

Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the QEII Pavilion (Recreation Ground, Leat Road),
Lifton on 27th June 2024

*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 Alexander, Cllr K Dunn, Cllr S Dunn, Cllr Gynn and Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr Glen, Cllr Lees and Cllr Measey
- 2. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on 23rd May 2024 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/Guest Speakers:** None
- 5. Public Participation/Borough Cllr. Update:**

Public Participation: A local resident attended the meeting to ask whether there was going to be traffic lights for a crossing outside West End Cottages to access the new Wain Homes housing development in the Parish. Councillors confirmed that they had not seen any plans for a controlled crossing at this location, that the cabling in place (on the pavement) was going to be used for street lighting only. Lifton Parish Council had requested a traffic island be installed to access the new development on Fore Street but this was rejected by DCC Highways as they felt this would be more of a danger to pedestrians and drivers.

Councillors confirmed that two formal crossing places would be installed signified by a tactile pavement and dropped curb only.

The resident also raised the issue of speeding vehicles along the same stretch of Fore Street/A388.

Borough Cllr. Update: Cllr Edmonds will provide an update at the next PC meeting on the recent WDBC peer group challenge undertaken by the Local Government Association.

WDBC were currently in the pre-election period with certain restrictions in place until after the election on 4th July 2024. Lots of work is being carried out with regards to the election, such as organising the polling stations etc.

Cllr Edmonds confirmed that the pavement/footpath being installed for the Wain Homes development on Fore Street had not had its final coating yet because the installation of the water supply, high voltage cables and street lights needed to be done first.

The current set of traffic lights in situ on Fore Street is for the high voltage cable which will come up from The Arundell. The works resulting in the traffic lights have to be finished by 19th July, however Wain Homes has permission to keep the lights in place on the road until 2nd August. This allows for any delay in those works and to mitigate them not having to apply for permission to extend.

The big yellow plastic hump in the road was quite high for vehicles to negotiate and was noisy; this is due to be turned around so the slopping side was more easily accessible.

Councillors received an update regarding the noisy drain cover opposite the property known as 'Woodvale'. This had been reported to Highways and although they had sent reports to say the repair had taken place, nothing had actually changed. A Highways Officer was deployed to investigate and found that the drain cover belonged to South West Water (SWW). DCC Highways have been in touch with SWW and SWW have been made aware of the on-going problem. Cllr Edmonds was currently awaiting confirmation of a date for the SWW repair works.

The plastic 'equipment' sited on the grass (on the triangle) at the top of the village is to do with the high voltage cable; the equipment was incorrectly put at this location by works contractors however it will be removed when used for the installation of the cable.

General items:

6.1 Highways Update including Lifton Road Safety Plan

The Clerk provided a report to Councillors prior to the meeting which detailed highways matters that have been reported to or from Devon County Council Highways (or other departments) since the last meeting. Please see separate attachment 'Appendix A'.

The Clerk provided an update, as follows:

W241758540 - Defective Road Markings/Signs, Defective Road Markings (White). Location: North Road, Lifton. Thank you for contacting us about this issue, which was originally reported on 12-June-2024. The record was completed on the 27-June-2024. The following information is now available; Thank you for bringing the condition of this non-safety road marking to our attention. Having reviewed this request, an order has now been raised to replace the KEEP CLEAR markings at this location and the works will be completed in due course, subject to workload and weather conditions.

W241762630 - Thank you for the following report: Problem: Trip Hazard, Public Information Portal, Trip Hazard. Location: Oak Ridge, Lifton. Date Reported: 26/06/2024. 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 03/07/2024.

Other highways issues raised at the meeting:

Faded 'give way' road markings at the turning to Tavistock was raised, along with a report that the bridge at Tinhay had been hit again.

Councillors were informed that DCC are doing county-wide road re-marking as part of their regular maintenance programme. No further information, such as dates for Lifton, had been provided by DCC.

Councillors decided not to pursue a suggestion put forward by a resident to have dedicated parking spaces installed opposite the doctor's surgery, for patients only, on North Road. The Parish Chairman and Clerk agreed to speak to both the school and surgery in the hope that a resolution to the parking issues on North Road could be explored.

The Clerk was asked to contact the DCC Highways Officer to ascertain a definitive date for repair works in Lifton that fell under DCC Highways regular maintenance programme. Councillors agreed that DCC Councillor Lois Samuel be copied into the email given the many, and on-going, highways issues within the Parish.

A resident had raised concerns about vehicles parking on pavements; they were informed that it is not illegal to park on a pavement, however it is illegal if causing an obstruction (i.e., prams, wheelchairs etc., cannot get through/passed).

The request by the Methodist Chapel for an extension of the 30mph speed limit at Liftondown was responded to by DCC Highways. DCC Highways' full response was reported at May's PC meeting and was available to see on the Parish website (under May's meeting minutes – Appendix A).

Action: The Parish Chairman and Clerk to speak to both the school and surgery regarding the parking issues on North Road.

