

Meeting Minutes of Litcham Parish Council

Monday 6th September 2021, starting at 19.30pm held at the Jubilee Hall, Litcham

Present: Parish Councillors: Mike Oldfield (Chairman), Chris Mitchell (Vice-Chairman), Elizabeth Christie, Claire Lawrence, Richard Fagence, Matthew Brookbank, Leroy Brown

Also, present: Donna Secker (Parish Clerk), 3 members of the public.

1. To receive apologies of absence

County Councillor Kiddle-Morris sent his apologies.

2. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations

No declaration of interest were made or received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2021

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the last meeting as a true record and it was signed by the chairman.

4. To report progress on items not on the agenda from the last meeting

All items from the last agenda are listed on this agenda.

5. To receive any brief updates from County and District Councillors

Grass Cutting: The second cut of the year to highway verges and junctions was due to start on August 9th and when completed should have addressed all the inadequacies of the first cut of the year which was, quite frankly, a shamble. Please let me know if there are still problems in your area with the standard of the cut.

One Million Trees: Norfolk County Council (NCC) acknowledges that trees are a vital resource in combating climate change alongside rewilding for carbon sequestration. As reported previously NCC have committed resources to work with communities, landowners and partners to plant 1 million trees over 5 years which must amount to a net increase. NCC's tree planting scheme will work in harmony with the unique "Queens Green Canopy" initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. There are packs of trees and hedging plants available to parishes to "kick start" the project. If there is any interest, please contact me for further detail on how to apply. The planting season runs from November 2021 to March 2022.

Offshore Transmission Network (OTN): There has been a lot of discussion between our local MPs in both Norfolk and Suffolk and government ministers about the number and length of cable routes crossing both counties bringing wind generated electricity to connection points on land. To minimise ecological and commercial damage to the countryside an OTN has been proposed. The OTN would allow connection of all future wind farm electricity output to a cable system lying offshore which would only require one overland route to a connection point with the National Grid. NCC have been involved in the initial Offshore Consultation Project in 2020 and are currently responding to an OFGEM consultation which is asking for comments on proposals to amend regulations to allow the use of an OTN.

Highways: Despite the lack of revenue funding in NCCs coffers there is still some capital available to put towards some highway schemes such as resurfacing (not surface dressing) and junction and other highway improvements. If you have any work that you would wish to be carried out, please let me know.

Due to shortness of staff some resident's wheelie bins were not collected for a few days, please continue to leave your wheelie bin out and they will be collected in due course.

6. Open forum for Public Participation: an opportunity to hear from members of the public

6.1 Correspondence

The Parish council have received a thank you email from NARs, regarding our recent donation. As a charity, they dependent on the support of our community.

Also received a thank you letter from Mrs Leigh, thanking us for the donation to the Leukaemia UK. The previous clerk passed away from this disease recently.

A phone call was received from a parishioner regarding the limitations he has on his mobility scooter on the paths in Litcham with overhanging hedges. This has now been resolved.

A letter was sent to the homeowners regarding cutting back the verges on back lane and the homeowners have kindly actioned this.

7. To report and update on highway matters

A recent meeting with the highway engineer confirmed that the SLOW sign will be implemented on the Dunham Roads near to the cattle grids.

Cllr Lawrence requested that the area of verges on back lane need cutting back and removing. The clerk will contact highways.

Cllr Mitchell reported that the pothole in Druids Lane has been marked but not repaired yet, this pothole is getting worse. The clerk will chase this up. The potholes have been repaired on the Tittleshall Road outside the dairy farm.

The area adjacent to the footpath on Pound Lane, up to the primary school, has now been cut. This will continue to be monitored.

Cllr Fagence reported the sign warning drivers of the sharp bend has been buried under overgrown hedging on the Tittleshall Road, the clerk will report this.

The clerk has written several times to a homeowner regarding the verge overhanging the footpaths in which pedestrians and school children are having to walk into the road. The clerk will now report this to Breckland.

The clerk will also chase up Anglian Water/Highways about two areas of which have been badly repaired by Anglian Water.

8. Planning Applications

8.1-To receive planning applications by Breckland District

3PL/2021.0193/DOC-1 Albion Terrace, Front Street,
Discharge of conditions 4, 5, 7 & 8 on pp 3PL/2019/0258/F allowed on appeal APP/F2605/W/20/3244986-The Clerk is going to request and extension to enable further enquiries about the discharge conditions. The Cllrs have requested more information on the discharge conditions. The clerk will action this.

