

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER
AT 1930 At Jubilee Hall, Litcham

Present:

Councillor M Oldfield (Chairman)
Councillor C Mitchell
Councillor M Anderson
Councillor E Christie
Councillor R Fagence
Councillor Lawrence
County & District Councillor Kiddle-Morris

2 Parishioners

A new clerk was appointed due to Bryan Leigh retiring. All Councillor welcomed the new clerk Donna Secker.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Brookbank, this was accepted.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no DPI's

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

Councillor Anderson proposed and Councillor Lawrence seconded the resolution that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2020 having been circulated be approved. The minutes were duly signed.

4. Public Participation

4.1 To receive report from the County and District Councillor

Planning:

“Planning for the Future”: - The government is currently consulting on radical proposals to reform the planning system. The consultation, under the title Planning for the Future started on the 6th August and will run until the 29th October. The paper outlines 5 fundamental proposals: Streamline the planning process with more democracy taking place more effectively at the plan making stage; a radical digital first approach to modernise the planning process; bringing a new focus on design and sustainability; improve infrastructure delivery, ensuring developers play their part through reform of developer contributions; ensure more land is available for the homes and development people and communities need. Implementation of any of the above reforms will require primary legislation and it is anticipated that this will be pushed through in the next 12 months.

There is another planning consultation “Changes to the Current Planning System” also running from the 6th August but finishes on the 1st October. This details interim changes to the current planning guidance until the reforms detailed above take effect. Briefly the changes are: amendment to the standard method for assessing housing

need; securing of First Homes which are sold at a discount (this separates(30%) to first time buyers through developer contributions; raising the small site threshold below which developers are not required to contribute affordable housing from the current 10 dwellings to 40 or 50 to support SME builders; extending the current “Permission in Principle” (this separates the consideration of matters of principle for proposed development from the technical detail) to major development.

A further consultation ending on 30th October is underway called “Transparency and Competition” which is proposing changes to improve the transparency of contractual mechanisms used to exercise control over land such as land options, rights of pre-emption and estate contracts.

All the details on the documents mentioned above and how to respond to the consultation are available on the gov.uk website.

4.2 Public Comment

4.2.1 The Chairman received a letter from a parishioner regarding the trees on Tittleshall road, the land on which the trees stand has been subject of a planning application and a tree preservation order was issued. The letter was requesting that the parishioner felt the trees are dying or have leaf miner disease. The tree officer at Breckland have informed the parishioner that the trees are not dangerous. The Clerk will contact the Tree preservation Officer for further information and clarification.

5. Highways

5.1 To note any new problems within the parish.

A pothole was reported on Dereham Road, the clerk will be reporting this.

Litcham sign when entering the Village from the Lexham Road direction is damaged and needs replacing. The Clerk will report this.

Councillor Lawrence reported a drain cover that is damaged from a recent visit from Anglian Water. The Clerk will report this.

Councillor Fagence requested a Slow sign to be marked on the Tittleshall road on the sharp bend. District Councillor Kiddle-Morris informed the councillors that the Tittleshall road already has a slow sign which is at the required 50m distance from the junction.

Councillor Oldfield reported that a hedge on the Tittleshall road needs to be cut and this has been previously reported. District Councillor Kiddle-Morris reported that highways are stating this hedge is not on Breckland land, Norfolk County Council will contact the homeowner to request the hedge to be cut.

A Parishioner sent a letter in to report that the footpath which runs alongside the B1145, Lexham Road is overgrown. Also the parishioner reported debris from leaves and overgrowth which gets washed into the drain on the corner of B1145 and then causes blockage and flooding across the B1145. The Clerk will report this.

Update on Highways

The Path on Lexham Road has since been trimmed back.

6. Planning

Applications

6.1.1 - 3PL/2020/0638/HOU- Removal of existing roof

Councillor Anderson proposed and Councillor Oldfield seconded the resolution that no objection be raised. All were in favour.

6.1.2- 3PL/2020/0639/LB-As Above

Councillor Anderson proposed and Councillor Oldfield seconded the resolution that no objection be raised. All were in favour.

7 Matters for Report

7.1 9 Dereham Road

9 Dereham Road, this has been passed to Breckland Council who are now responsible for this property. The Clerk will write to Breckland to find out the current situation as the property is now causing concern.

7.2 Website and Norfolk Parish and Support Membership

The clerk reported that by the 23rd September that a parish council must comply with new public sector bodies website accessibility regulations 2018 by 23rd September 2020. The Litcham site must be content compliant and display an accessibility statement. Due to the parish council sharing a Village site, the clerk recommends that new site that belongs to the parish council is set-up and link from the village site will take parishioners to the new site. The cost of this set up will be approx. £102.36. The clerk would also like to join the Norfolk parish training and support membership, and this will cost £61.25 for the rest of the year. If we do join, then the website set up charges are reduced by 20%. Councillor Oldfield proposed and Councillor Mitchell seconded the resolution that a new website will need to be set up.

7.3 Overhanging trees in Back Lane

Councillor Lawrence reported that overhanging trees in Back lane needs trimming back. District Councillor Kiddle-Morris will report the trees that highways are responsible for but some of the trees are owned by a homeowner. The Clerk will contact the homeowners.

7.4 Cutting of the Churchyard

Litcham church have asked if the parish council will consider on a regular basis to pay for the cutting of the churchyard. This item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting to be discussed further.

7.5 Road Surface-Druids lane/Mileham Road Junction

Councillor Oldfield reported that the road surface is very bad, and the road markings need repainting. District Councillor Kiddle-Morris will report this.

7.6 Seat/Bench for Manor Drive

The Councillors have assessed the tree and it is back enough for the bench to sit around it. The clerk will contact the primary school regarding the funding and will arrange for the bench to be ordered.

7.7 Long Meadow:

The clerk has spoken to the previous clerk and it was confirmed that Mr. H Lawrence was appointed to erect the fence of long meadow. The clerk will contact Mr.H Lawrence to confirm that the previous quote still stands. Councillor Anderson proposed and Councillor Christie seconded the resolution that the clerk can arrange for the fencing to be fitted.

8. Finance

8.1 Balances and cheques for authorisation as circulated

Councillor Anderson proposed and Councillor Mitchell seconded the resolution on the authorisation of the cheques.

8.2 Budgets to be circulated

Councillor Fagence proposed and Councillor Anderson seconded the resolution on the Budgets that were circulated.

9. Matters for next meeting (not for discussion) to be added to the Agenda:

Churchyard cutting

Consultation “Planning for the future” & “Changes to the current planning”

10. To Confirm the next meeting of Litcham Parish Council

Monday 2nd November at 7.30pm at Jubilee Hall, Litcham

Meeting Closed 8.58 pm

FINANCE: 31st July-30th August 2020

Balances:-

Community Account.

Balance at 19th July 2020	£11,332.94
Presented Cheques Direct Debit Haven Power	£80.36
Balance at 30th August 2020	£11,252.58
Outstanding Cheque	

Cheques for authorisation

Cheque number	Cheque payable to	Reason for Payment	Cheque amount
617	Bryan Leigh	Salary for July & Aug-£94.60	£574.46
618	HMRC	PAYE	£94.60