

Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Coronation Hall (Tinhay), Lifton
on 22nd June 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 Lees and Cllr Measey

The Chairman welcomed Devon County Councillor Lois Samuel to the meeting.

1. Apologies: Cllr Glen and Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse

2. Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Lifton Parish Council on 25th May 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Dispensations and Declarations of Interest: Cllr Dunn declared an interest in Item 9.1 – Planning application: 1498/23/FUL.

4. Visiting Speaker: None

5. Public Participation/Borough Cllr. Update:

Public Participation: Devon County Councillor Lois Samuel reported that DCC had gone through financial difficulty and that the new Chief Executive would be conducting a whole governance review of the council.

Parish Councils submit complaints about potholes; in January alone 26,000 potholes were reported, a year ago it was 14,000. DCC had had to put off repairs in the pipeline but with additional funding were now back on track with the number for repair down to about 800.

There is a new DCC Highways Officer in place and site visits around the various parishes were planned. Councillors asked whether DCC was considering linking the railway at Bere Alston with Okehampton. Councillor Samuel reported that this is being looked at and that OkeRail were working with Tavistock Town Council to get it going. Funding for a feasibility study had been received.

The Clerk was asked to bring to Councillor Samuel's attention any outstanding local highways issues, such as the New Road subsidence around the gas main.

Borough Cllr. Update: West Devon Borough Council were holding a bi-election in Tavistock North this evening. 2 Liberal Democrats were voted onto WDBC after a bi-election in Burrator last week. WDBC would hold a meeting next week to determine committee membership etc.

Following the Fore Street road closure, the compensation scheme for local businesses in Lifton had been discussed with South West Water. The diversion that was put in place does not preclude local businesses from submitting a compensation claim; SWW would look at each application. Although residents were still not accepting the full road closure, it was necessary to avoid the existing services in the road and for the health and safety of SWW's workforce.

6. General items:

6.1 Co-option of new Councillors

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no applications for co-option to fill the 4 Councillor vacancies following the Borough and Parish Council elections on 4th May 2023.

The advert for the vacancies would remain in place on the PC website and Councillors agreed to speak to local residents to try and encourage applications.

6.2 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:

W231633267 - Pothole, Pothole (Single or multiple). Location: Road from Leat Farm to Gatherley Farm, Lifton. Thank you for contacting us about this issue, which was originally reported on 01-June-2023. The record was completed on the 14-June-2023. The following information is now available; A routine safety inspection has been undertaken since your report. Any actionable safety defects, in line with our highway safety policy, will be repaired accordingly. Details of when we will take action are available on our website.

W231633682 - Thank you for the following report: Problem: Overgrown Vegetation, Public Information Portal, Overgrown Vegetation. Location: Park Wood Rise, Lifton. Date Reported: 03/06/2023. The details have been sent to our team so that an assessment can be carried out. We anticipate that this assessment will be completed by 01/07/2023.

W231623724 - Pothole, Pothole (Single or multiple). Location: Road to Ashleigh Farm, Lifton. Thank you for contacting us about this issue, which was originally reported on 06-May-2023. The record was completed on the 01-June-2023. The following information is now available; Thank you for your report. We recognise that the condition at this location is not as we would expect however we are only able to repair safety defects (as identified in our Highway Safety Policy) at this time. We understand that you may not be satisfied with this response but we don't ignore any reports that we receive and we use this information to help plan our future works programmes and determine our priorities. If the situation gets worse and meets the criteria for repair, or if you would like to provide us with additional information, please do not respond to this message but visit our Report a problem page. If you require further information, please visit our [website](#)

W231640298 - Thank you for the following report: Problem: Defective Road Markings/Signs, Public Information Portal, Defective Signs. Location: Road from Methodist Church to Liftondown, Liftondown. Date Reported: 22/06/2023. The details have been sent to our team so that an assessment can be carried out. We anticipate that this assessment will be completed by 13/07/2023.

Temporary Traffic Notice - Road from Liftondown Cross to Heale Bridge Road from Colemans Cross to Heale Bridge, Lifton (TTRO 2351084): From Tuesday 5 September 2023 (for a maximum of 5 days) until Thursday 7 September 2023 (both dates inclusive). This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - Provide 4 Poles in Verge in Total (Airband). Full details of diversion can be found at: [News June 2023 - Lifton Parish Council \(liftonpc.org.uk\)](https://www.liftonpc.org.uk/news/june-2023)

Update from National Highways re: Ash Dieback in Devon and Cornwall - National Highways operates, maintains and improves England's motorways and major A roads. In the South West we also manage 8,800,000m² of woodland by the side of our roads, this equates to an area larger than Exmoor. There will be Ash Dieback work on the A30 at various sites in Devon and Cornwall. More information on how we manage Ash Dieback can be found at <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-west-news/ash-dieback-in-the-south-west/>

Most of the trees are single, small groups, or seedlings which have encroached onto the verge. Works will be carried out on the verge during daytime hours. A few sites with more complex work will take place overnight under lane closure. Advance warning signs will be displayed ahead of work.

