

# Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Tamar Room at The Arundell on  
Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023

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

**Present:** Mr. Edmonds (Parish Chairman), Mr. Dunn, Miss Elias, Mrs. Glen, Mr. Measey, Mr. Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Mounce and Mrs. Edmonds

**1. Apologies:** Mr. Lees, Mr. Sutton-Woodhouse and Revd. C. Arscott.

Those organisations/groups unable to send a representative kindly provided reports for item 5 below.

**2. Minutes** of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (approved at PC meeting 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022)

### **3. Chairman's report**

It has been another busy year for the Council as it returns to normal following the difficult period of the pandemic.

Let's start with some good news, work has commenced on the installation of mobile phone antennae in the church tower, which should provide at long last a credible mobile phone signal across the village.

The routine work of reporting potholes, faulty signs and blocked drains has continued throughout the year; working effectively with partner agencies to ensure we maintain a safe and secure environment for residents.

The Community Speedwatch Team are continuing their good work in monitoring vehicle speeds and reporting the data to the police. Cllr. Dunn heads up the team and is always ready to recruit more volunteers.

The replacement play equipment and safety surface project at the QE11 is nearing completion with the removal of most of the rubber chips and replaced with turf. This leaves one piece of the old equipment in place and a decision will be made in due course as to whether this should be replaced or refurbished. We have also replaced the storage container at the QE11 using Sec. 106 monies received from the North Road development.

We have purchased additional items for the wildlife area at the cemetery using funds bequeathed by a parishioner.

The Parish Council played an active role in the late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations including the presentation of commemorative mugs to the primary school children who live in the parish. The Celebrations were well attended and deemed to be a success by many residents.

Unfortunately, three parish councillors have decided to step down at the end of this council term, Cllr. Elias who has been a member of this Council for ten years, Cllr. Parsons for a similar period and Cllr. Valentine who joined in 2021. We thank them for their contribution to this Council and I'm sure they will continue to play an active part in our community life in the years to come.

And finally, I must thank our Parish Clerk for all her hard work. Sue is very diligent, highly professional and provides excellent support to councillors and the residents of this parish.

### **4. Financial report:**

The Clerk/RFO presented a summary of the financial picture for Lifton Parish Council for 2022-23.

## 5. Reports and news about council and local group activities

- **QE11 Recreation Field**

The play area project is largely completed with the provision of new equipment including a new picnic table. A decision regarding the playhouse will be deferred until the position regarding funding becomes clear. The play area is well used with families coming into Lifton to make use of it.

Some refurbishment work to the pavilion is still outstanding and it is hoped to complete this during the summer. A new storage container has been delivered and is temporarily positioned in the car park until the old container is emptied and the site is completely cleared.

The family of the late BD have offered a memorial bench which will replace the existing broken bench by the hedge, roughly level with the half way line.

The cricket club played three games last summer while unfortunately the football club has had to revert to one team as several players left pre -season.

Finally, if anyone is interested in helping to take care of the QE2 the committee would welcome new members.

- **Community Centre**

During the year, the number of hirers has increased and a few new groups and individuals are now using the Centre, which is great to see. Blackout blinds have been installed in the Thrushel room and a projector and screen has recently been purchased as some hirers have been requesting this.

Our new Booking Officer, Pippa, has recently taken over from Ruth. who has gone travelling. Thanks to both for doing a great job. A few new volunteers have recently come on board, which is good news. The hall will be used as a polling station once again in May. Unfortunately, due to the road closure we have two groups to date that have decided not to hire until the road reopens, which will have some impact on our income.

We are pleased to see our car park finished and lit up in the evenings. However, we still have some security fencing near the car park entrance which we will eventually remove as beech whips have now been planted to form a hedge. If all goes to plan a Salvation Army clothes bank will be installed in the car park at the far end, later this year.

I am sure many of you have seen and even sat on the bench outside the main entrance, that has been installed in memory of TP. Thanks must go to all that contributed to this.

Once again, we have been granted the 20% discretionary rate on the business rates and we wish to thank Chris Edmonds for help he has given us throughout the year.

We are currently raising funds to purchase solar panels, which are needed to reduce our electricity bills. This will help us to keep our hiring charges at a reasonable rate.

Thanks must go to all the groups, individuals, volunteers and Parish Councillors that have supported us during the year and we hope they will continue to do so in the future.

- **Lifton Community Academy (Headteachers report)**

Please see below a summary of some of the events/activities linked to Lifton Community Academy which have taken place over the past year:

Science Fair - June 2022

Christmas Nativity Performances - December 2023

Visit to Ambrosia Factory - young enterprise link - February 2023

Visit to Strawberry Fields for our youngest children - September 2022  
Easter Service at the local church - March 2023

We have a Coronation Picnic planned for May 2023 and are inviting families - we have also invited Parish Council.

Our Friends of Lifton School team have also organised and run a range of fundraising events such as Bingo, Mother's Day Gift Workshop and Easter Bake Sale.

- **Lifton Scouts**

Last year I reported that 2021/2 had been a year of rapid development and growth. This year, I have to report that the Group has continued to grow and develop both in numbers and in the quality of our provision. A major part in the continued growth of our group has been the introduction of a Squirrel Scout section, for girls and boys aged 4 - 6 years old. We are currently the only West Devon group with a Squirrel Drey and the 1st Lifton remains the largest Scout group in this District.

