

LITTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
held on 17th June 2024 at 7pm in Cressbrook Club

PRESENT: Cllr Saxby in the Chair
Cllrs Brunt, Gamble, Gregory & Rennie

IN ATTENDANCE: G Turner, Clerk
District Councillor Buttle

2888 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Rooke who was unable to attend due to being on holiday.

2889 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared for agenda items.

2890 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were 6 members of the public present who wanted to speak on a range of matters.

A resident from Ravensdale explained that he was writing a history about the area and wanted to look through the Parish Council records for any relevant history relating to the cottages. He stated that he is specifically interested in the period from 1960 when the cottages were purchased by Ernest Whittaker, to 1999.

Councillors suggested that the resident could make a Freedom of Information request to DCC and DDDC specifically asking what information they had relating to Ravensdale cottages.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Clerk will have an initial look through the Parish Council's records for anything that might be relevant and will then contact the resident who can then take a closer look.

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: That if the resident provides the Clerk with a brief description of what he is trying to achieve the Parish Council will post an appeal for information on the local Facebook pages on his behalf.

Another issue raised was the overhanging branches and ivy protruding from the war memorial plot, onto the highway causing a problem for pedestrians walking along the road.

It was suggested that residents would be willing to clear the vegetation from the road if the Parish Council were able to arrange for it to be removed from the site. Another resident said that he would be able to provide a trailer to remove the cuttings.

A resident asked whether a bike rack could be provided near to the bus stop or village shop in Litton for residents that cycle from Cressbrook to Litton and also visitors to the area.

The Parish Council pointed out that there was a problem with putting a bike rack near the bus shelter because the Parish Council does not own the surrounding land. **IT WAS HOWEVER AGREED** that the Parish Council will have another look at possible locations for a bike rack.

It was noted that there is going to be a consultation in September/October regarding the development of the land surrounding Cressbrook Club. **IT WAS AGREED:** That this would

be a good opportunity to also obtain views from residents concerning the development of the War Memorial plot.

2891 MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no agenda items that required the exclusion of members of the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1.

2892 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20TH MAY 2024

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the monthly council meeting held on 20th May as being a true and correct record.

2893 ACTIONS FROM THE MINUTES

-2833 QUIET LANE SIGNS

Councillor Gamble explained that she had undertaken some research into the designation of roads as Quiet Lanes and that to be successful there must be a clear purpose and it should be community led.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That this matter should be added to the Consultation being arranged for September/October.

In the meantime, residents felt that if the signs that are already in place were kept clear of vegetation, they would be more visible to motorists which would help to remind cars that they are entering a 30mph zone.

Residents at the meeting agreed that they would like to see a vehicle activated speed sign installed in Cressbrook. Councillor Buttle said that he would forward an email regarding funding available from Derbyshire PCC for these types of signs.

IT WAS AGREED: That the Parish Council will look into the feasibility of installing a vehicle activated speed sign, but it would be dependent on being able to obtain external funding.

-2847 CRESSBROOK WAR MEMORIAL LAND – ECOLOGY SURVEY

The recently received Ecology Survey was circulated to members together with a summary prepared by Councillor Brunt.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That more time is needed for Councillors to thoroughly consider the contents of the report and so this item will be deferred to the July meeting.

-2886 CRESSBROOK NOTICEBOARDS

The Clerk informed members that she had not heard back from the Handyperson regarding installing the new Noticeboard at Cressbrook Mill or refurbishing the one outside Cressbrook Club. The Clerk will send a follow up email.

2894 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MINOR MAINTENANCE - LITTON FOOTPATH 20, ON NORTH BOUNDARY OF THE CRESSBROOK WAR MEMORIAL PLOT

Councillor Brunt informed members that a wall on footpath 20 to the North of the War Memorial and running through Stanton Estate land was falling onto the footpath.

IT WAS AGREED: That the Clerk will write to DCC asking them to request that the land owner repairs the wall.

Councillor Brunt also stated that footpath 20 is blocked by overgrown vegetation where it runs across the War Memorial land.

