

# Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in The Tamar Room (The Arundell), Lifton  
on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

*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 Measey and Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse

**Apologies:** Cllr Glen, Cllr Lees and Cllr Parsons

Absence without apologies: Cllr Valentine

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> December were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

2. **Dispensations and Declarations of Interest:** None

3. **Visiting Speaker:** None

4. **Public Participation/Borough Cllr. Update:**

**Public Participation:** None

**Borough Cllr. Update:** West Devon Borough Council were successful in their £13.4m bid to develop Okehampton parkway, a new railway station and integrated transport hub on the eastern edge of Okehampton. Joining with partners Devon County Council, Great Western Railway and Network Rail, using the Government's 'Levelling Up Fund award', this will help create a brand-new, purpose-built station and car park, which will be easily accessible from the A30.

Further details can be found via: <https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/9451/Multi-Million-Pound-Transport-Hub-Set-for-Okehampton>

The West Devon South Matters meeting was held recently with the new West Devon Police Inspector in attendance. Although the crime figures for the borough detailed an increase of 14%, this was largely due to illegal activity on the A30 and not specifically an increase in crime in the village.

## 6. General items:

### 6.1 Highways Update

The Clerk provided the following details to Councillors that had been reported to or from Devon Highways since the last meeting as follows:

W221566452: Broken Manhole Cover - Location: Road from Methodist Church to Liftondown, Liftondown. Further to your communication received on 28-December-2022 the record was completed on the 28-December-2022. The following information is now available: The problem has been repaired.

W221565074: Flooding & Blocked Drains - Location: Leat Road, Lifton. Further to your communication received on 20-December-2022 the record was completed on the 21-December-2022. The following information is now available: DCC's records don't show any drainage features along this section of road, hence the reason for this buddlehole not being cleared. The Neighbourhood Highway Officer has cleared around the mouth of the buddlehole & has also put the rods down to clear any mud. The water did seem to flow after this, but if the road floods again please let DCC know, it will then be added to the jetting programme. Thank you for letting DCC know about this matter.

Just before Christmas, a member of the public made the Clerk aware of some fly tipping in the layby between Higher Cookworthy and Cookworthy Knapp. This was reported to WDBC who called to say they were already aware of the problem and were arranging to get it cleared.

Mole Valley Feed Solutions Ltd. (Spry Mill, Lifton) had reported to the Clerk and DCC Highways that signage, poles, vegetation, and parked vehicles are making it very difficult for their staff and drivers to see traffic coming from either direction at the depot. They asked for help in making the visibility better.

The Clerk responded to Mole Valley and informed them that Devon County Council Highways are responsible for road signage/poles and overgrown vegetation on public highways however Lifton Parish Council would support any action taken by DCC Highways to improve visibility in the interests of safety for all road users.

Illegally parked cars are a police matter (further information from Devon & Cornwall Police can be found at: [Nuisance parking and abandoned vehicles | Devon & Cornwall Police \(devon-cornwall.police.uk\)](https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)).

Lifton Parish Council have moved the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) to Tinhay, in an attempt to help reduce speeding, although it is has a technical fault at present which is being addressed.

DCC Highways informed the Clerk that there have been no changes to the signs in the area for many years, and no recorded RTC's for over 5 years. The vehicles parking on the verge could be an issue, which has come up before but difficult to stop.

Following an action from December's PC meeting, the Clerk asked DCC Highways to consider additional gritting on North Road, Leat Road and Darkey Lane and requested additional grit bins for Liftondown, Leat Road and Tinhay Trading Estate.

DCC Highways advised that any requests for additional services should be made via the relevant DCC Councillor. The local Highways Officer provided the following link: [Winter Travel | Find out how to stay safe on the roads in Devon](https://www.devon-cornwall.gov.uk).

The Chairman confirmed that he was in contact with the DCC Councillor on this matter and would provide an update in due course. Many other areas in the county had made similar requests to DCC for additional gritting and salt bins following the recent cold weather.

The Clerk has updated and published the poster to publicise the Lifton salt bin/bag locations; this also includes some information about the village salt provision.

The Vice-Chairman reported that the chevron signs have been damaged on the Holsworthy turning at Liftondown and on the approach to the A30 flyover. In New Road, Lifton, a drain cover was upside down with a traffic cone placed in it. Also in New Road, opposite St. Mary's, the road seemed to be caving in. The Clerk agreed to report these issues to DCC Highways.

There was no update on the end date for the roadworks in Lifton. The Chairman agreed to go back to Kier Group for an update.

Cllr Elias reported that the trees on the green were overhanging the layby; and lorries and tractors were hitting them. The Clerk would report this to DCC Highways.

Community Speed Watch Scheme: Cllr Dunn reported that the group had recently resumed the speed checks following a break over Christmas. A speed data report would be provided at the next meeting.

**Actions: As detailed above.**

### **6.2 Dignity at Work Policy (The Civility & Respect Project)**

Councillors received a copy of the Dignity at Work Policy prior to the meeting. The Clerk reported that PCs are being asked to adopt this policy since signing up to 'The Pledge'. It will replace the existing antibullying and harassment policy.

**Motion: To agree for Lifton Parish Council to adopt the Dignity at Work Policy.**

**Proposed; Seconded; All in favour.**

### **6.3 Liftondown Telephone Kiosk - The Community Heartbeat Trust Charity**

The Clerk shared recent correspondence received from The Community Heartbeat Trust Charity (CHT) who had been approached by a local resident about adopting the telephone kiosk in Liftondown, to renovate and potentially use it for a defibrillator at some time in the future. The charity has asked BT to suspend its removal until the new year to give them time to consider this project.

