

LITTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
held on 11th December 2023 at 7pm in Litton Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Robinson in the Chair
Cllrs C Brunt, C Gamble, N Gregory, I Rennie & C Rooke

IN ATTENDANCE: G Turner, Clerk

2807 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Saxby who was unable to attend due to illness.

Apologies for absence were also received from County Councillor A Sutton and District Councillor N Buttle

2808 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared for agenda items.

2809 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

The Handyperson attended the meeting to inform members that he would be unable to continue with the contract past April 2024.

2810 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.

2811 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2023

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

2812 ACTIONS FROM THE MINUTES

-2764 20S PLENTY AND 30MPH SPEED LIMIT EXTENSION

Following discussion **IT WAS AGREED** that the likelihood of this campaign succeeding in the current climate was slim.

IT WAS THEREFORE RESOLVED: That Councillor Brunt will investigate the cost of purchasing 20s plenty signs that can be placed around the villages to encourage road users to slow down.

-2781 BIRD BOXES

Following discussion **IT WAS AGREED:** That due to financial pressures the Parish Council are unable to progress this item at the current time.

-2782 WYCH ELM AT CRESSBROOK WAR MEMORIAL

A quote of £1,650 +VAT for the removal of the Wych Elm tree at Cressbrook War Memorial was circulated to members.

IT WAS AGREED: That due to the condition of the tree the work needs to be undertaken as soon as possible and therefore to accept the quote.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED: To seek funding towards the cost from The District Council's Local Projects Fund and The County Council's Community Leadership Scheme.

-2783 WALL REBUILD AND REMOVAL OF SAPLINGS AT CRESSBROOK WAR MEMORIAL
It was noted that the Council is still awaiting a response from Highways regarding who is responsible for maintaining the wall that runs along the road in Cressbrook and abuts the war memorial land.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To ask County Councillor Sutton whether there had been any progress on establishing who is responsible for the wall.

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: That due to the cost of removing the Wych Elm tree external funding would be necessary before any further work to remove the saplings etc on the War Memorial land could take place.

-2785 CONSULTATION OF PLANS FOR THE LAND AT CRESSBROOK WAR MEMORIAL
Councillor Brunt stated that a Cressbrook resident with experience of developing pieces of land has offered to help draft some designs for consideration by the Parish Council.

-2787 PLAYGROUND SIGNAGE
Councillor Rooke stated that he has tried to contact Tarmac regarding possibly funding a new playground sign but has not yet received a response.

IT WAS AGREED: That the Clerk will forward the contact details of Derbyshire Environmental Trust to Councillor Rooke to see if they can be of assistance.

2813 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application Number - NP/DDD/1123/1362 - Cressbrook Hall, Bottomhill Road, Cressbrook
Addition of solar panels to modern conservatory roofs and erection of ground mounted solar array.
Application Number - NP/DDD/1123/1361 - Cressbrook Hall, Bottomhill Road, Cressbrook
Listed Building consent - Addition of solar panels to conservatory roofs.

IT WAS AGREED: That the Parish Council has no objection to the above planning application or listed building consent.

2814 FINANCE

(i) Accounts for payment

The Clerk submitted a schedule of payments in the sum of £1,875.66 for approval.

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

It was also noted that the current account balance as at 11th December 2023 was £4,011.81 and the reserve account balance was £10,439.01.

(ii) Budget and precept demand for 2024/25

The revised draft budget and precept demand for 2024/25 was circulated to members.

IT WAS RESOLVED that in order to maintain the current level of services the precept demand will need to be increased by a further 5%, resulting in a 30% increase for 2024/25 to £13,378. It was however noted that the precept for Litton is still significantly less than the average Town/Parish Council band D equivalent Council Tax, which for 2023/24 was £64.19.

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: To increase the rents for use of the Village Green in Litton to £75 per table from 1st April 2024.

IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED: To award a grant to Litton Shop, to cover the cost of three tables, under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2815 2024 MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

The Monthly Council Meetings for 2024 were circulated to members.

