

LITTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
held on 16th October 2023 at 7pm in Litton Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Robinson in the Chair
Cllrs C Brunt, I Rennie & G Rooke

IN ATTENDANCE: G Turner, Clerk
District Councillor N Buttle

2772 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors C Gamble, N Gregory & C Saxby who were unable to attend due to work or family commitments.

2773 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared for agenda items.

2774 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

The Parish Council Grass Cutting Contractor, Phil Riley joined the meeting for agenda item 9, Wilding areas.

2775 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.

2776 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18TH SEPTEMBER 2023

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the monthly council meeting held on 18th September as being a true and correct record.

2777 ACTIONS FROM THE MINUTES

-2764 20S PLENTY AND 30MPH SPEED LIMIT EXTENSION

Following discussion **IT WAS RESOLVED:** That the Clerk will forward to Councillors some wording for the planned residents survey, for discussion and approval via email.

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: To place a map on Facebook showing where the 30mph signs are positioned now and the proposed position should DCC agree to them being moved. It would also show the proposed 20mph area.

-2765 CRESSBROOK LINKING FOOTPATH APPLICATION TO DCC – LINKING FOOTPATH 13 TO 14

IT WAS AGREED: That Councillor Brunt will ask the Footpaths Officer to liaise with Peak & Northern Footpath Society and The Ramblers Association to see if they would be prepared to undertake the application to link the 2 footpaths.

-2769 SEATING IN LITTON'S BUS SHELTER

A number of options for seating in the bus shelter were circulated to members.

IT WAS AGREED: To purchase a 1.6m recycled plastic bench at a cost of £137.33 plus VAT.

2778 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

NP/DDD/0923/1086 Cressbrook Hall, Bottomhill Road, Cressbrook

Listed Building consent - The provision of two parking bays and steel frame canopy. Proposed removal of a disused oil tank, excavation of hillside alongside driveway, and the felling of 6 low quality trees in woodland. To include associated landscaping and hard-standing provision.

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

2779 FINANCE

(i) Accounts for payment

The Clerk submitted a schedule of payments in the sum of £1,096.99 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 since the last meeting income totalling £31.05 had been received from the National Grid, in respect of a Wayleave agreement.

It was also noted that the current account balance as at 16th October 2023 was £5,093.88 and the reserve account balance was £10,439.01.

(ii) Quarter 2 - comparison between actual income and expenditure and budgeted.

A comparison between actual and budgeted income and expenditure for the first 6 months of the year was circulated to members.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That Councillors had no queries on the Quarter 2 comparison.

2780 WILDING AREA IN LITTON

The Parish Council outlined its plans for a wilding area at the cemetery and also the trial of a wilding area around one of the trees in Litton. Phil Riley confirmed that he thought that his machinery would be able to cut and remove the cuttings from the proposed area of the cemetery but that the area at the playground will need to be strimmed and then the cuttings removed by hand due to the severity of the slope.

Councillor Brunt suggested that snowdrops could be planted around the trial tree and Phil advised that Councillors should consider a variety of flowers so that the area continues to flower all year. He suggested a scatter bulb mix would be appropriate.

Phil also confirmed that Barratt Lane will be strimmed in the next week or two and the grass heaps at the cemetery will also be taken away.

Councillor Rooke expressed his satisfaction with how the village greens are being maintained and thanked Phil for his efforts at keeping the parish's grass areas neat and tidy. All Councillors agreed.

2781 BIRD BOXES

A number of different types of nesting boxes for birds such as swift, swallow and blue tits, were discussed.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That Councillor Robinson will ask the resident who proposed the

installation of bird boxes in the parish, which type she thinks would be best and whether she is aware of any funding available.

2782 WYCH ELM AT CRESSBROOK WAR MEMORIAL

It was noted that the Council is still awaiting a report from the tree surgeons on the condition of the Wych Elm at the War Memorial in Cressbrook.

