

Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held in the Tamar Room at The Arundell on

Thursday, 25th April 2024

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 Alexander, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Glen, Mr Gynn, Mr Lees, Mr Measey, Mr Sutton-Woodhouse, Mr and Mrs Brown, Revd. C. Arscott, Miss Elias and Mr Weston.

1. Apologies: Mr. Dunn

(Please find below reports kindly provided by some of those organisations/groups unable to send a representative to the meeting).

2. Minutes of the meeting on 27th April 2023 (approved at PC meeting 25th May 2023)

3. Chairman's report

It has been another busy year for the Council, which has seen significant planning applications submitted for consideration of the Wain Homes development site off Fore Street and the SWW water abstraction and pumping facility at Gatherley.

Disappointingly, the project to improve mobile phone signal in the village by installing antennae in the church tower has stalled due to issues with the supply of technical equipment. This important project should be completed in the coming months, and I'm sure we will all welcome the prospect of improved mobile phone signal.

The extremely wet winter has taken its toll on our road network and the PC has routinely reported potholes to DCC Highways for repair. Due to funding shortages, DCC only repair potholes that meet their safety criteria. The PC has been concerned about sections of poor road surface in New Road, the top of Darkey Lane and on the road leading to Ashleigh. DCC have stated that these areas will form part of their ongoing maintenance programme, although no timescales have been given. In the meantime, any safety defects in these identified areas will be repaired.

The PC also reports damaged road signs, blocked drains, and faulty streetlights to DCC, to ensure we maintain a safe and secure environment for residents.

The local community celebrated the King's Coronation in the community centre with the PC presenting Coronation mugs to local children.

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 happy to recruit more volunteers. Following ongoing concerns about traffic speeds throughout our three communities, the PC carried out a resident survey to gather views on speeding issues and potential solutions. A Road Safety Plan was developed by the PC using the information gathered from the survey and submitted to DCC Highways for consideration. Highways have requested the PC to reapply for their county wide initiative of introducing 20mph zones in selected areas of the county. We wait to hear if our application has been successful. The Plan included a request for 'wig-wag' warning lights to be

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installed in New Road for the protection of parents and children using the New Road school entrance, unfortunately, this request has been declined, but we are pressing Highways to reconsider their decision.

The replacement of play equipment and safety surface project at the QE11 is nearing completion. The final piece of old play equipment has been removed on safety grounds and an order placed for a new multi-play quad tower. Further work has also been carried out on the pavilion including a non-slip rubber matting laid on the decking, and a comprehensive review of fire safety equipment.

During the year, we welcomed three new Councillors' who are making a valuable contribution to the work of the PC. There is still one vacancy on the PC.

Our Parish Clerk has joined the Society for Local Council Clerks which provides access to a professional body who can provide invaluable guidance and training regarding parish matters when required. As the Responsible Financial Officer, the Clerk has maintained the PC accounts to a good standard and an unqualified audit opinion has been achieved. Councillors highly value Sue's professionalism and excellent support provided to the parish as a whole.

4. Financial report:

The Clerk/RFO presented a summary of the financial picture for Lifton Parish Council for 2023-24.

5. Reports and news about council and local group activities

- **QE11 Recreation Field**

The refurbishment of the play area is almost complete. The old wooden playhouse has been removed and a new four-tower unit is to be installed later this year. A recent ROSPA report was positive with a few minor items e.g. signage to be resolved.

The old storage container has been removed and a new container is now in place. Some refurbishment to the pavilion has also been completed.

A memorial seat for the late Brian Donahue has been sited and appears to be well used.

Although the field is used almost daily by dog owners there have been no reports of dog fouling from other users.

- **Community Centre**

The number of hirers has increased and a few new groups and individuals are now using the Centre, which is good to see. The twice monthly coffee mornings are proving popular. It was lovely to see so many people visiting the hall to celebrate the King's Coronation and tucking into a cream tea, prior to the children being presented with mugs.

Michelle is our new Booking Officer and she is doing a splendid job. A few new volunteers have recently come on board, which is good news, but we would welcome some more.

The hall will be used as a polling station once again in May.

