overview of the Community Speedwatch programme. Councillors were informed that the Police would help set up the scheme and provide training and equipment. A minimum of three volunteers would be required to take recordings, note vehicle details and use an online reporting process to record their findings. The Police decide the location where speed will be monitored. Following the completion of the online reporting process by the volunteers, the Police would then write people regarding their speeding.

The Parish Council had tried to help set up a Community Speedwatch programme in Lifton on a previous occasion by advertising the scheme locally; no volunteers came forward.

Councillors agreed that the scheme should be re-advertised and asked the Clerk to obtain any publicity materials that would help encourage volunteers to come forward.

Action: The Clerk to liaise with the local PCSO and re-advertise for volunteers in Lifton for the Community Speedwatch programme.

7.4. BT Telephone Kiosk Adoption - Liftondown

Councillors were informed that confirmation from 'BT Pay-phones' had now been received that would allow Lifton Parish Council to adopt the BT phone box in Liftondown. The adoption contract was shared with Councillors prior to the meeting.

Councillors agreed that the residents of Liftondown, who had expressed an interest in using the phone kiosk for community projects some time ago, be asked whether they still wanted to make use of the kiosk and contribute to the repair and maintenance costs. BT would not make good any repairs prior to adoption and following adoption, all repair, maintenance, insurance costs etc., would fall to the parish council.

Action: The Clerk to contact the main Liftondown resident as detailed above and report back to the next PC meeting.

10.7. Defibrillator update

Cllr Dunn agreed to undertake the checks for the next month.

Action: The Clerk to send the revised defib checklist form to Cllr Dunn via email.

11. Reports:

11.1. QE11 report: The Vice-Chairman reported that Phase 1 of the project to provide some new playground equipment at the QE11 Recreation Ground had been completed. Cricket matches had also resumed at the ground.

9. Finance

9.1 For payment

Clerk's salary for July	£ 416.22
Clerk's expenses: Postage (village leaflets sent to Chairman)	£ 3.30
MAT Electrics: Night landing maintenance visit (inc. £17.99 VAT)	£ 107.94
TK Play Ltd: QE11 Lifton Recreation Ground Play Equipment Supply & Installation (inc. £3993.00 VAT)	£ 23958.00
Martin Ashley and Son Gardening Services:	
Village Green and Verges April-July (inc. £165.00 VAT)	£ 990.00
Lifton Cemetery Grass Cutting April-July (inc. £150.00 VAT)	£ 900.00
Lifton Recreation Field Grass Cutting (inc. £80.00 VAT)	£ 480.00

Proposed and seconded that all the above payments be made online.

[Total payments: £26855.46]

Action: Clerk to make all payments online.

9.2 Payment received:

Interest

£ 0.08

9.3 Outstanding invoices: None

General matters relating to Finance:

9.4 Bank reconciliation: Councillors noted the bank reconciliation.

10. Planning

10.1 Applications:

2365/21/FUL - Proposal: Part demolition of existing Mill buildings and replacement with new Blending Plant. Site Address: Spry Mill, Spry Lane, Lifton PL16 0BA

Councillors were informed that this proposal was to knock down a very old mill building on an existing industrial estate and replace this with a new blending plant that would be 4 metres above the existing tower. There had been an objection raised by a local resident concerning the validity of the noise survey that had been undertaken. Councillors noted that the sound predictions looked encouraging but queried whether the noise survey undertaken had been robust.

The factory was a valuable part of the community and provided much needed local employment.

Councillors agreed to support this application provided solid evidence could be provided that the noise assessment had been completed correctly.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (5); not support (0); abstain (0). All in favour.

0261/21/HHO - Proposal: READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans received) Householder application for two-storey side extension. Site Address: 11 Arundell Close, Lifton PL16 0DP

Councillors noted that this proposal outlined minor alterations to the plans that had previously been supported by the PC.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (5), not support (0); abstain (0). All in favour.

2531/21/OPA - Proposal: Outline application with some matters reserved for erection of a dwelling for a farm manager together with access drive. Site Address: Wooladon Farm, Liftondown PL16 0DD

Councillors were informed that this outline application was to determine the principle of development at this site. Planning permission had already been granted via a previous application for access to the Wooladon Estate from the main road.

Councillors were reminded that such development is strictly controlled by the following policy:

Policy TTV26 - Development in the countryside

The LPAs will protect the special characteristics and role of the countryside. The following provisions will apply to the consideration of development proposals:

1. Isolated development in the countryside will be avoided and only permitted in exceptional circumstances, such as where it would:

i. Meet an essential need for a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside and maintain that role for the development in perpetuity.

Councillors noted that an agricultural appraisal of the site had demonstrated the need for this development and that it would allow a rural farm worker to live closer to their business.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (4); not support (0); abstain (1).

10.2 Approvals:

0889/21/FUL - Location: Little Bere House North Road Lifton PL16 0EH. Application Type: Full Planning Application. Proposal: Change of use of existing living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom to self-contained holiday let. Decision: Conditional Approval

10.3 Refusals: None

General matters relating to planning:

10.4 Response from WDBC to LPC re:0889/21/FUL - Little Bere House, North Road, Lifton
The WDBC's planning officer's response was shared with Councillors prior to the meeting.

11. Correspondence: Councillors received details about:
Rural Housing Alliance - Parish Council Guide to Rural Affordable Housing
Airband July 2021 Newsletter
National Bus Strategy - Stakeholder Consultation – Councillors were asked to provide their comments to the Clerk via email by 30th July 2021.

12. Councillors' items for future agendas: Burial Ground (seat, lychgate, wildlife area); village noticeboards; and PC representation on the OPCC Councillor Advocate Scheme.

Next Meeting: To be confirmed: either 7.00pm - Thursday, 19th August or 23rd September 2021, QE11 Recreation Ground Pavilion

Meeting closed at 20:35.

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