2783 WALL REBUILD AND REMOVAL OF SAPLINGS AT CRESSBROOK WAR MEMORIAL

Councillor Brunt informed members that the boundary walls at Cressbrook War Memorial are in a bad state of repair and in danger of collapse. This is especially the case of the wall onto the highway and the one that runs alongside the footpath.

IT WAS AGREED: To write to County Councillor Sutton to see if the wall directly on the highway would be the responsibility of DCC.

There are also a number of saplings surrounding the War Memorial which need to be removed before they spread further.

Councillor Brunt suggested that maybe a community fund could be set up to help with funding the work.

IT WAS AGREED: That Councillor Brunt will write a piece for distribution by the Community Group.

District Councillor Buttle stated that Tideswell had secured funding for the renovations to their war memorial and it was therefore **AGREED** to ask the Clerk of Tideswell Parish Council for some advice on the funding process.

2784 HEDGE TRIMMING TO WEST OF MEMORIAL PLOT

Councillor Brunt stated that neighbours of the war memorial have been cutting the hedge to the west of the war memorial for many years. It is however getting more and more difficult for them to continue and therefore the Parish Council needs to consider alternatives for maintaining the hedge.

2785 CONSULTATION ON PLANS FOR THE LAND AT CRESSBROOK WAR MEMORIAL

Councillor Brunt suggested that there should be a consultation with the residents of Cressbrook to find out how they would like the War Memorial plot to be developed.

IT WAS AGREED: That Councillor Brunt will canvass local residents for ideas for the development of the land.

2786 FEEDBACK ON PARISHES FORUM DAY

Deferred to November meeting.

2787 PLAYGROUND – RESPONSE FROM PROLUDIC ABOUT REPAIRS

Councillor Rooke circulated a quote from Proludic Ltd showing the repair costs for a number of items at the playground.

IT WAS AGREED: That although most of the repairs can be undertaken by Councillors it may be necessary to spend around £2,000 on repairs to the pod swing in the medium term.

IT WAS AGREED: It was also agreed that Councillor Rooke will look into having the Parish

Council email and the playground postcode added to the current playground sign.

2788 PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT

The latest monthly inspection report was circulated to members highlighting that there are some overhanging bushes that need cutting back at the rear of Sunnybank cottage.

IT WAS RESOLVED: To ask the handy person to cut back the overhanging bushes and also to cut the triangle area around the playground sign.

2789 REPAINTING BENCHES

It was noted that the repainting of the benches will take place in Spring 2024, as there needs to be a reasonably dry spell of weather beforehand, for them to dry out sufficiently, prior to repainting.

2790 WALL AT CRESSBROOK VILLAGE GREEN

It was noted that the wall on Cressbrook village Green has not yet been repaired.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That Councillor Brunt will ask the resident of the neighbouring property, who had agreed to rebuild the wall, when she estimates the work will be completed.

2791 GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE AT LITTON CEMETERY - REGULATIONS

The Clerk informed members that a family had asked whether they would be permitted to dig their own plot for the placement of ashes in the Garden of Remembrance at Litton Cemetery.

As the current Cemetery Regulations do not provide for this situation Councillors discussed the request and **IT WAS RESOLVED:** That there is a risk that neighbouring plots could be disturbed if someone not experienced in such matters is allowed to dig their own plot. For this reason, the Parish Council require a suitably qualified and insured person is instructed for all interments.

IT WAS ALSO RESOLVED: That the Cemetery Regulation be amended to reflect this decision.

2792 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Email from Cressbrook resident regarding an unsafe tree on land known as The War Memorial Top Cottages Cressbrook – It was noted that the Parish Council is currently waiting for a report on the condition of the tree.
- Email from Tideswell and District Sports Association regarding Tideswell's Sports Pavilion Development – **IT WAS AGREED:** That the Parish Council wish to support the redevelopment of Tideswell Sports Pavilion as it is a facility which could also benefit the residents of Litton Parish.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.53pm.