The Clerk to contact DCC Highways Officer regarding DCC's Highways regular maintenance programme dates.

Speedwatch report: Councillors received the latest speed data report. 4 sessions had been carried out and during the sessions undertaken 10% cars exceeded the speed limit.

The group sessions had been limited by the traffic lights on Fore Street; speed checks had been undertaken in Liftondown. A new site (to undertake speed checks) had been approved next to the bus stop down the hill.

The group had received a new body-worn camera, from the police, to be worn during their speed checks; this would be tried out by the volunteers next week.

The Parish Chairman confirmed that the batteries were back in the VAS at the top of Darkey Lane. Councillors agreed that the VAS be moved to the front road in Liftondown near the Methodist Chapel and mounted on the light column.

6.2 Parish Footpaths

This item was raised by the Parish Council Vice-Chairman who was absent for this meeting.

Councillors agreed to defer this item to the July PC meeting.

Cllr S Dunn reported that the footpath in Liftondown (by the bus stop) was blocked by overgrown hedging. Cllr Dunn agreed to provide the exact location to the Clerk so that it could be reported to DCC.

6.3 Defibrillator Update

Cllr K Dunn and Mr M Greeney undertook the defib checks during June; the defib is in good working order. They agreed to continue to undertake the defib checks in July.

7. Reports:

7.1 QEII Report

Councillors were informed that the new play equipment was now in place; turf has been laid and the safety surface installed. Some tidying up was still to be done. The new equipment is going down really well with both local users and those from afar. The roundabout is still sticking; this has been raised with the company as it is still under warranty.

The QEII Committee AGM will take place on 8th July 2024.

Following reports of a dangerous tree on/by the riverbank (due to rot), the tree was found to have nesting woodpeckers in it. As a remedial course of action (until the woodpeckers leave), the local contractor has sectioned off the tree with posts and ropes; and a sign has also been put in place.

There is a big pile of rubber chips by entrance to the QEII; the Committee were trying to give them away as they are no longer needed in the play area.

An official opening ceremony at the play area will be arranged. The cricket season is now up and running.

7.2 OPCC Councillor Advocate Scheme

Cllr Gynn provided the following update:

There is a revised Police website for England, Northern Ireland and Wales: [Home | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk)

For Devon and Cornwall: [Devon and Cornwall Police | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk)

This is a one-stop shop for policing matters and includes the latest crime statistics, local named officers and contact details; information can also be found by entering your postcode or address.

PCC Alison Hernandez's recent blog 'Be a Scambassador' advised:

Never disclose security details; Don't assume a call or email is authentic; Listen to your instincts; Stay in control; and don't be rushed.

There will be 'drop-in' session with local Police at Lifton's Community Centre at 11.00am-12.00pm on 18th July 2024.

8. Finance

8.1 For payment

Clerk's salary for June	£ 700.70
Clerk's expenses (Notepads, paper clips & labels)	£ 5.00
TK Play Ltd: Supply & install agri-flex link path at QEII play area (inc. £70.00 VAT)	£ 420.00

Martin Ashley & Sons Gardening Services: QEII Recreation Ground – rubber chippings removal, top soil & turfing (inc. £184.00 VAT) £ 1,104.00

Vision ICT:

Hosting x2 Councillor email addresses: Cllr K Dunn & Cllr Alexander (inc. £8.00 VAT)	£ 48.00
Website/email hosting and support 2024-25 (inc. £63.00 VAT)	£ 378.00

To formally note the following payments made since the last PC meeting (approval was given by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman prior to payment):

Community First: Insurance renewal for 2024-25	£ 1,831.56 (paid on 31/05/2024)
Community First: Increased cover for play equipment	£ 135.66 (paid on 10/06/2024)

TK Play Ltd: Supply & installation of Teko 4 Tower at QEII play area (inc. £3979.60 VAT) £ 23877.60 (paid on 03/06/2024)

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

[Total payments for June: £ 28,500.52]

Action: Clerk to make all payments online.

8.2 Receipts/Payment received:

Interest	£	9.27
WDBC: s106 funds (QEII pavilion electrical services/frost protection)	£	.90
HMRC VAT refund for 2023-24	£	2,287.32
WDBC: s106 funds (QEII play area: play equipment removal/skip)	£	750.00
WDBC: s106 funds (QEII play area: Supply/install Teko 4 Tower)	£	19,898.00

8.3 Outstanding invoices: None

The June invoices for payment, for noting and the bank statements issued on 31st May 2024 were seen and signed by two Councillors.

General matters relating to Finance:

8.4 VAT Reclaim: 1st quarter of 2024-25

The Clerk informed Councillors that during the first quarter of 2024-25, Lifton Parish Council had paid out £ 4729.52 in VAT. Councillors were asked to consider whether the Clerk should apply for a first-quarter VAT refund from HMRC to help maintain the PC's budget for 2024-25.

Motion: Councillors resolved for the Clerk to apply to HMRC for a £4729.52 VAT refund for the first quarter of 2024-25.

