

Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Tamar Room (The Arundell), Lifton
on 27th July 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 Glen, Cllr Gynn – from Item 6.1, Cllr Lees and Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse

1. Apologies: Cllr Measey

2. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on 22nd June 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Dispensations and Declarations of Interest: None

4. Visiting Speaker: The Chairman welcomed PCSO Seonaid Greenwood from the Neighbourhood Team and PC Wayne Thielmann the Beat Manager, from Devon and Cornwall Police (Tavistock Police Station).

Councillors received an update on a multi-agency visit that was recently undertaken in Lifton to LiveWest Housing Association properties; it was a positive visit with good engagement with residents. The Neighbourhood Policing Team undertaking local visits were high on the D&C Police agenda and it was hoped that there would be improved involvement in community events and attendance at more Parish Council meetings; both of which were good ways for information sharing.

An update was provided on the mechanisms available to the police to enable action to be taken at a local level. An explanation on the escalation process was given to Councillors; this can be for anything ranging from dealing with, for example, the street drinkers in Tavistock to neighbourhood disturbances. An official letter is issued, run in partnership with the council; members of the public then have 12 months to change their behaviour, if not, a notice is issued. If there are further breaches, a fine of £100 to £1k can be issued. There is a 95% success rate at getting action via the community protection procedure.

Councillors were told that in the last 14 days, 4 crimes had been reported in Lifton, 3 of which were domestic-related. The issues on the A30 continued to require police action; there would be additional policing resources on the A30 from a Friday to Sunday during the Summer. The stretch of A30 from Tedburn St Mary from Launceston was not covered by The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA formerly VOSA). The DVSA has responsibility for maintaining vehicle standards.

There have been 600 calls to the A30 recently, the demand on the police has increased massively dealing with things such as breakdowns, debris on the road etc.

Speeding is always a local concern and the police planned to get the speed detection van out to Liftondown soon; the local Speedwatch Group (consisting of 14 volunteers) were doing a great job. Councillors thanked the local police for attending the meeting.

5. Public Participation/Borough Cllr. Update:

Public Participation: None

Borough Cllr. Update: West Devon Borough Council: Consultants have been appointed to deliver the 'Active Travel' initiative which is a project for a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan. £200k has been awarded from the UK Share Prosperity Fund to get this project going with lots of consultations and community engagement. Whilst Lifton was one of the key areas identified, expectations need to be managed; whilst highly valuable the project will not be able to fund a complete cycle

infrastructure. The project was due to conclude in early 2024 and it hoped to link up with 'Tamar Valley Trail' in the future.

DCC Highways are going to undertake a rural 'give way' and 'stop' road marking project, to remark all rural give way and stop markings on the highway; there are about 6000 of them. This would be a 4-to-5-year project which would improve the product, life expectancy and carbon costs. Work would commence in the South Hams area first.

West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council have won the 'Senior Leadership Team of the Year' category, a prestigious MJ Achievement Award, which celebrates the success stories in local government and the people behind the good work going on in communities.

6. General items:

6.1 Co-option of new Councillors

Following the local Town and Parish Council elections in May, Lifton Parish Council have been advertising to fill four Councillor vacancies; one application from Mr Chris Gynn has been received. Mr Gynn was welcomed to the meeting and provided a brief background and reasons for his application. The Clerk confirmed that this candidate is not disqualified from being a Councillor as set out in the Local Government Act 1972 s79 and s80.

Mr Gynn was duly co-opted onto Lifton Parish Council in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, s.89. His 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' was signed and witnessed at the meeting; this allowed him to participate in the meeting as a co-opted Councillor.

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should continue to advertise the remaining Councillor vacancies over the Summer.

Motion: To co-opt Mr Chris Gynn onto Lifton Parish Council: Proposed (CE); seconded (AL): Support (5); Not support (0); Abstain (0); All in favour.

Action: The Clerk to ask Vision ICT to set up a parish council email account for Cllr Gynn and to send him all the relevant new Councillor paperwork, policy documents etc.