Starting a new section is not an easy task, starting up a new section with a new age group was an even greater challenge. But Natasha and Caroline have risen to the challenge and they have been able to offer an exciting and engaging programme that is age appropriate and fun. Judging by the number of enquiries we receive each month for Squirrel places, it is obvious that we need other groups in West Devon to train up some leaders to meet the demand. It also means that we can be sure of a full complement of Squirrels for some time to come!

Every section of our group is full at present, we have 10 Squirrels, 34 Beavers, 24 Cubs, 24 Scouts, 6 young leaders. This is testament to our incredibly dedicated team of 24 leaders who ensure a varied and exciting programme is offered week by week. In May 2022 it was good to see some of our group involved in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee activities in Lifton. Last summer was particularly busy with both a District Camp and a Group Camp in July - both of which meant that many in our group could experience Scout camping, some for the first time. It was also good to see sailing and rafting on Roadford Lake enjoyed by Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

The executive committee have been so helpful in ensuring the continued development of our group with their strategic planning, applications for grant funding, careful monitoring of expenditure and hands-on support in improving the storage of our sailing equipment at Roadford. The leaders appreciate their support in finding a suitable upgrade for our storage container at Roadford.

Having established a Squirrel section and a second Beaver Colony over the past 18 months, we now have significant pressure to start up a second Cub Pack. When we have sufficient leaders, it will be good to set up a second Cub Pack but we definitely need suitably prepared leaders before we start. We are grateful to both the Lifton Parish Council and West Devon Councillors for their support. In addition, we are grateful to local businesses who have continued to support us in many different ways.

Robert Weston, Group Scout Leader, 1st Lifton Scout Group

- **Cricket Club**

The cricket club will shortly be starting their preparation for the new season and will be playing friendly fixtures in the absence of a local league to compete in.

- **Men's Institute**

The Lifton Mens Institute continues to attract new members after lengthy lockdown closures and it is hoped that a team will again compete in the local snooker league in the near future.

- **Lifton Cottage Garden Society**

Thanks were expressed for the continued support received from Lifton Parish Council towards the garden society show. The Lifton Cottage Garden Society show will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023. There will be a plant sale on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 10am to 12pm in Lifton Community Centre.

- **St Mary's Church, Lifton**

Vodafone have finally started the installation of the communications mast in the tower. This will mean the bells are going to be out of action for a short time although we will be ringing for the Coronation and a wedding in May.

We now have a card machine allowing for donations to be made at any time by visitors to the church even if they have no cash!

We were delighted to be so involved with the Jubilee celebrations last year and hope to be joined by the community in celebrating the Coronation at the service next Friday.

Some work has been done following the Quinquennial inspection including making safe the sexton's hut at the side of the churchyard and a minor repair to the roof.

It was good to welcome the school to the church for their end of term assemblies and also the Scouts for their carol service.

- **Lifton Singers**

We are still going strong with 23 members plus our accompanist and our musical director. We enjoy our Wednesday evening sessions when we meet up to just sing, chat and share a cup of tea and coffee.

Last year was a busy year. For the Jubilee celebrations we sang at Strawberry Fields beacon lighting evening, Stowford Village BBQ and St Mary's Lifton services. We were delighted to return to singing for our friends at Springfields Residential Home in Bridestowe and at Venn House Care Home in Lamerton. We sang at the St Eustachius' church tree festival in Tavistock, Lewtrenchard WI Christmas party and have also accompanied one or two services at St Mary's Church, Lifton and Liftondown Methodist chapel. Once again, we recorded several numbers to accompany a ZOOM production of A Christmas Carol for St Mary the Virgin in Marystowe.

There are no auditions for the group and everyone is welcome. We cover easy listening numbers, songs from the shows and a lovely selection of Christmas music in the autumn term. We all just enjoy singing and we even manage some 4-part harmony and some numbers accompanied by the oboe.

We currently meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm at Liftondown Methodist Church (PL16 0DA).

You are free to come along for a taster session before deciding if you would like to join us.

If you would like to have a chat or if you require any more information, please feel free to contact Barbara Scott at [miss.scott@btinternet.com](mailto:miss.scott@btinternet.com)

- **Lifton Local History Group**

Lifton Local History Group has slowly started to increase membership in the last 12 months. We have managed to book a varied programme of talks and visits for this year and already have the majority of the 2024 diary completed.

We have kept our membership the same for several years now but it's a strong possibility that this may have to increase for 2024. The cost of the Tamar Room has increased along with the rise in cost of some speakers. We would like to be in a position to invite popular speakers from further afield, with this in mind we will be speaking to Lewdown History Group with a view to sharing a speaker on occasion.

Three new committee members joined us at our December AGM, one of which has volunteered to write a report of our talks & visits each month for the C&D Post. Our fb page users have increased and our talks visits etc. are being shared on Local fb boards as well. With the added publicity we hope to attract further members.

**6. Questions and comments from parishioners about any other matters**

A Parishioner raised the on-going issues regarding the Fore Street road closure. The Parish Chairman provided an update on the work he has undertaken in his capacity as a West Devon Borough Council Ward Member; various phone calls and meetings have taken place either with the developer, South West Water, DCC Highways, local Police and Sir Geoffrey Cox MP. Updates have been published on local social media to keep the majority of residents informed of the latest news.

The Parish Chairman thanked those who attended the Annual Parish Meeting and those organisations that contributed a report.

Annual Parish Meeting closed at: 19:32.  
This was followed by the April Parish Council Meeting.

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