The boundary hedge between us and the new development has been replaced by a retaining wall on the developer's side and a small wall on our side, which is an improvement. However, we still have some security fencing near the car park entrance which will eventually be removed when the beech whips form a hedge, but sadly some will need replacing as they didn't take hold due to the drought in the summer.

We have erected a new sign at the car park entrance and also at the designated disabled bays. There is also one inside acknowledging those that have helped build the centre.

A Salvation Army clothes bank has been installed at the far end of the car park and is being used by many.

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)**

Events over the past year and planned events for the summer term:

King's Coronation Picnic - school grounds - May 2023

Harvest Service at St Mary's Church - parents and carers invited - Oct 2023

Dartmoor Rescue visited us at school - Nov 2024

RNLI visited us at school - Jan 2024

Nativity performances at school - parents/carers invited - Dec 2024

Christmas singalong - Early Years - parents/ carers invited

Online Safety workshop for children, led by visitors from The Children's Society and afterwards a workshop for parents/ carers - March 2024

'Open The Book' volunteers have visited school every half-term and have led an assembly based on a bible story

Father Phillip visits weekly and leads a singing assembly

Science Fair - school hall - parents/carers invited - Jan 2024

Easter Service at St Mary's Church - parents/ carers invited to join - March 2024 (relocated to school hall due to heavy rain)

Easter Egg Hunt for Early Years children - parents/carers invited to join - March 2024

Local Vet visited to talk to Early Years children - March 2024

Numerous bake sales and other fundraising events in conjunction with Friends of Lifton School

Links with community businesses

Year 6 visited Strawberry Fields in March 2024, linked to their DT project

Year 5 visited Ambrosia for an enterprise day - Jan 2024

Staff Easter social at Arundell Arms - March 2024

Planned:

Summer Fair - School Grounds - 13th July 2024

Art workshop with 2 local artists at Lamerton Village Hall (we are taking our Year 4 children to work with Gulworthy/Lamerton Year 4 children) - June 2024

Music workshop with Year 3 children from Lamerton and Gulworthy visiting us at our school - June 2024

Sports Day - July 2024

- **Lifton Scouts**

Over the past three years the Lifton Scout group has seen considerable growth and development. This year, the Group has continued to grow and develop both in numbers and in the quality of our provision. In 2022 we introduced a Squirrel Scout section, for girls and boys aged 4 - 6 years old. We are still the only West Devon group with a Squirrel Drey and the 1st Lifton remains the largest Scout group in the District.

Starting a new section is not an easy task, over the past three years we have started up a second Beaver Scout section, a Squirrel Scout Section and in January 2024 we started a second Cub Scout Pack.

Currently we have nearly 100 young people: Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and young leaders. This is thanks to our incredibly dedicated team of 24 leaders who ensure a varied and exciting programme is offered week by week. The leaders not only give up their time for our weekly activities but also complete ongoing training and training for specific activities. Four of our leaders have completed a Tomahawk Throwing training course and several are booked on a Climbing training course. The Scout Group Trustees play an important role in ensuring the continued development of our group, assisting with our strategic planning. We are grateful to the contribution and expertise of Peter Morris who is in his tenth year as the Chair of Trustees. We are also grateful to Simon Dunn who stepped down from the role of Treasurer having made significant progress with our online banking and record keeping.

We appreciate the range of facilities in the village which enable us to meet week by week including Lifton Community Centre, Lifton Methodist Church and the Queen Elizabeth Recreation Ground. In addition, we use the water-sports facilities at Roadford Lake each summer for sailing, kayaking and rafting.

We are grateful to both the Lifton Parish Council and West Devon Councillors for their support. In addition, we appreciate the Lifton & Tinhay businesses who have continued to support us in the past year.

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

- **Cricket Club**

Last season the club attracted a number of younger players and enjoyed playing friendly fixtures against other village teams. We hope to build on this success and preparations for the new season will soon be under way.

- **Men's Institute**

The Lifton Men's Institute continues to attract new members and provides excellent recreational opportunities for people who live in the village and neighboring communities. We have been able to upgrade our premises with a new roof, replacement storage heaters and refurbishment of one of the snooker tables. New members are always welcome

- **Lifton Cottage Garden Society**

The village flower show has been renamed the 'Lifton Village Show' and will take place on Saturday, 3rd August 2024. The society changed the name to ensure wider participation in this event and to confirm that people did not have to belong to the WI to take part. Entries to the various categories of the show were very much welcomed from as many people as possible. The show itself continues to evolve and expand as more people are involved with crafting activities; unfortunately, the seed swap and plant sale will not take place this year.