Proposed (SD); seconded (CG); all in favour. A vote was taken by a show of hands.

Action: The Clerk to complete VAT126 form for a VAT refund from HMRC as detailed above.

8.5 WDBC Sustainable Community Locality Fund Application

The Clerk reported that Lifton Parish Council had been successful in its application for securing £300.00 towards the new agri-flex link path at the QEII play area from WDBC's Sustainable Community Locality Fund Application.

9. Planning

9.1 Applications:

1070/24/FUL - Proposal: Placement of a modular building to provide one additional classroom. Site Address: Lifton Primary School, North Road, Lifton, PL16 0EH

Councillors had seen the proposed plans prior to the meeting and, whilst they supported this application, they did so on the basis that mention be made of their on-going concerns regarding the increase in congestion and parking issues outside the school site on North Road and also on New Road.

Councillors suggested consideration (as part of this application) be given to the school increasing its staff parking facilities by the installation of an 'off-road' car park on the school site itself which would help ease the congestion and parking issues on North Road.

Although Councillors noted that those from the new Wain Homes housing development should be able to walk their children to/from school, in reality, those going onto work or other commitments at school drop-off/pick-up times would result in an increase in vehicles on North Road and New Road.

Councillors supported this application on the proviso that the above concerns are considered.

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

A vote was taken by show of hands.

1608/24/LBC - Proposal: Listed Building Consent to dismantle a 1970s cupboard & reinstate a historic opening in a more recently blocked up wall, protect escape route from fire & smoke with introduction of new door to top of central stair, introduce wood burning stove within existing fireplace with flue liner installed in existing chimney. Site Address: Wortham Manor, Lifton, PL16 0ED

Councillors supported this application.

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

A vote was taken by show of hands.

9.2 Approvals:

3982/23/HHO - Site Address: Markstone Farmhouse, Lifton, PL16 0HD

Description: Householder application for proposed ground floor extension with kitchen/dining area, utility / W.C., and first floor extension to create master bedroom with en-suite. **Decision:** Conditional Approval

0034/24/FUL - Applicant Name: South West Water Limited Officer. Site Address: Land at SX 373 834, Lifton. Description: READVERTISEMENT (additional/revised information received) Construction & operation of water abstraction & pumping facility with associated access arrangements, landscape planting & other ancillary works. **Decision:** Conditional Approval

1494/24/NMM - Applicant Name: Wain Homes (South West). Site Address: Development Site At Sx 382 850, Fore Street, Lifton, PL16 0BT. Description: Non material minor amendment to planning consent 2536/20/OPA for amendment to condition 9 (lighting). **Decision:** Conditional Approval

1621/24/ARC - Applicant Name: Strawberry Fields Farm Shop Ltd. Site Address: Strawberry Fields, Lifton, PL16 0DH. Description: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (Sustainable Drainage Option) of planning consent 0043/24/FUL. **Decision:** Discharge of Condition Approved

1618/24/ARC - Applicant Name: South West Water Limited. Site Address: Land At Sx 373 834, Lifton. Description: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 14 (Waste Audit Statement) of planning consent 0034/24/FUL. **Decision:** Discharge of Condition Approved

1620/24/ARC - Applicant Name: South West Water Limited. Site Address: Land At Sx 373 834, Lifton. Description: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (Surface Water Drainage System) of planning consent 0034/24/FUL. **Decision:** Discharge of Condition Approved

9.3 Refusals:

0302/24/ARM - Site Address: Wooladon Farm, Liftondown, PL16 0DD. Description: Application for approval for reserved matters following outline approval reference 2531/21/OPA relating to access, appearance, landscaping, layout, scale for erection of a dwelling for a farm manager together with access drive, plus the discharge of Conditions 6 (BNG), 7 (CEMP) and 8 (LEMP) (resubmission of 2531/21/OPA). **Decision:** Refusal

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:*

1618/24/ARC Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions. Applicant Name: South West Water Limited. Site Address: Land At Sx 373 834, Lifton. Description: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 14 (Waste Audit Statement) of planning consent 0034/24/FUL

1619/24/ARC Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions. Applicant Name: South West Water Limited. Site Address: Land At Sx 373 834, Lifton. Description: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 15 (Employment and Skills Plan) of planning consent 0034/24/FUL

1620/24/ARC Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions. Applicant Name: South West Water Limited. Site Address: Land At Sx 373 834, Lifton. Description: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (Surface Water Drainage System) of planning consent 0034/24/FUL

1621/24/ARC Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions. Applicant Name: Strawberry Fields Farm Shop Ltd. Site Address: Strawberry Fields, Lifton, PL16 0DH. Description: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (Sustainable Drainage Option) of planning consent 0043/24/FUL

10. Correspondence: None

11. Councillors' items for future agenda: As detailed in these minutes.

Next Meeting: 7.00pm, Thursday, 25th July 2024, Coronation Hall (Fox & Grapes)

Meeting closed at 20:45.

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