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:

ENQ231649452 - Thank you for the following report: Problem: Highway Comments, Signs & Markers Enquiry (damaged width restriction sign at Liftondown). Location: Road from Methodist Church to Liftondown, Liftondown. Date Reported: 26/07/2023. 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 16/08/2023.

W231645429 - Overgrown Vegetation, Overgrown Vegetation. Location: Darkey Lane, Lifton. Thank you for contacting us about this issue, which was originally reported on 11-July-2023. The record was completed on the 26-July-2023. The following information is now available; Thank you for your report. I have visited the site yesterday. The visibility at the junction from Arundell Gardens onto Darkey Lane does not meet our safety defect criteria, and unfortunately due to it being bird nesting season currently, we would not trim this hedge at present. I could not locate the 2nd hedge

obstructing visibility which was mentioned in the enquiry. If this 2nd hedge is still an issue, please send in a photo and what3words location to customer service centre.

W231647617 - Thank you for the following report: Problem: Defective Road Markings/Signs, Public Information Portal, Defective Signs. Location: Leat Road, Lifton. Date Reported: 19/07/2023. 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 26/07/2023.

W231645072 - Defective Road Markings/Signs, Defective Signs. Location: North Road, Lifton. Further to your communication received on 10-July-2023 the record was assessed on the 12/07/2023. The following information is now available; Further to receiving your report on 10 Jul 2023, we are writing to let you know that it has been reviewed and has been passed to our contractor for either further investigation or to be repaired. We expect this to be completed by 09 Aug 2023. Once completed, we will provide you with a further update to let you know what action has been taken.

Street light not working on Leat Road: Thank you for submitting a fault report on the Devon Lighting site: Thank you very much for reporting this fault. Your report has been recorded and the item will be scheduled for repair. We expect to attend to this fault on or before 10 August 2023.

W231642735 - Thank you for the following report: Problem: Pothole, Public Information Portal, Pothole (Single or multiple). Location: Fore Street, Lifton. Date Reported: 01/07/2023. 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 05/07/2023*.

*Note: Action is still outstanding on this issue; Highways have been asked to action this as a priority.

Community Speed Watch Scheme: Cllr Dunn provided a report on the last two months sessions. From the 29th June 2023 there has been an onwards jump in the percentage of those being caught speeding. Although the reasons for this increase were not clear, wef 1st July 2023 the threshold for speeding had been set at 35mph and above having been previously set at 36mph. Moving of the VAS from Liftondown may also have contributed.

A request was made for the data collected from the VAS to be sent to the police road safety team. A further request for an additional VAS in Lifton was also made. The Chairman confirmed that this request would form part of the Road Safety Plan that was being put together over the Summer; the current VASs would also need replacing at some point.

The Lifton Speedwatch group and hoped to join up with the neighbouring Lewdown Speedwatch group to co-ordinate future speed checks.

The Chairman provided an update on the Snow Warden scheme. Under this scheme a salt spreader was purchased for Lifton and stored in a barn belonging to the local SW contractor. Due to a recent house move, the salt spreader needed to be moved from the barn to the QEII Recreation Ground, as a matter of urgency. An associated pallet of salt was also found and moved; the cost of which would need to be covered from PC funds. Councillors agreed that this should be paid and asked for it to be reported on the next PC-meeting agenda.

The Chairman and Cllr Dunn would draft a Lifton Road Safety Plan over the Summer, taking on board the comments raised at last months meeting and the requests this evening to consider an additional VAS for the village; and for the impact of the new Wain Homes development in Lifton and the associated increase in traffic to be included in the plan.

6.3 Burial Ground

Following the discussion and decision at last month's meeting, the Clerk completed an application to join the Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management (ICCM); the invoice for approval is under agenda item 8.1. There was a reduced rate in the joining fee as membership usually runs from March to April each year.

The Clerk reported that she would seek advice from the ICCM regarding the safety checks on burial ground memorials and the review of the burial ground fees and policies. The Clerk would look to undertake a site visit to the burial ground in mid-August accompanied by the Parish Chairman. The full review of the burial ground fees will also include recommendations to tidy up the policies regarding grave maintenance.

Action: As set out above. The Clerk to report back to the PC following the burial ground site visit and review of burial ground fees.