Although the number of category entries increased, last year's show day coincided with a storm, so less people attended on the day.

Mr Chris Edmonds is the new President of the society; the group have fun and is always open to new members.

- **Lifton Methodist Church**

Please see scanned copy of report on page 7 below (taken from the hard copy provided by Revd. Arscott at the meeting).

- **Lifton Singers**

Lifton Singers celebrate their 12th year as a group in 2024. The singers, both male and female, have had another enjoyable year of singing, performing and socialising. Mary and Leslie Mazur-Park are still our amazing accompanist and our musical director leading us in a mixed repertoire of songs. We meet up each Wednesday evening to just sing, chat and share a cup of tea and coffee and the occasional baked treat. We have expanded to 25 members now and continue to welcome anyone who loves singing.

Last year was another busy year. We were invited to sing at Lifton Community Centre for King Charles II coronation celebrations and a local wedding. We were delighted to continue singing for our friends at Springfields Residential Home in Bridestowe and Venn House Care Home in Lamerton. We sang at the St Eustachius' church tree festival in Tavistock, a breast cancer fundraising coffee morning and, also, accompanied one or two services at St Mary's Church, Lifton and Liftondown Methodist chapel. Once again, we joined in the fun of the Christmas concert at St Mary the Virgin in Marystowe. And for the first time we closed the summer term with an informal "Friends and Family" performance. As we always say 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 composed by Leslie and accompanied by him on the oboe.

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

6. Questions and comments from parishioners about any other matters

An issue was raised about the standing water and silt build-up in the drain around the entrance gateway to the QEII recreation ground. The QEII Recreation Ground Committee will look to deal with these issues which will include getting the drain rodded and engaging with DCC Highways in relation to the potholes and issues on the Highways-owned parts of the road.

A request was received from the Methodist Church for some sort of warning along the road (from the A30 slip road) that the chapel was a public building and in frequent use. Unfortunately, the chapel fell just outside of the 30mph speed limit in Liftondown.

Lifton Parish Council would discuss this matter under the Highways agenda item at the meeting to follow this one. A suggestion was put forward to ask DCC Highways to expand the 30mph to include the chapel.

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

Annual Parish Meeting closed at: 19:45
This was followed by the April Parish Council Meeting.

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

Report to Annual Parish Assembly Thursday 25th April 2024

Lifton Methodist Church

I am pleased to report that Lifton Methodist Church continues to hold church services every Sunday morning and that we have a good attendance of people from quite a wide area: Lifton, Lifton Down, St Giles, Broadwood, Lewdown, Chillaton and Launceston.

The majority of people who attend are in the 60+ age group but there are efforts being made to encourage younger people and their families to come along and join us.

Each month there is a Family service in which the needs of younger people are particularly met.

We hold a Craft Afternoon four times a year ie Harvest-time, Christmas, Easter and one during the summer months to which we invite families with children aged 4 to 11 for an afternoon of Bible story, song, games, crafts and a shared tea. These are well attended and we are planning to continue to hold them.

A small group of Methodists visit Lifton Primary School twice a term to do "Open the book".

We hold a coffee morning on the first Wednesday of every month to which we often have an invited speaker. Afterwards we go to Strawberry Fields for a meal together which is greatly appreciated by all and especially those who normally eat alone.

We join together with the congregation from St Mary's Parish Church, Lifton for the Remembrance Service, Christians Together (January) and on Good Friday.

We are pleased to have the Beavers and the Cub Scouts use our building on a regular basis and also Lifton Singers meet together once a week during term time.

Events held during the last year

18 th April 23	Concert with Danny Holmes
3 rd May 23	Open coffee morning to celebrate the Coronation
7 th May 23	Coronation Celebration service followed by The Coronation Big Lunch

Events planned for this year

- Summer concert on Wednesday 19th June at 7.30 pm
- Summer craft afternoon – date to be confirmed
- Harvest Festival service led by Mr David Pett on Sunday 22nd September