Councillors discussed the positive recent media reports that there is due to be expansion at the Mole Valley site in Tinhay. Although the increase in business was welcomed, Councillors expressed a wish for the lorry drivers to be mindful of the routes taken through the village to and from the site; when Fore Street was closed, the lorries still got where they needed to go.

Councillors noted that Mole Valley had worked hard in the past to mitigate the disruption to local residents and the impact on the local environment, however Councillors would like to put in another polite request that the lorry drivers use the dual carriageway.

Councillor Samuel asked whether a weight restriction could be put on the road; the Clerk was asked to submit an email request to DCC, via Cllr Samuel.

The Clerk was also asked to contact Mole Valley to see how things are going with access; the cutting of the verge on the eastern side; and issues with parking that had been raised previously by them.

Councillors wished to work with Mole Valley to find a resolution. All agreed.

Community Speed Watch Scheme: Cllr Dunn reported that since the 22nd May 2023, 10 sessions had been carried out. The usual speed watch report was not available as Devon & Cornwall Police had not processed the reported entries yet. 48 vehicles had been caught speeding. The speed watch group were now conducting sessions twice a week, targeting different locations at different times within the parish. A speedwatch conference was being held in Exeter on 30th October 2023.

The Chairman confirmed that the VAS was being moved from Liftondown to the top of Darkey Lane.

6.3 '20's Plenty for Devon' Campaign

Councillors received some information on the '20's Plenty for Devon Campaign' prior to the meeting. This relates to a growing number of Devon Parish Councils campaigning to make 20mph the default speed limit where people and motor vehicles mix, with 30mph being an exception.

Some Parish Councils have started their campaigns with the support of '20's Plenty for Us', a not-for-profit organisation which campaigns to make cities, towns and villages better places to be.

Councillors were informed that the Sustainability Officer at Totnes Town Council is supporting the campaign through their role and they were now trying to contact those Parish Councils not yet involved to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate in this countywide initiative; they asked for the campaign to be brought to the attention of Lifton Parish Councillors.

Councillors discussed the '20's Plenty for Devon Campaign' and agreed to join the list of Parish Councils campaigning, via Totnes Town Council's Sustainability Officer. Councillors agreed that a blanket 20mph would not work in all of Lifton and that if the 20mph limit was in the wrong place, no one would adhere to it, nor would it be able to be enforced.

Councillors also agreed to put together a Lifton Road Safety Plan. This will look at specific areas in the village, such as Fore Street, North Road, Darkey Lane, Tinhay and the approach to Liftondown, and

make recommendations to Devon County Council to help improve these local roads. Councillor Samuel agreed to find out who at County-level the plan should be sent to.

The Chairman and Cllr Dunn agreed to work together on the plan with input from other Councillors and the new DCC Highways Officer. The plan will be shared within the community and will demonstrate to residents that the Parish Council is taking a proactive approach to tackling speed issues. Cllr Dunn agreed to attend the information webinar on the '20's Plenty for Devon Campaign' on 28th June 2023.

Action: The Clerk to sign Lifton Parish Council up to the '20's Plenty for Devon Campaign' via the Sustainability Officer at Totnes Town Council.

The Chairman and Cllr Dunn to work on a Lifton Road Safety Plan and report back to the PC in due course.

6.4 Burial Ground

Following a request by the Parish Clerk, Councillors discussed whether Lifton PC should join the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management (ICCM); the list of benefits can be found [here](#). The annual membership fee for the ICCM is £95.00 and would include access to support, help and advice from full-time officers (Diploma Qualified).

Councillors agreed that membership to the ICCM would be beneficial; this would be kept under review on an annual basis.

Motion: For Lifton Parish Council to sign up for ICCM annual membership: Proposed (DM); seconded (SD); All agreed.

Action: The Clerk to liaise with the ICCM and complete the annual membership process.

6.5 Defibrillator Update

Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse undertook the checks in June and Cllr Measey agreed to continue to do so in July.

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

7. Reports:

7.1 QEII Report

The Vice-Chairman read out the minutes from the AGM of the QEII Recreation Field Committee.

