

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN  
LITLINGTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

PRESENT: Cllr Pipe (Chairman), Cllr Bathmaker, Cllr Williams, Cllr Pledger, Cllr Wiltshire, Cllr Baker  
District Cllr Cathcart, District Cllr McCraith  
Members of the Public -6

**7.30 pm PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Jones, Cllr McClelland, Cllr Sharp, County Cllr Dent

**02. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Baker declared a non-disclosable interest under Item 10.2 as she was a voluntary helper at Pre-School.

**03. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

3.1 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Minutes of the meeting, copies previously circulated, were agreed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**04. MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 Bassingbourn Road Parking

There was no further update.

4.2 Request for a bus shelter on Church Street

There was no further update.

4.3 Highway Issues

4.3.1 South Street/Meeting Lane Junction/Local Highway improvements Initiative 2014/15

Cllr Pipe reported that Balfour Beatty had produced a design which was currently with the County Council asset team for approval. The County Council officers had been asked to speak to South Cambridgeshire District Council, as the street light owners, but to date they had not heard back.

4.3.2 Church Street Flooding-Cutting Out of Grips

The cutting out of the grips had taken place the previous weekend. Communication had been received from a Church Street resident thanking all concerned for getting this work done.

4.3.3 Speedwatch Signs

Cllr Bathmaker confirmed that the photographs had been taken and attached to the application form. This would now be returned to the County Council Road Safety Engineer.

4.4 Update on Parish Plan

This was progressing. Cllr Jones was still processing the results.

4.5 McDonalds Litter

The Clerk had urged a response to the letter sent following the December 2015 Parish Council meeting. She had now been referred to Customer Services. She would try writing to McDonalds Head Office. -Clerk

4.6 Update on Village Wartime Photographs

The photographs not required in the village had been taken to Steeple Morden to see if their Parish Council was interested. The photographs were now with the Clerk as there was no interest shown. She reported that the photographs for display on the village hall wall were to be framed and this would be arranged. -Clerk

4.7 Update on Cambridgeshire Future Transport Meeting

The Clerk reported that she had attended the latest workshop where the results from the consultation on the 127 bus, carried out at the end of 2014, were discussed. She advised that there was quite a lot of feedback on the service and tweaks were suggested at that meeting. Comments made would be considered and a proposal for the future service would be circulated in due course.

**05. OPEN FORUM**

5.1 Litlington Pre-School

Following the last meeting Pre-School had forwarded details of their accounts which all Councillors had seen. The Chairman congratulated the people that had put them together as there was a lot of

information. He had since produced a single sheet, based on the three terms, on income and expenditure. The Pre-School committee acknowledged that this process had highlighted the need to keep these figures up to date. Councillors discussed the sheet and in particular fund raising activities which had to take place to keep Pre-School afloat. Councillors were advised that Pre-School were unable to increase their fees as these were set rates. Staff and training costs had been reduced to their minimum as there had to be a certain amount of staff per ratio of children in attendance. The committee were asked about changes to the Litlington Pre-School since the purpose built building for Smarties in Steeple Morden had opened. The committee advised that Smarties were able to offer a lot more hours and lots of parents wanted the longer childcare. Litlington Pre-School had canvassed their parents to find out their requirements. Due to the availability of the hall early morning sessions were the only option Pre School could offer and at this time and they were not needed.

Cllr Bathmaker then discussed the fundraising asking for details of events planned during the year plus the upfront costs. It was noted that Pre-School did everything they could to advertise events through posters, newsletters and the local press. This did attract different people who were not always connected with Pre-School.

The request for £2,500 was discussed and Councillors acknowledged that this was less per head of Pre-School Litlington children than the donation to the Mobile Warden Scheme. The committee stated that they would be satisfied with any help they could get as they were confident that this was a cash flow problem.

The Chairman thanked the committee.

#### 5.2 The Crown Public House

The Landlady of the Crown, Debbie Payne, expressed her concern over the lack of support shown by the village. Hawthorne Leisure, the owner of The Crown, had invested their support by paying for internal and external decorations but had not reduced Ms Payne's rent or the price she had to pay for the beer. Due to the lack of custom she was now worried that she might be forced to leave. She was using her own money to keep the pub afloat. She added that since moving to the village six years ago she had given her support to all the village fund raising activities.

The meeting agreed that publicity was needed. Ms Payne had in the past put out flyers and had now prepared a flyer, with a questionnaire, asking what residents wanted. She asked Councillors for their input. Cllr Bathmaker advised that most of the Parish Plans returned stated that the Pub was an essential part of the village but around 90% said they never used it.

Cllr Cathcart agreed to speak to the District Council officers to see if they could suggest other pubs that had been in the same situation so that Ms Payne could seek their advice. He also reminded the meeting of the current consultation on the use of Article 4 directions to help retain village pubs. The Clerk advised that some hard copies of a questionnaire had been put in the shop and agreed to supply copies for the pub to promote. Cllr Bathmaker offered to prepare an item for the next Parish Post pointing out residents should use the pub or lose it!