The proposed dates were **AGREED** and the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 20th May between 6.30pm and 7.30pm.

2816 PEAK PARK ENFORCEMENT OF PLANNING CONTRAVENTIONS IN CRESSBROOK DALE

It was noted that the Peak District National Park Authority are dealing with the planning contravention.

2817 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Clerk together with Councillors Gregory and Rooke will meet with the Grass Cutting Contractor to discuss changes to the contract from April 2024.

2818 HANDY PERSON CONTRACT

IT WAS AGREED: That Councillors Gregory and Rooke will go through the contract to see whether any cost savings can be made prior to it being retendered in February.

2819 ENVIRONMENT ACT 2021 – BIODIVERSITY PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

A draft Model Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan were circulated to members.

Following consideration of what action, the Parish Council can take for biodiversity **IT WAS AGREED:** That following the minor amendment the Biodiversity Policy should be adopted and further consideration will be given to the Action Plan during 2024.

2820 CEMETERY FEES

The current cemetery fees were circulated to members.

IT WAS AGREED: To increase the cemetery fees for 2024/25 by 10% rounded up to the nearest £1.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED: To extend the burial fee waiver to children under 5 years.

2821 CEMETERY PEDESTRIAN GATE

It was noted that the pedestrian gate at the cemetery appears to be too heavy for the wall which has caused the gate to drop.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That Councillor Gregory will ask his father to take a look and see if anything can be done to stop it from scraping on the tarmac path.

2822 LITTON MILL VILLAGE GREEN

Councillor Gregory stated that when a new entrance onto the Village Green had been created from a neighbouring property at Litton Mill Village Green both parties had signed an agreement.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That an agreement should be prepared and signed by both parties prior to the work to create the new entrance from the adjoining property onto the Village Green in Cressbrook.

2823 FLOWER TUBS

IT WAS AGREED: That the residents who look after the flower tubs in Litton do a fantastic job and the Clerk should write to them thanking them on behalf of the Parish Council for their hard work.

2824 THE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GRANTS SCHEME

IT WAS AGREED: That Councillor Brunt and the Clerk will look into the possibility of getting funding towards the rejuvenation of the War Memorial land at Cressbrook under this scheme.

2825 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PAYMENTS DURING THE JANUARY BREAK

IT WAS RESOLVED: That any non-contentious planning applications received during the January break will be dealt with by a majority agreement via email. Any contentious planning applications will require an Extraordinary Meeting to be called.

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: That any previously agreed costs can be paid prior to the February meeting.

2820 CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence has been received by the Clerk since the last Council Meeting.

- Email from Save Cressbrook Dale regarding the PDNPA's enforcement of planning contraventions in Cressbrook Dale.
- Email – PDNPA news: Recent discoveries in Derbyshire and the Peak District to be revealed at the annual Archaeology Day at the Winding Wheel, in Chesterfield, on Saturday 20 January, 2024. See website for ticket information
- Letter from Police and Crime Commissioner, Angelique Foster regarding a Council Tax discount for Derbyshire's volunteer Special Constables.
- Letter from NatWest stating that the Bakewell Branch will close on 22nd February. **IT WAS AGREED:** To write to Sarah Dines MP to support her campaign to keep the Bakewell branch open.
- DALC December Newsletter – **IT WAS AGREED:** To ask whether a course on funding streams for war memorial renovations could be arranged.
- Letter from Sarah Dines MP regarding a scheme offering a free Official Portrait of His Majesty the King to all public authorities. **IT WAS RESOLVED:** To apply for the scheme and ask the Village Hall Committee if there is a suitable spot in the Village Hall to hang the portrait.
- Councillor Rooke reported that the current Trustees of the Ralph Malone Trust, which distributes small sums of money annually to eligible residents, are up for re-election. All Trustees have confirmed that they are happy to continue in their role. **IT WAS THEREFORE AGREED:** That Councillor Rooke, the Clerk G Turner and John Butler will continue to act as Trustees to the Ralph Malone trust until the next election date.

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