

LITTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
held on 17th October 2022 at 7pm in Litton Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Robinson in the Chair
Cllrs N Gregory, T Howe, G Rooke & C Saxby

IN ATTENDANCE: G Turner, Clerk
District Councillor Gamble

2567 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

It was noted that Councillor Kevin Oscroft had resigned during the month and the Council expressed its thanks to Councillor Oscroft for his valued contribution during his time with the Council.

2568 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared for agenda items.

2569 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

2570 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.

2571 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26th September 2022

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

2572 ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

-2420 WAR MEMORIAL AND ADJACENT LAND

The Clerk informed members that she had received the completed Land Registry form TR1 back from the current owner of Cressbrook War Memorial and would now send the form AP1 to the Land Registry to complete the transfer of ownership to the Parish Council.

-2497 REPLACEMENT BENCHES

The Clerk reported that she had not yet received an update from the donors of the bench to be installed on Litton Village Green near the phone box.

The Clerk also stated that £400 had been received towards the cost of a replacement bench on the Village Green, near Litton School, from District Councillor Gamble's Local Project Fund.

IT WAS AGREED: That per minute 2497 in the June Minutes, the Clerk will order the bench to replace the one around the tree near Litton School.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED: That the Chair will ask Andrew Marper whether he is available to install the bench.

-2540 DEVELOPMENT OF LAND ABOVE RAVENSDALE COTTAGES

It was noted that the Council had not received any further information on the development.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To chase PDNPA for an update on development at the site.

-2549 DEFIBRILATOR LOCATION

The Chair informed members that both Litton defibrillators had now received software updates from the manufacturers, however both require new batteries at a cost of £199 each (incl VAT). The defibrillator donated by Cressbrook also needs new pads.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To ask County Councillor Sutton whether he would be able to fund the cost via the members' Community Leadership Scheme

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: That if external funding could not be found the Parish Council will cover the expense.

-2561 SECURE EMAILS

The Clerk reported that she had met with the Monitoring Officer at DDDC and he had confirmed that it was not necessary for a Parish Council of Litton's size to have a .gov website.

He also confirmed that Councillors are able to use a personal email account as long as it is password protected.

-2563 FOOTPATHS OFFICER

IT WAS AGREED: To accept Chris Gilbert's offer to be Litton Parish's volunteer Footpath Officer.

-2564 RETURN OF PRE-PURCHASED PLOT AT THE CEMETERY

IT WAS RESOLVED: That an administration fee equivalent to 5% of the purchase price will be applicable to any returned Grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial.

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: To amend the cemetery fees schedule to include the administration charge.

2573 FINANCE

Accounts for payment

The Clerk submitted a schedule of payments in the sum of £775.27 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 current account balance as at 17th October 2022 was £6,988.19 and the reserve account balance was £10,317.39.

A schedule of actual income and expenditure compared with that budgeted for the second quarter of the financial year was circulated to members.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That there were no queries on the figures.

The Clerk informed members that the resignation of Councillor Oscroft meant that there was only one Councillor signatory on the Councillors NatWest bank accounts.

IT WAS THEREFORE RESOLVED: To add Councillors C Robinson and C Saxby as signatories to the NatWest bank accounts.

2574 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH MONITORING OFFICER, DALC & DC GAMBLE

The Clerk informed members that she had met with the DDDC's Monitoring Officer (James Mclaughlin), DALC's Chief Officer (Wendy Amis) and DC C Gamble at the Town Hall in Matlock, to discuss the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and procedures.

The Monitoring Officer stated that he did not consider that there was a Code of Conduct issue and that now the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders had been updated to more suit the Parish Council most of the procedural issues would be resolved.

He did however state that the Council cannot make decisions outside of meetings unless the authority to do so has been specifically delegated to the Clerk at a full meeting and minuted.

2575 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS

Following the successful completion of the Council's Councillor Eligibility Form by Caroline Brunt **IT WAS RESOLVED:** To co-opt Caroline as Councillor to the Parish Council.

2576 PLANNING APPLICATION

No planning applications were received during the month.

It was noted that proposed alterations and extension to 4-5 Dale Cottages Litton Dale, (Application number: NP/DDD/0722/0914) was refused for the following reason:

The proposed extension would have a harmful visual impact on the character of the dwelling and the wider area, and are therefore contrary to Policies GSP3, DMC3 and DMH7 and the adopted Design Guide and the Alterations and Extensions SPD Guidance.

2577 REQUEST FOR FUNDING OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH STICKERS

The Clerk informed members that following the recent formation of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Litton a request had been made for funding of £30 to cover the cost of stickers advertising the village as a Neighbourhood Watch area.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Clerk will ask the Neighbourhood Watch Committee to add this to their request for funding from County Councillor Sutton.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED: in the event of this source of funding not being available, the Parish Council will fund the stickers on completion of a grant application.

2578 TREE MAINTENANCE

Councillor Gregory informed members that he had received a request from a resident in Litton that the Cherry Tree outside her property be pruned.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That pruning would cause stress to the tree and not solve the issues that the resident has with the tree.

Councillor Gregory also stated that he has a red oak tree which he is willing to donate to the parish in commemoration of the Queen's life and/or the ascension of King Charles III to the throne.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To accept Councillor Gregory's kind offer.

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: That the Council will reimburse Councillor Gregory for the costs involved in planting the tree.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED: To ask David Howe for the cost of 3 Christmas trees for the villages this year.

2579 PROTECTION OF THE CONSERVATION AREA IN LITTON

IT WAS AGREED: That the Clerk will write to the PDNPA to find out whether there are any restrictions on the use of colour on the outside of houses within the conservation areas.

2580 CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that the following correspondence had been received by the Clerk and circulated to Councillors.

Notification of the night closure of B6049 north and south at Anchor Crossroads Tideswell for carriageway resurfacing from 31st Oct to 5th Nov 18:00 to 05:00

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from residents in Litton Mill for a new noticeboard.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To look into the cost of a new noticeboard made from recycled plastic.

The Clerk also stated that she had received a request from a resident in Litton that the minutes of each Council Meeting be placed on the noticeboard outside the village shop.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That there is not sufficient room on the noticeboard to display the minutes, however a note will be added to the noticeboard with the Clerk's contact details, so that a copy of the minutes can be requested by those who do not have any internet access.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.