8. Finance

8.1 For payment

Clerk's salary for June	£ 629.68
Clerk's expenses (HP printer black ink cartridge)	£ 28.49
Cllr Dunn: Mileage expenses - attendance at OPCC Cllr Advocate Event (16.05.2023)	£ 38.61
Vision ICT – website/email hosting and support 2023-24 (inc. £60.20 VAT)	£ 361.20

Proposed (DM) and seconded (AL); all in favour that the above payments be made online.

[Total payments for June: £ 1057.98]

Action: Clerk to make all payments online.

8.2 Receipts/Payment received:

Interest	£ 4.88
HMRC VAT refund for 2022-23	£ 5526.57

8.3 Outstanding invoices: None

The June invoices for payment and the bank statements issued on 1st June 2023 were seen and signed by two Councillors.

General matters relating to Finance:

8.4 None

9. Planning

9.1 Applications:

1498/23/FUL - Proposal: Erection of new garage on land adjacent to property. Site Address: Whitehall Cottage, Old Tinhay, Lifton, PL16 0AL

Councillors had seen the proposed plans for a double-garage which they noted seemed straight forward and would be matched with the existing property. They said it looked identical to a previous planning application from 2020 for which planning permission was granted.

Councillors agreed to support this application.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (3); not support (0); abstain (*1).

(*Cllr Dunn abstained from the vote after declaring an interest under Item 3 on this agenda).

1633/23/VAR - Proposal: Application for Variation of Condition 3 (hours of operating) of Planning Consent 3933/22/FUL. Site Address: Wooladon Farm, Lifford, PL16 0DD

This application is for a variation of condition 3 (of the previous planning application 3933/22/FUL) which now requested a change to the hours of operating. The wedding venue was restricted to operating to 2 days; the applicant now wants to increase those hours to include a Wednesday until 12.00pm. The applicant wants to expand the business.

Councillors agreed to support this application.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (3); not support (1); abstain (0).

1403/23/PIP - Proposal: Application for Permission in Principle for erection of a dwelling. Site Address: Land At Sx 369 854, Lifford

Councillors discussed the proposal for the erection of a house at Lifford (road that comes off the main road) and noted that there is no development at this location, only a barn situated further up. They also noted that access to the proposed site could be an issue due to the narrowness of the road.

Councillors noted that the Parish Council had, on 14th February 2020, considered a previous application on a property known as 'Midway'.

Councillors referred to that previous application and the discussions from strategic planning regarding the sustainability of housing at Lifford. The site was on a very narrow road, there was no street

lighting and the proposed plan did not satisfy the local housing needs, nor would it meet WDBC's sustainability policy.

Councillors noted that development has taken place in Liftondown but that has been 'in-fill'; this application is detached from that in-fill.

Councillors agreed to not support this application.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (0); not support (4); abstain (0). All in favour.

9.2 Approvals:

1289/23/ARC - Location: Wooladon Farm Liftondown PL16 0DD. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions (discharge). Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 9 (Parking /EVCPs) of planning consent 3933/22/FUL. **Decision:** Discharge of condition Approved

9.3 Refusals: None

General matters relating to Planning:

9.4 Land at Fore Street Lifton - Reserved Matters Application 2873/22/ARM: Wain Homes Update in response to PC comments made on 27th April 2023

The agents acting on behalf of Wain Homes provided a response to the Parish Council regarding Councillor comments raised at the 27th April 2023 and 20th October 2022 Parish Council meetings in relation to the Reserved Matters Application 2873/22/ARM.

Whilst the detailed response to many of the points raised were positive, the Parish Council would continue to review the housing development as it progresses (i.e., to ensure that no construction traffic will park on Fore Street etc.).

Councillors reiterated their concerns raised about the external appearance of the smaller dwellings, in particular, the use of a mocha render colour on some smaller properties. Councillors felt that this particular colour was not in keeping with existing housing in the village. Councillors would ask the developer not use the mocha render colour.

Councillors would ask WDBC's Planning Officer to consider including a stipulation that owners of the rendered properties not be allowed to change the colour of the external appearance of their property; for example, to stop owners painting their properties a garish or bright colour. Councillors felt that some sort of restriction on changing the original colour scheme would help to preserve the overall look of the development. All agreed.

The Chairman agreed to provide the above response to WDBC's Strategic Planning Officer, as the SPO was awaiting a response from Lifton Parish Council.

Action: As detailed above.

10. Correspondence:

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Newsletter - Summer 2023

Update on launch of the Tamara Coast to Coast Way

WDBC: Active Travel project update

11. Councillors' items for future agenda: Co-option and Lifton Road Safety Plan.

Next Meeting: 7.00pm, Thursday, 27th July 2023 (Venue tbc)

Meeting closed at 21:00.

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