6.4 Defibrillator Update

Cllr Measey undertook the checks in July and Cllr Dunn offered to undertake checks in August, if Cllr Measey does not want to continue to do so.

Action: The Clerk to confirm who will undertake the defib checks at the Community Centre during August.

7. Reports:

7.1 OPCC Councillor Advocate Scheme

Cllr Dunn attended a road safety conference (online seminar) which was quite interesting; the Clerk had already sent the slides to Councillors. Under 'Operation Snap', over 5000 drivers have been prosecuted. Fatal accidents are increasing, especially motorbike accidents.

There were now over 200 speedwatch groups in Devon and Cornwall. The blanket 20mph speed limit being rolled out throughout Cornwall has not been welcomed by all.

8. Finance

8.1 For payment

Clerk's salary for July	£ 629.68
ICCM – Corporate Membership for 2023	£ 71.00
Martin Ashley & Son Gardening Services:	
Grass cutting – Lifton Cemetery (inc. £ 157.50 VAT)	£ 945.00
Grass cutting – Village green/verges & Weed spray/Kerbs (inc. £ 173.25 VAT)	£ 1,039.50
Grass cutting & strimming – QEII Recreation Ground (inc. £ 115.50 VAT)	£ 693.00

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

[Total payments for July: £ 3378.18]

Action: Clerk to make all payments online.

8.2 Receipts/Payment received:

Interest £ 5.47

8.3 Outstanding invoices: None

The July invoices for payment and the bank statements issued on 30th June 2023 were seen and signed by two Councillors.

General matters relating to Finance:

8.4 Bank reconciliation: April to June 2023

Councillors noted the bank reconciliation from April to June 2023; it was duly signed by two Councillors.

9. Planning

9.1 Applications:

2457/23/HRN - Proposal: Application for Hedgerow Removal Notice to remove 27 12 metre sections (total 324m) of hedgerow to enable 4km pipeline construction between Gatherley (SX 37478 83353) and an operational site adjacent to the Lyd (SX 39924 85088). Site Address: Land at SX 374 833, Gatherley

Councillors noted the big project to back fill at Roadford Lake and to plan ahead for future droughts. The hedgerow at the top end of Gatherley and at the operational site at the Lyd needed to be removed to allow access for the machinery and pipeline.

The hedge is to be reinstated once the work has been completed as far as possible back to the original hedging.

Although Councillors questioned whether it was absolutely necessary to have such large gaps in the hedge, they agreed to support this application.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (6); not support (0); abstain (0).

9.2 Approvals:

0275/23/FUL Lifton - Location: Autospray Bodyshop Centre Tinhay Mill Industrial Estate Tinhay PL16 0AH. Application Type: Full Planning Application. Proposal: Extension of workshop. **Decision:** Conditional Approval

1356/23/ARC - Location: Borough House Fore Street Lifton PL16 0BH. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions (discharge). Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 7 (WSI) of planning consent 4116/17/OPA. **Decision:** Discharge of condition Approved

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:

2018/23/ARC - Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions (discharge). Application for approval of details reserved by condition 6 (Sustainable Drainage Option) of planning consent 4116/17/OPA. Borough House Fore Street Lifton PL16 0BH

2085/23/ARC - Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions (discharge). Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 7 (Facing Materials) and 8 (Boundary Treatment) of planning consent 4762/21/ARM. Land to rear of Borough House Fore Street Lifton PL16 0BH

9.5 Application to Name and Number New Street [[RP/455528]]

A location plan and final numbering plan for 5 new residential properties to be known as 1-5 Borough Court, Lifton PL16 0FE, was shared with Councillors prior to the meeting.

10. Correspondence:

Whitehall Woods – Dog bin request: Councillors agreed to add this to September’s PC agenda for a formal discussion and decision.

11. Councillors’ items for future agenda: Co-option; Lifton Road Safety Plan; Salt pallet removal costs; and Whitehall Woods – dog bin request.

Next Meeting: 7.00pm, Thursday, 28th September 2023 (Venue tbc)

Meeting closed at 20:40.

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