The Chairman thanked Ms Payne for letting the Parish Council know of her concerns adding that everyone should try harder to support.

## **06. CORRESPONDENCE**

### 6.1 Anti-Social Behaviour Abington Road

Details had been received from concerned residents over the behaviour of their neighbours in District Council property. A letter had been sent to the South Cambridgeshire District Council Housing Officer. The residents were aware that this was not within the remit of the Parish Council but wanted to keep them informed. Cllr Cathcart confirmed that he had taken the issue up with the Housing Officer a number of times previously as this was not the first time there had been complaints. The officer was very much aware and agreed to follow up with the residents.

### 6.2 The Crown-Request for help

This item was discussed under Item 5.2 Open Forum.

### 6.3 Notification of unsuccessful MHI Bid 2015/16

The Chairman advised that the parish was in 8<sup>th</sup> place on the reserve list. He added that it was probably for the best as additional funding was likely to be needed for the current MHI project.

### 6.4 SCDC Parish Liaison Meeting

The next Cabinet and Parish Councils Liaison Meeting was to be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and two members of the Parish Council were invited to attend. The Clerk had circulated details and asked those interested in attending to let her know.

**07. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**7.1 County Council

Cllr Dent had circulated a written report to Councillors.

7.2 District Council

Cllr Cathcart advised that the main issue was probably the continuing inspection of the Local Development Plan which was currently taking place. The last three items included the housing supply but Councillors were not aware of anything that might affect Litlington.

Cllr Pipe asked if the District Councillors had heard anything further on the affordable housing which they had not. A discussion then took place on the City Deal and the requirement for a contribution towards social housing required during the next year.

The Chairman thanked the District Councillors for their update.

**08. PLAY AREA**8.1 Play Area Weekly Inspection Update

Cllr Williams confirmed that the inspections were regularly taking place.

8.2 Recreation Ground8.2.1 Football Pitch

Cllr Wiltshire advised that she had asked the football clubs to liaise with each other over the use of the pitches. Steeple Morden youth team had been given permission to mark out a five a side pitch for their team and she was waiting to hear when this would happen.

8.3 Litlington Recreation Centre

Cllr Williams reported that a new cleaning contractor had been appointed following notification from True Blue, the cleaning company, advising that they were unable to continue. The Clerk asked permission to order some cleaning equipment for the centre, which would be kept in a locked cupboard, with the cost around £30. This was agreed.

-Clerk

Cllr Wiltshire advised that bookings at the centre were regular.

**09. CLUNCH PIT LAND**

There was no further update.

**10. FINANCES**10.1 Payment of Accounts**MORDENS & LITLINGTON MOBILE WARDEN SCHEME**

Donation 2014/15 (agreed at PC meeting 13/1/15)	£300.00
---	---------

**GD BRADSHAW**

Electrical work at Recreation Centre (inc. £18.92 VAT)	£113.52
--	---------

**ABLE PLUMBING**

New toilet seat & repairs to waste pipes	£150.00
--	---------

**S LOCKE**

Lock for cleaning cupboard	£ 35.00
----------------------------	---------

**K BAKER**

Rec Centre cleaning 2/2/15 & 9/2/15 2@£25	£50.00
---	--------

Cleaning materials	£ 6.44	£ 56.44
--------------------	--------	---------

<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 654.96</b>
--------------	--	-----------------

Agreed. PROPOSED Cllr Williams SECONDED Cllr Wiltshire

11.2 Litlington Pre-School Request for Donation

Cllr Bathmaker stated that he recognised that the cash flow problem was a temporary blip and suggested that Pre-School needed to be encouraged to be more forward thinking with their fund raising events which he knew would mean, in some cases, cash up front. The Chairman added that there was a unanimous feeling that all Councillors wanted to assist as they were aware of the good work and wanted to be sure there was a future for the Pre-School. Cllr Pledger suggested a one off donation be made to help get some fund raising events planned which would help Pre-School help itself. It was then proposed by Cllr Bathmaker to donate £1400. Cllr Wiltshire proposed a donation of £1500 which was seconded by Cllr Williams. There was no seconder for Cllr Bathmaker's proposal. A vote was then taken to donate £1500 towards the planning of fund raising events. All Councillors in agreement. Cllr Baker did not vote as an interested party.

As the funds were needed as soon as possible it was agreed that a cheque for £1500 payable to LITLINGTON PRE-SCHOOL be issued.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION FOR URGENT CLERK ACTION****11.1 Potholes on Royston Road**

Cllr Baker reported potholes in a number of places on Royston Road. She agreed to report the problem areas on the County Council website.

**-Cllr  
Baker**

**13. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm

Chairman

Date