

LITTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
held on 20th May 2024 at 7.30pm in Litton Village Hall

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

IN ATTENDANCE: G Turner, Clerk
District Councillor Buttle

2867 ELECTION OF CHAIR

The first item of business transacted was the election of a Chair. Councillor Gamble proposed and Councillor Brunt seconded that Councillor Saxby be elected as Chair.

There being no further nominations it was **RESOLVED:** That Councillor Saxby be elected as Chair of the Parish Council for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Councillor Saxby signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Chair and took the Chair.

2868 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Rooke proposed and Councillor Saxby seconded that Councillor Gamble be elected as Vice-Chair.

There being no further nominations it was therefore **RESOLVED:** That Councillor Gamble be elected Vice Chair of the Parish Council for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Councillor Gamble signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Vice Chair

2869 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2870 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared for agenda items.

2871 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were three members of the public present who wanted to speak on a proposed planning application.

The owners of the former Hosier, Hall Lane, Litton and their Architect outlined to Councillors their concept for the development of the property, prior to submitting the planning application.

2872 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.

2873 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH APRIL 2024

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the monthly council meeting held on 15th April as being a true and correct record.

2874 ACTIONS FROM THE MINUTES

-2833 QUIET LANE SIGNS

District Councillor Buttle informed Councillors that he has not yet determined who is responsible for Quiet Lane Designations but will chase it up.

-2847 CRESSBROOK WAR MEMORIAL LAND – ECOLOGY SURVEY

It was noted that the Ecology Survey Report has not yet been received.

-2863 TREE MAINTENANCE – UPDATE

Councillor Gregory informed members that the diseased Wych Elm tree on the War Memorial plot has now been removed as have the 4 dangerous trees at the cemetery. The cost of the work at the cemetery cost £400 less than the original estimate.

-2865 REQUEST FOR MEMORIAL TO BE LAID FLAT AT LITTON CEMETERY

Further information on how the plot would look was circulated to members.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Council would not normally allow such a request, however on this occasion as it is in the older part of the cemetery, the Parish Council will agree to the request. The memorial being laid flat however, must be embedded so that the top surface is flush with the ground so as not to create a trip hazard or interfere with the grass cutting.

2875 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

2876 FINANCE

(i) Accounts for payment

The Clerk submitted a schedule of payments in the sum of £7,879.20 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 precept of £13,378 was received during the month along with the VAT reclaim of £151.21 and village green rents of £251.21.

The current account balance as at 20th May 2024 was £17,125.07 and the reserve account balance was £10,669.41.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 Form 2 with supporting bank reconciliations and explanations of variances were circulated to members and the following was

RESOLVED:

- (ii) That the Declaration of exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review is approved and signed by the Chair and Responsible Finance Officer.
- (iii) That the Annual Internal Audit Report on the 2023/24 Annual Return is noted.
- (iv) Annual Governance Statement 2023/24, Part 2, Section 1 of the Annual Return is approved and signed by the Chair and Clerk.
- (v) Accounting Statement 2023/2, Part 2, Section 2 of the Annual Return is approved and signed by the Responsible Finance Officer and Chair.
- (vi) Variance Analysis 2023/24 - noted
- (vii) Bank Reconciliation at 31 March 2024 – noted
- (viii) Noted that the dates for publication of the unaudited AGAR will commence on 3rd June and end on 12th July 2024

2877 MONTHLY & ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

The monthly and annual playground reports were circulated to members.

The annual ROSPA inspection highlighted significant risks associated with the infant swings. **IT WAS THEREFORE AGREED** that the swing cradles should be removed as soon as possible and the support posts should be removed as soon as practical. Councillor Gamble will ask her husband to remove the cradles and to look at whether he would be able to remove the frame. Councillor Rooke will also ask John Hattersley whether he is able and if so, prepared to remove the frame.

The report also highlighted damage to the edges of the laminate on the carousel.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That Councillor Rooke will obtain 3 quotes for replacing the toddler swings and also the carousel so that funding for their replacement can be sought.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED: That in the meantime Councillor Gamble and her husband will take a look and see if they can improve the safety of the carousel. Councillor Gamble will also assist in looking at the options suggested by the equipment providers when they are received.

2878 TREE SURVEY

A copy of the recent Tree Survey Report was circulated to members.

It was noted that there were a number of recommendations for remedial work, some of which it is hoped can be carried out by the Handyperson. **IT WAS THEREFORE AGREED** to send the report to the Handyperson and ask him to quote for tasks that he would be able to carry out.

2879 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS – defer to June meeting.

2880 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS – defer to June meeting.

2881 REVIEW OF RISK ASSESSMENT

The Council's Risk Assessment was circulated to members for review.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Risk Assessment be approved for the next 12 months.

2882 REVIEW OF FIXED ASSETS

The Council's Register of Fixed Assets was circulated to members for review. It was noted that the bus shelter bench purchased during the year had been added to the register.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Register of Fixed Assets be approved for the next 12 months.

2883 CONSIDERATION OF INSURANCE VALUE FOR CRESSBROOK WAR MEMORIAL AND LITTON MARKET CROSS

Following discussion **IT WAS RESOLVED:** not to insure the War Memorial and Village Cross until the renovations are underway, as the monetary risk of damage to the War Memorial in its current condition is minimal.

2884 CONSIDER REQUEST FROM LITTON WAKES COMMITTEE TO USE THE VILLAGE GREENS DURING WAKES

IT WAS RESOLVED to support Litton Night by granting the request to use Litton Village Greens.

2885 CONSIDER THE PARISH COUNCIL'S BENCH POLICY AND THE SEAT AROUND THE TREE IN LITTON

Councillor Rooke stated that he had undertaken a minor repair of the bench on the Village Green outside Litton Village shop. This had prompted him to look at the condition of other benches in the village, some of which benches are memorial benches and so do not belong to the Parish Council.

IT WAS AGREED: to log the condition of all benches in the parish and decide whether they are in need of repair or replacing. Any benches replaced will be made of recycled plastic.

Following the request made at the Annual Parish Meeting for a new bench to be installed around the tree situated near the school, **IT WAS AGREED:** that although the Parish Council does not currently have the means to replace it, it will explore the possibility of obtaining funding.

2886 CONSIDER REPLACEMENT OF CRESSBROOK MILL NOTICEBOARD

An email was circulated from a resident of Cressbrook informing the Parish Council that the Noticeboard at Cressbrook Mill is dilapidated and has been removed for safety.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To replace the noticeboard with the same type as that installed at Litton Mill.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED: To ask the Handyperson if he would be able to install the noticeboard.

Councillor Brunt mentioned that the Noticeboard outside the Club in the centre of Cressbrook was in need of painting and new hinges.

IT WAS AGREED: To ask the Handyperson to quote for the replacement of the hinges.

2887 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport had asked whether the Parish Council would consider supporting them with a donation.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To wait until the end of the year to see whether there are sufficient surplus funds available.

An email from Sarah Dines MP was circulated to members offering a Q&A public meeting.

IT WAS AGREED: To investigate the possibility further.

An email was circulated from the researcher for Lord (Don) Foster asking the Parish Council to support a campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used on e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal.

IT WAS AGREED: to defer commenting on this correspondence until the June meeting to give Councillors time to read the information contained in the email.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.