# LITTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
held on 19th October 2026 at 7.15pm at Litton Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Saxby in the Chair
Cllrs, Gregory, Howe & Rooke

IN ATTENDANCE: G Turner, Clerk

**3218 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Councillor Brunt.

**3219 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS -** Councillor Howe declared an interest in agenda item 3229 as the Christmas tree supplier is a relative.

**3220 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –** There were two representatives of Tideswell & District Village Voice present at the meeting who wished to introduce themselves and discuss the magazine's future.

They advised that the publication currently reaches approximately 1,250 households across Tideswell, Litton, Cressbrook and Weston and is produced quarterly due to funding constraints.

Councillors welcomed the return of the publication and discussed potential sources of funding and community support.

The representatives offered to share their financial plan with the Council and encouraged the submission of local news and event information for inclusion in future editions.

**3221 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.

**3222 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2026**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the monthly council meeting held on 21st September, as being a true and correct record.

**ACTIONS FROM THE MINUTES**

- **2990 Update on War Memorial and Land at Cressbrook & 3083 Tree Maintenance at the War Memorial Land Cressbrook** – It was noted that planning permission had been approved for the renovation works and that a grant pre-application submitted to the War Memorials Trust had been successful. The War Memorials Trust Conservation Officer had requested further information, and the Clerk was currently seeking responses from the preferred stonemason.
- **3198** It was noted that DCC has replaced the fence at Cressbrook car park.
- **3210** the practicality of introducing a QR-code donation system at the playground and Memorial Playing Field – No update.
- **3212** the replacement of the slide at the playground – no update.
- **3213** the repairs to the playground walls – Councillor Rooke reported that the front wall at the playground had been re-coped and work was continuing on the side walls on the playground.

**3223 PLANNING APPLICATIONS –** none.

**FINANCE**

(a) The Clerk submitted a schedule of payments totalling £2,862.59 for approval together with a

bank reconciliation as at 19th October 2026.

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

It was also noted that a grant for £208 had been received from District Councillor Buttle's Local Projects Fund.

The current account balance as at 19th October was £14,504.30 and the reserve account balance was £8,063.81.

(b) The quarter 2 income and expenditure compared with that budgeted was circulated to members and noted.

**3224 THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT AND CERTIFICATE (CONCLUSION OF AUDIT) FOR THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR WAS NOTED.**
The Clerk confirmed all the required documents relating to the 2025/26 Audit were published on the website.

**3225 TO CONSIDER AND CONFIRM THE INDEPENDENCE OF DALC AND TO APPROVE THEIR APPOINTMENT AS THE COUNCIL'S INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR THE 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR.**
Members considered the independence of DALC as the Council's Internal Auditors. It was noted that DALC provides the internal audit service separately from its advisory and membership functions and therefore members were satisfied that appropriate independence arrangements are in place.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** That the Council confirms the independence of DALC and approves their appointment as Internal Auditor for the 2026/27 financial year.

**3226 TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF THE REMEMBRANCE DAY WREATH FOR AND AGREE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS LAYING**

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** That, pursuant to Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council approve a donation of £30 for the purchase of a Remembrance Wreath. Arrangements for laying the wreath will be finalised nearer the time.

**3227 TO CONSIDER THE MONTHLY PLAYGROUND REPORT**
Councillor Rooke confirmed that there were no new issues with the playground following the most recent inspection.

The Laurels surrounding Sunnybank need to be trimmed as they are overgrown and the Clerk will ask the handyperson to do this.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** To ask Precision Tree Care to quote for clearing the brash around the area where the playground sign is situated. An amount of up to £800 was agreed for this work.

**3228 TO CONSIDER TREE WORK ON LITTON VILLAGE GREEN AND THE PLAYGROUND**
A quote in the sum of £1,560 (including VAT) for the following works was circulated to Councillors:

- Removal of the two trees in the playground suffering from Ash dieback
- Reduction of the small tree overhanging the playground boundary wall
- Removal of the leaning Whitebeam

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** to accept the quote from Precision Tree Care in the sum of £1,560 (including VAT) for removal of the two ash trees affected by ash dieback, reduction of the tree overhanging the playground wall and removal of the leaning Whitebeam.

Councillor Gregory stated that BT had installed another cable that is going through the trees.

As the Council has already spent money on tree maintenance to prevent BT cables becoming entangled in its trees **IT WAS AGREED:** To raise the issue with BT.

**3229 TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF CHRISTMAS TREES FOR THE VILLAGES**
Councillor Howe took no part during the consideration of this item.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** To purchase the Christmas trees from David Howe again this year at a cost of £500.

**3230 TO CONSIDER THE RENEWAL OF THE GRASS MOWING & STRIMMING CONTRACT FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS**
The current grass mowing contract was circulated to members for review.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** To seek a quotation for a further three-year period, with amendments to include removal of cuttings from designated wildflower areas and annual removal of basal growth around lime trees.

**3231 TO CONSIDER AND IDENTIFY ANY SPECIAL PROJECTS OR CAPITAL WORKS FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2027/28 BUDGET AND PRECEPT PLANNING**

Councillors discussed future capital projects and reserve funding requirements, including:

- Cressbrook War Memorial works.
- Cemetery driveway and path improvements.
- Emergency tree works reserve.
- Creation of a dedicated wall maintenance reserve to support future repairs to parish-owned walls.

**3232 TO NOTE THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR IAN RENNIE, TO DETERMINE THE CO-OPTION PROCEDURE AND TIMETABLE**
It was noted that Councillor Ian Rennie has resigned. The Chair and Councillors expressed thanks to Councillor Rennie for the positive contribution he had made to the Council during his years as a Councillor.

It was also noted that a Councillor vacancy already exists and so once the Notice period for the current Casual Vacancy expires there will be two vacancies to fill.

**IT WAS AGREED:** To advertise the current vacancy locally and include a notice in the next edition of the Village Voice.

**3233 CORRESPONDENCE**

- Email received requesting that the Council looks into registering the Methodist Chapel and field in Litton as an Asset of Community Value as it will be under review for closure/selling in the near future. – Councillors resolved that this will need to go on the agenda for the November meeting and the resident should be invited to attend.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.