IT WAS AGREED: To write to DCC asking whether the annual Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Grant could be used to clear the vegetation.

2895 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

2896 FINANCE

Accounts for payment

The Clerk submitted a schedule of payments in the sum of £3,292.51 for approval.

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

It was noted that the annual table rent income from Litton Village Shop totalling £75 has been received.

The current account balance as at 17th June 2024 was £9,318.17 and the reserve account balance was £10,669.41.

2897 MONTHLY PLAYGROUND REPORT

IT WAS RESOLVED: To defer this item until the July meeting as Councillor Rooke is on holiday.

2898 TO CONSIDER THE REMOVAL OF THE INFANT SWINGS AT THE PLAYGROUND

Councillor Saxby stated that the toddler swings at the playground had been removed, following the safety concerns raised in the external Annual Playground Report.

Councillors considered whether it would be appropriate to get the toddler swing timbers replaced and new cradles purchased from a non-specialist playground installer as this would offer much better value for money and would be a quicker option. The new swings could then be inspected by a ROSPA inspector to ensure that they meet the necessary standards.

IT WAS AGREED: That the Clerk will contact the Parish Council's insurers to ask whether this would be an acceptable option from an insurance viewpoint.

2899 DERBYSHIRE'S WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY POTENTIAL – FRIENDS OF THE EARTH SURVEY

Councillor Brunt informed members that she had looked further into the outcome of the Friends of the Earth survey, which had identified locations in Derbyshire as 'most suitable' for new onshore wind and solar farms. None of the locations identified are near the parish.

2900 TREE SURVEY

Councillor Gregory stated that he had spoken with the Handyperson and that he is not able to undertake any of the maintenance work in the cemetery as the trees are located over graves.

IT WAS THEREFORE AGREED: That as they gave good value for money last time, to ask Precision Tree Care if they would be able to undertake the required work.

2901 FEEDBACK FROM ANNUAL MEETING

Notes from the Annual Parish Meeting were circulated to members.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Chair be authorised to sign the notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th May as being a true and correct record.

Replacement of the circular bench which had been requested at the Annual Meeting was

discussed.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That as mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting the cost to replace the bench is not within the Parish Council's budget.

IT WAS HOWEVER AGREED: That if Friends of Litton were able to find the funding for the purchase and installation of the bench then the Parish Council would arrange for this to be done.

2902 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

IT WAS RESOLVED: To defer this item until the July meeting.

2903 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

IT WAS RESOLVED: To defer this item until the July meeting

2904 CONDITION OF PARISH BENCHES REVIEW

It was noted that memorial benches are not owned by the Parish Council and it is not therefore responsible for their maintenance. Any maintenance or replacement is the responsibility of the person or family that the memorial is dedicated to.

IT WAS AGREED: That any memorial benches that fall into disrepair and subsequently removed for safety reasons, will not be replaced by the Parish Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That Councillor Gregory will prepare a checklist of all the benches in the parish which will then be used to periodically monitor their condition.

2905 TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A BLEED KIT FOR PUBLIC USE

Following discussion on the practicality of the Parish Council purchasing and installing a Bleed Kit for public use in the parish, a vote took place.

Four Councillors voted against purchasing a Bleed Kit for public use and one Councillor abstained.

IT WAS THEREFORE AGREED: That the Parish Council will not purchase a Bleed Kit.

2906 COUNCILLOR RECRUITMENT

The Clerk informed members that she had sent application forms to two residents interested in the Parish Councillor Vacancy, but to date only one had been completed and returned.

IT WAS AGREED: That as the application forms had only been sent out a few days prior to the meeting, a decision on Councillor Co-option would be deferred to the July meeting to give sufficient time for the other application to be returned.

2887 CORRESPONDENCE

An email was received regarding the grass growing around the benches on Cressbrook Village Green, and also around the edges of the carpark.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To contact the Grass Cutting contractor and ask him to trim around the benches on Cressbrook Village Green.

IT WAS FURTHER AGREED: To contact the handyperson and ask for his recommendations on how to maintain the edges of Cressbrook carpark.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.03pm.