

## LITTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting  
held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7pm via ZOOM

PRESENT: Cllr Oscroft in the Chair  
Cllrs N Gregory, J Mason, R Rennie, G Rooke & C Saxby

IN ATTENDANCE: G Turner, Clerk

### **2323 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor C Robinson (family commitments).

### **2324 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared for agenda items.

### **2325 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The link to enable members of the public to join the monthly meeting via Zoom was included in the agenda, which was posted on the Parish Council website.

There was one member of the public present at the meeting who wished to speak about agenda item 5 Actions from the minutes, Minute 2221, the removal of the benches and play equipment on Cressbrook Village Green.

### **2326 MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was resolved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 to exclude members of the press and public to agenda item 5, Actions from the Minutes 2281 and 2282 as well as items 6 and 7 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. A separate confidential link was given to Councillors to facilitate this.

### **2327 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**RESOLVED:** That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes as being a true and correct record.

### **2328 ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

#### **-2174 Litton telephone kiosk adoption contract**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** That Councillor Oscroft will chase the electrician for a quote regarding the cost of installing a light, motion sensor, fitting RCD protection and performing an Electrical Inspection (ECR).

### **-2221 Seating area of Cressbrook Village Green**

It was reported that the majority of the play equipment on the village green had now been removed or reclaimed.

It was noted that the Council's insurers had recommended that all items should be removed as by leaving the items in place, it is more likely that the Council will be implicated in a claim should an incident occur. The insurers also suggested that leaving the items there could set a precedent which would lead to further items being placed on the greens and increasing the Council's liability

The member of the public present at the meeting stated that this reason had not been made clear to the residents and that the Notice placed on the village green requesting that the items be removed should have stated that it was a recommendation by the insurers.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** That the benches remaining on the village green will be inspected for safety and if they are in good repair the Council will adopt them and add them to its insurance policy.

It was also noted that the Council had been in touch with Cressbrook's community group regarding canvassing residents on the possibility of looking into funding for play equipment on the village green.

### **-2250 PARKING, SIGNAGE AND OVERGROWN VERGES AT CRESSBROOK**

District Councillor Gamble stated that DCC have said that they will reinstate the white lines in Cressbrook. This should be completed by the end of March.

It was noted that the overgrown verges along the road have predominantly been cut back and so the road is much clearer.

### **-2252 PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS**

Councillor Rooke informed members that further meetings of the playground committee had taken place and that the following improvements had been discussed and agreed.

In the upper playground:

- (1) Additional swings for older children
- (2) Replacement of the climbing frame with a new climbing frame and slide combination
- (3) Installation of an assault course (space permitting)
- (4) Addition of a picnic bench
- (5) Repositioning of the roundabout from the lower playground to upper playground
- (6) Removal of the basketball hoop

In the lower playground:

- (1) Replace the infant seats on the existing swings
- (2) Remove the roundabout and reposition on the upper playground
- (3) Replace the climbing house with a small climbing frame and slide combination
- (4) Addition of a see-saw
- (5) Place some games onto the fence at the edge of the playground

Councillor Rooke also informed members that he had met with Proludic Limited to discuss the committee's requirements and that he hoped to receive their designs and costing by next week.

It was noted that the representatives of both Proludic and Wicksteed playground companies also took a look at the Village Green in Cressbrook to see what was possible.

**-2275 Extension of white lines opposite Hall Lane to enable the service bus space to turn around**

It was noted that DCC had refused the Council's request for the extension of white lines opposite Hall Lane in Litton.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** To reply to DCC with more detail of the problems caused at the junction and request that they reconsider their decision.

**-2778 REQUEST FOR FOOTPATH NEAR NEW HOUSES AT LITTON DALE**

It was noted that DCC had refused the Council's request for a new footpath along Litton Dale.

**IT WAS AGREED:** To ask DCC to reconsider their decision.

**FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**-2281 VEHICULAR ACCESS ACROSS THE VILLAGE GREENS**

It was noted that a response had been received from the owners of The Hillock regarding the Vehicular Licence Agreement.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** To contact the Open Spaces Society for further advice.

**-2282 SUNNYBANK**

A legal opinion was circulated to members.

Following lengthy discussions **IT WAS RESOLVED:** To contact the owners of Sunnybank with the outcome.

**2328 HANDY PERSON CONTRACT APPLICATIONS**

The applications for the position of handy person were circulated to members for careful consideration.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** That Councillors Rennie and Gregory will meet with two of the applicants to discuss their working methods in more detail.

**2329 MOWING AND STRIMMING CONTRACT APPLICATIONS**

The applications for the position of handy person were circulated to members for careful consideration.

**IT WAS AGREED:** That when all the applications were compared the current contractor remains the most suitable fit for the Council's needs.

**2330 DAMAGE TO THE VILLAGE GREENS**

It was noted that there are various area on the village greens which have been damaged by vehicles driving across them, in particular near the corner of Church Lane and Mires Lane and also outside Curzon Farm.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** That the Council will speak to the owners of Curzon Farm requesting that they put right the damage to the village green once the works on their property are completed.

### **2331 REQUEST FOR A NEW WASTE BIN ON THE VILLAGE GREEN BY THE VILLAGE SHOP**

Councillor Oscroft informed members that he had received a request from a resident for an extra waste bin to be placed on the village green near the village shop, as the current bin is constantly overflowing.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** That when the weather improves, Councillor Gregory will move the DDDC bin currently being stored in the cemetery building to a suitable position on the village green.

### **2332 PLANNING**

Application Number: NP/DDD/1220/1217

Site address: Litton Dale, Litton,

Development Description - Erection of an affordable local needs dwelling, works of hard and soft landscaping and other works incidental to the proposals

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** That the council do not support the application and will write to PDNPA setting out the reasons.

Application Number: NP/DDD/1220/1219

Site address: The Homestead, Mires Lane, Litton

Development Description - Demolition of existing 2 storey extension to rear of dwelling and replacement with new 2 storey extension

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** To support the application.

### **2333 FINANCE**

#### **Accounts for Payment**

The Clerk submitted a schedule of accounts in the sum of £1,535.41 for approval.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** That the schedule of accounts be signed and the accounts to which they relate be paid.

It was noted that the current account balance as at 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 was £3,393.03. Reserve account balances were £10,155.64.

### **2334 CORRESPONDENCE**

It was noted that:

(a) Bottomhill Road at Cressbrook will be closed 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February to facilitate cabling work by Openreach.

(b) Post Office Row, in front of Hall Farm House, Litton will be closed 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March due to installation work by Severn Trent Water.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 10.03pm.