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LITTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
held on 20th September 2021 at 7pm in Litton Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Oscroft in the Chair
Cllrs N Gregory & C Saxby

IN ATTENDANCE: G Turner, Clerk
District Councillor C Gamble

2413 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Mason and Robinson who were unable to attend due to Covid-19 restrictions and Councillor Rooke who was away.

2414 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared for agenda items.

2415 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

2416 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 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

2417 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19th JULY 2021

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

2418 ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

-2275 Turning space in Litton for service bus

It was noted that the Parish Council had responded to the unsuitability of DCC's suggestion to use the car park in front of the school as an alternative site for the bus to make its turn in Litton.

Sarah Dines MP has said that she will also raise the issue with DCC.

-2357 Repainting of the Phone Kiosk in Litton

The Clerk informed members that the phone box in Litton has now been repainted free of charge.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To thank Richard Ellison at the Anchor Inn for supplying the paint and Anthony Courtney for doing such a great job of painting it.

-2379 Report on the Condition of the Benches and Flower Tubs

IT WAS RESOLVED: That Councillor Gregory will ask the handy person to quote for repairs to the benches.

-2392 TREES

IT WAS RESOLVED: to ask N & G Tomlinson to remove the sycamore tree which is leaning towards the road on the Village Green in front of the village hall.

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: To ask N & G Tomlinson to grind out the stumps left by the smaller trees removed by the handy person.

-2393 CEMETERY

Councillor Gregory reported that the spraying of the cemetery paths by the handy person should be completed soon. He will also speak with the handy person about levelling up the graves.

-2405 LITTON PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENTS

Councillor Rooke sent a report stating that the branches of the trees between the 2 playgrounds and the hedges where the new swings will be going, need to be trimmed prior to the play equipment being installed.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That in order to get the work done as quickly as possible to ask the handy person to use his contracted hours for October to prune the trees and hedges at the playground.

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: To ask the Playground Committee what the plan was for removing the play chip from the infants play area.

It was noted that the 'gofundme' page has so far raised a fantastic £755 towards the playground improvements. Anyone still wishing to donate can do so by visiting <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-improve-litton-playground/donate>

-2407 REQUEST FOR WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS THROUGH LITTON

It was noted that a response to the Council's request for a weight limit through Litton to be reconsidered had been received.

DCC reiterated their 2018 findings that the average daily flow of traffic was not deemed to be anything out of the ordinary over a period of 24 hours. DCC believes that the daily flow of vehicles now is likely to be very similar and wouldn't therefore look to introduce a weight limit on Mires Lane. The police are responsible for enforcement of all weight limits and would want quantifiable evidence that a large number of HGVs are using a certain route as a short cut before they could support introducing a weight limit.

-2408 CUTTING OF ROADSIDE VERGES IN THE PARISH

Councillor Rooke sent a report stating that he had met with the Supervisor from the Green and Clean Team at DDDC and the following areas had been suggested for the biodiversity of grass verges project:

One side of Bottomhill Road to the cemetery;

One side of Mires Lane; and
Church Lane

Concern was raised about the safety of pedestrians using Church Lane if it was left uncut, due to the narrowness of the road.

There were also concerns about the junction of Mires Lane with the A623 as this is a difficult junction to pull out of onto the A623 due to visibility and the speed on the traffic.

2419 USE AND ELECTRICS IN LITTON PHONE BOX

Rachel Rennie has agreed to liaise with Litton School as to how they would like to use the phone box.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To delay getting the light installed until a decision has been made on the use of the phone box.

2420 WAR MEMORIAL

The current owner of the War Memorial at Cressbrook has indicated that he intends to dispose of the land. As it is registered as an Asset of Community Value the Parish Council has the opportunity to purchase it before it is placed on the commercial market.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To look further into the cost implications of purchasing the War Memorial and land.

2421 CHRISTMAS TREES AND CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

IT WAS RESOLVED: To seek quotes for the same size Christmas trees as last year, for each of the village greens in Cressbrook, Litton Mill and Litton.

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: That delivery of the Christmas trees should be in time for the last weekend in November.

2422 ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING POINTS AT CRESSBROOK

An email was circulated to members requesting that the Parish Council investigate the installation of charging points for electric vehicles in the car park at Cressbrook.

DCC have said that they are evaluating the role local authorities can play in the transition to electric vehicles and have commissioned a study. On-street and lamppost charging are both being considered.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That putting in charging points in Cressbrook would not be feasible at the present time as the car park is always full and installing charging points would mean moving the cars to the road which will create more parking problems.

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: That the Clerk will send a link to Cressbrook Community Group with details of a company offering to assess the feasibility of installing electric vehicle points at specific locations. If the community find a suitable site and wish to take this item further, they can then engage the company to undertake a survey.

2423 WALL AT MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

It was reported that the wall on the left-hand side of the memorial playing field is in need of

repair.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To defer this item to the next meeting so that further information can be obtained.

2424 CRESSBROOK GATEWAY SIGNAGE

It was noted that DCC have concluded that it is not possible to install gateway signage at the entrance to Cressbrook village. However, it will look to further highlight the existing 30mph speed limit through Middle Row in Cressbrook and so will place 30mph road markings alongside the existing signs at either end of Middle Row to emphasis the change in speed limit.

2425 REMEMBRANCE WREATH

IT WAS RESOLVED: To order the usual remembrance wreath from RBL with a donation of £25.

2426 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application Number - NP/DDD/0921/0964 Anchor Inn, Washhouse Bottom, Tideswell
Erection of single side extension: new patio, retaining wall and railings and steps and infilling existing window.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Council has no objection to this application.

2427 FINANCE

The Clerk submitted a schedule of payments in the sum of £2,727.11 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 20th September 2021 was £4,440.89 and the reserve account balance was £10,245.69

2428 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Email from T&DEG relating to their next meeting 'Time is of the Essence'
- Councillor Neil Gregory will attend the Basic Survey & Tree Inspection training.
- Email from Police and Crime Commissioner's regarding the availability of an Anti-social Behaviour Grant
- An anonymous complaint was received from a resident regarding the coned off area outside of the Red Lion Pub preventing access and parking.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That highways fall within the jurisdiction of DCC and are not the remit of the Parish Council.

It was noted however, that the Parish Council supports local businesses, where possible, in their Covid-19 recovery.

The complaint also mentioned the problem with HGVs using Litton as a cut through. This again is a matter for DCC and was addressed above at minute 2418/2407.

FOLLOWING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

-2281 VEHICULAR ACCESS ACROSS THE VILLAGE GREENS

It was noted that a letter explaining the need for a licence for vehicular access across a village green and enclosing a licence for signature had been sent.

It was noted that a response from Friends of the Peak District had still not been received.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.05pm.