Looking at photographs, the charity does not think the cost of restoration is particularly high, and provided various estimates for the repair works based on the photographs. They have said that labour would need to be done by volunteers in the community and that they would be happy to support any local fundraising programme for this project.

The Community Heartbeat Trust Charity would be grateful for the council's current views on this, and whether the PC would be willing to work with them on the renovation, and ultimately the placement of a defibrillator with CHT.

Councillors discussed the motion they passed on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 where they agreed to stick with their original decision to not adopt the telephone kiosk in Liftondown due to cost pressures and Councillors noted that attempts had been made in the past to engage with residents in Liftondown concerning this kiosk but, at the time, no interest was expressed.

Whilst Councillors agreed to support The Community Heartbeat Trust Charity with their potential adoption of the Liftondown telephone kiosk for a defibrillator, it was felt that on-going support for the project including fundraising and volunteer labour should be encouraged from the residents of Liftondown. The Chairman indicated that funding in the form of community grants could be available from West Devon to support the project and would be happy to liaise with Liftondown residents on

this point. The Parish Council could also consider giving a small donation towards the project, if the CHT went ahead with it.

**All agreed.**

**Action: The Clerk was asked to respond to The Community Heartbeat Trust Charity, as detailed above.**

#### **6.4 Burial Ground**

Cllr Elias shared photographs and costs for various wildlife houses at the meeting.

Councillors agreed on the following items for the parish burial ground using funds recently received from a bequest:

Hedgehog house: £46.00; Sparrow box: (price to be confirmed); Swallow & Swift box: (price to be confirmed); Owl box: £135.00; Bug house: £39.00; Toad house: £17.99 and Wren house: (price to be confirmed).

Cllr Elias agreed to bring these items along to the next meeting and to assist the Clerk with the provision of an invoice. Cllr Elias also agreed to provide a quote for a new water butt for the burial ground at the next meeting.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Launceston bee-keeping group, to find out if they would be interested in siting a hive in the burial ground.

**All agreed. Actions: As detailed above.**

#### **6.5 Defibrillator Update**

Cllr Measey undertook the checks in January and agreed to continue to do so in February. He reported that the lip is rusting and needed treating. Councillors agreed that the necessary paint should be purchased.

**Action: Cllr Measey to undertake the defib checks at the Community Centre during February.**

### **7. Reports: None**

### **8. Finance**

#### **8.1 For payment**

Clerk's salary for January	£ 629.68
Clerk's expenses (2nd class stamps)	£ 10.88
The Arundell - Tamar Room booking: 26th January 2023 (inc. £3.33 VAT)	£ 20.00
Bin Shop (Kingfisher Direct Ltd.): Galvanised metal bin liner (inc. £10.00 VAT)	£ 59.98

**Proposed and seconded; all in favour that the above payments be made online.**

[Total payments for January: £ 720.54]

**Action: Clerk to make all payments online.**

#### **8.2 Receipts/Payment received:**

Interest	£ 1.96
Spry & Son: Burial fee (2 <sup>nd</sup> burial)	£ 150.00

### 8.3 Outstanding invoices: None

The January invoices for payment and the bank statements issued on 30<sup>st</sup> December 2022 were seen and signed by two Councillors.

#### General matters relating to Finance:

### 8.4 Bank reconciliation

Councillors noted the bank reconciliation.

## 9. Planning

### 9.1 Applications:

3379/22/FUL - Proposal: Change of use from commercial to dwelling. Site Address: The Lodge, Fore Street, Lifton, PL16 0BH

Councillors agreed to support this application.

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

0127/23/TCA - Proposal: T269: Lime Tree Felling due to extensive decay and T270: Lime Tree Felling due to extensive hollowing. Site Address: St Mary The Virgin, Parsonage Court, Lifton, PL16 0BJ

Councillors agreed to support this application and hoped that replacement trees would be replanted given this is another tree due to be felled in the same area.

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

### 9.2 Approvals:

3584/22/TPO - Location: 25 Park Wood Rise Lifton PL16 0LA. Application Type: Works to a TPO Tree. Proposal: T1: Mature Sweet Chestnut - lateral crown reduction by 2.5m-3m on side growing into property, reduce crown height (x2 secondary branches at top) by 1.5m-2m to bring back in line with canopy, T2: Ash - fell dead tree. **Decision:** Tree Works Allowed

3854/22/ARC - Location: Glenvale Nursery, Glenside, Old Tinhay Lifton PL16 0DS. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions (discharge). Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 8 (Archaeology / WSI) of planning consent 0487/22/FUL. **Decision:** Discharge of Condition Approved.

3393/22/HHO - Location: Moorcroft Fore Street Lifton PL16 0BT. Application Type: Householder. Proposal: Householder application for proposed ground floor extensions to enlarge kitchen/living area, front door entrance & sitting room. **Decision:** Conditional Approval

### 9.3 Refusals: None

#### General matters relating to Planning:

**9.4** *There is no statutory consultation requirement on the applications below - the information is being sent for information only:*

4406/22/COM - Application Type 28 (1 month) Communication PD Application. Notice of Intent to Install Electronic Communication Apparatus Comprising One Pole at 10.5 metres high (9 mtrs above

ground). 2 Park Cottages Fore Street Lifton PL16 0BU.

4408/22/COM - Application Type 28 (1 month) Communication PD Application. Notice of Intent to Install Electronic Communication Apparatus Comprising One Pole at 10.5 metres high (9 mtrs above ground). Park View Liftondown PL16 0DA.

**10. Correspondence:** West Devon Borough Council - Mayoral Awards Scheme ([Mayoral Awards 2023 - West Devon Borough Council](#))

**11. Councillors' items for future agenda:** Kings Coronation celebrations;

**Next Meeting:** 7.00pm, Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 (venue to be confirmed)

Meeting closed at 20:20.

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