3PL/2021/1169/VAR-1 Albion Terrace, Front street,
Variation of Condition No 2 on 3PL/2019/0258/F - revised design, layout and Materials

8.2 To receive update on application decisions taken by Breckland District Council
3PL/2021/0736/HOU-Coach House, Tittleshall Road. Proposed rear first floor extension over utility room and new entrance porch-**Approved**

9. Items to discuss and update

9.1 To update the seat/bench for Manor Drive

The bench has been fitted and the council are happy with the location. The school has also been informed and also happy with the bench and location.

9.2 To update and discuss the Village gates

The highways engineer visited Litcham to view the location of the planned village gates. The clerk and chairman were both present, the positioning of the village gates were discussed. The design and costing will be sent through and these will be circulated to the Cllr's to approve at the next meeting. Potentially four gates will be purchased. One gate on the Mileham Road, one gate on the Dereham Road and two gates on the Lexham Road. Cllr Mitchell abstained from discussion regarding this item.

9.3 To update and discuss installing a Christmas Tree

The clerk has unfortunately been chasing various companies regarding powering the Christmas lights but without success. This will be postponed until next year for the Christmas tree to be planted. Cllr Brookbank suggested for the council to use the bus shelter as a Santa's grotto an idea was to involve the primary school. The clerk will contact the school.

9.4 To discuss the Parish Partnership Scheme 2022

The clerk will apply for the Partnership Scheme again this with proposal of 4 further village gates.

9.5 To discuss speeding-Dereham Road

The speeding on Dereham Road is getting worse. The clerk contacted the enforcement speed camera team to request them to visit this area. The reply was that they are mainly concentrating on Front Street where they last visited 20th Jul, recording 10 offences. The clerk will contact them again and request again Dereham Road as another location.

9.6 To discuss the replacement tree near the village sign

Due to the District Councillor not being present, the clerk will chase this up.

9.7 To discuss Sam 2 sign and positioning of posts

The clerk reported that highways have approved for a new post to be positioned on Dereham road. The council agreed for this to be fitted and cover the cost of a new post to be installed.

9.8 To update No 9 Dereham Road

The clerk contacted Breckland, but no response was received. The neighbour of this property will share contact details with the clerk to see if we can help and assist the neighbours to resolve this issue. The clerk will report the situation to environmental health and building control.

9.9 To discuss the Fire Station

The owner of the Fire Station has removed all the debris and Ivy around the building. This was carried out quickly and the clerk will write to the owners thanking them for carrying out this work so quickly.

9.10 To discuss benches on the green opp (The Bull)

A complaint was received from residents regarding the benches on the green and the noise along with bad behaviour. This was discussed in detail and the benches are only in place during the summer months. This will be tightly monitored next year. The council will contact the owners of The Bull to suggest some signage and clear notices to be displayed about the use of

the benches on the green and especially if they are taking drinks outside and a reminder on responsible behaviour.

9.11 To update on the Litter bins

The Clerk reported that the environmental services have refused installing any new bins/dog bins in the area of Litcham due to land not being owned by Breckland. The council feel that the village needs at least another dog bin, the clerk will contact the District councillor to request help with this

9.12 To discuss the maintenance of the telephone box.

The parish council do not have ownership of the telephone box, however Cllr Lawrence reported that the paint has been purchased and a small repair will be needed to the telephone box. This will be carried as soon as possible.

10 Finance

10.5 To approve the list of payments

The Council approved the list of payments for September 2021 as detailed at the end of the minutes

10.6 To approve the Budget

The Council approved the budget for September 2021

11 To receive items for the next meeting agenda 1st November 2021.

Budgets

Clerks laptop and admin equipment

Trod on Back Lane/Tittleshall Road

Meeting finished at 9.20pm

FINANCE: 30th Jun-30th July 2021

Balances:-

Community Account.

Balance at 30th June 2021	£15,079.50
Presented Cheques	£1,422.55
Direct Debit Haven Power-July	£80.02
	<u>£13,576.93</u>

Cheque number	Cheque payable to	Reason for Payment	Cheque amount
	Mrs E Chrisite	Community Car	£80.00
	Mrs E Christie	Community Car for drivers	£59.41
	Mrs D Secker	Wages July-August	£669.06
	CBR business Solutions	Volunteer Check	£18.00
	Wix.com	Website & Domain name	£98.86
	Chris Millward	Litcham green-Grass cutting	£225.00

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