

LITTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
held on 12th February 2024 at 7pm in Litton Village Hall

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

IN ATTENDANCE: G Turner, Clerk

2820 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.

2821 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared for agenda items.

2822 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public at the meeting, along with the Handyperson and PCSO Anthony Boswell from the Bakewell Safer Neighbourhood Team.

PCSO reported that in the last month the following incidents had been reported to the police.

- 1 assault
- 1 theft
- 1 theft from a vehicle

In recent months there has been a slight increase in thefts in the wider area and in particular bikes and vehicles have been targeted. PCSO Boswell reminded people that most thieves are opportunists and that homeowners should make sure that doors and windows are locked and that sheds and outbuildings are secured with robust locks. Any existing security measures should be checked to ensure that they are in good work order.

Further details on how to protect your home from thieves, as well as details of the free security marking scheme can be found on the news section of the [Parish Council's website](#).

A resident asked whether the Parish Council would write to the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) about the proposed replacement of the pedestrian footbridge over the River Wye at Cressbrook Mill. The resident stated that the PDNPA had not consulted with residents regarding the materials to be used on the project and it seemed had not considered the option of repairing the bridge rather than replacing it. The resident therefore would like the application withdrawn so that further consideration could be given to alternative designs and materials to the current plans.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** that it is too important an amenity to the area to risk a lengthy delay by requesting the application in its current form is withdrawn. A tremendous amount of effort has already been put into getting the project moving and that funding was being sought from the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) scheme, any delay would put the whole project in jeopardy. The Parish Council does however acknowledge that more consultation with locals could have been undertaken and it will write to the PDNPA in this regard

The Handyperson spoke of his concerns that a number of trees are leaning at a 45-degree angle at Litton Cemetery.

IT WAS AGREED: That a parish wide tree survey is overdue and this should be carried out as soon as practicable so that the condition of all the trees in the parish and any maintenance work required can be ascertained.

The Handyperson also stated that he had chipped the Christmas Tree on Litton Village Green free of charge as DDDC had not taken it away. He will also do the same with the Christmas trees at Litton Mill and Cressbrook. He suggested that the Parish Council might consider purchasing living trees in future as this would be better for the environment and save costs.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That residents would need to be asked whether this is something they would support as it could potentially interfere with events held on the Village Greens.

In the meantime, the Clerk will try to find out what cables, pipes etc might be underneath the Village Greens.

IT WAS PROPOSED by the Chair to vary the order of business so that the Handyperson could have input into agenda item 10. All agreed.

2823 HANDY PERSON CONTRACT

A revised tasks list for the Handy Person Contract was circulated to members.

The Handy Person gave his thoughts on the frequency and duration of the tasks.

IT WAS AGREED: That Councillor Gregory will revise the task list with consideration of the Handy Person's comments.

2824 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.

2825 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH DECEMBER 2023

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the monthly council meeting held on 11th December as being a true and correct record.

2826 ACTIONS FROM THE MINUTES

-2787 PLAYGROUND SIGNAGE

Councillor Rooke stated that he has tried to obtain funding for a new sign at the Playground, however the cost is too small for any of the usual funding sources to be interested.

IT WAS AGREED: Councillor Gregory will ask his contact whether he would be willing to make a sign for the playground with its postcode, what3words and the contact details for the Clerk.

2827 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application Number - NP/GDO/1123/1349 - Land north of Mayfield Farm, Litton Slack
GDO Notification - A new building - Agricultural building to store fodder

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Parish Council supports the above planning application.

2828 FINANCE

(i) Accounts for payment

The Clerk submitted a schedule of payments in the sum of £2,592.16 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 12th February 2024 was £6,277.88 and the annual interest on the reserve account was £232.75, resulting in a balance of £10,669.41.

(ii) Qtr 3 Budget Monitoring

Comparisons between the quarter 3 actual income and expenditure and that budgeted were circulated to members.

IT WAS RESOLVED that there were no significant variances between the budget and actual data and no queries were raised.

2829 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

Councillor Gregory confirmed that he, Councillor Rooke and the Clerk had met with the Grass Cutting Contractor at the Cemetery to discuss the wilding area.

Following the meeting the Grass Cutting Contract was revised and circulated to members.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the contract should be sent to the Grass Cutting Contractor with a request that he provides a quote for cutting the grass in the parish for the next 3 years, based on the new contract.

IT WAS AGREED: That as the current Grass Cutting Contractor's work is consistently of a high standard and residents are happy with this work, if his quote continues to offer good value for money, it will be accepted without the need for re-tendering the contract for the next 3 years.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED: to write to Tideswell Parish Council to ask why Litton Parish cuts the triangle of grass that belongs to Tideswell Parish at Litton Dale.

2830 TREES AT LITTON CEMETERY

Councillor Gregory expressed concern that the large tree as you enter the cemetery via the side gate could be destabilising the wall that supports the gate.

It was noted that this tree will be included in the Tree Survey and any maintenance required will be highlighted.

2831 CRESSBROOK DALE – UPDATE

Councillor Brunt informed members that Natural England had bought the SSSI land at Cressbrook Dale and also Ravendale Meadows from Stanton Estates.

Natural England also put in an offer to Phoenix Rose last year to purchase the land that it owns in order to add it to the National Nature Reserve, however the offer was declined. Natural England regarded this as an open offer and so it can be accepted at any time by Phoenix Rose.

2832 CRESSBROOK WAR MEMORIAL AND LAND – UPDATE

Councillor Brunt informed members that she had met with Polly Yates, Development Worker from Derbyshire Dales council for Voluntary Services (DDCVS) to discuss funding options for the war memorial and land at Cressbrook, and as a result had also attended an online workshop on Community Resilience Grants as a possible funding source.

Due to the scale of the project, Polly suggested that it be split into at least 2 phases, initial research/feasibility project (to include plans from Landscape Architect) and then project delivery once the plans have been agreed by the community and PDNPA have granted planning permission.

Claire Wilkins, Community Policy Planner from PDNPA has offered to help put together an application for funding from PDNPA's Community Grant Fund for a tree and ecology survey and this may include obtaining the advice of a Landscape Architect.

Chris Curtis, the PDNPA's Conservation Officer will also be able to advise on the restoration of the War Memorial and provided a link to the Historic England website on the conservation, repair and management of War Memorials.

2833 ROAD SIGNS

Defer to April

2834 MONTHLY PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

The monthly playground inspection report was circulated to members. It was noted that there was nothing that required immediate attention.

2835 UPDATE TO DISCIPLINARY POLICY

Following advice from NALC an updated disciplinary policy was circulated to members.

IT WAS AGREED: To adopt the revised Disciplinary Policy.

2836 DDCVS MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Brunt proposed that the Parish Council joins DDCVS, which is free to join and exists to promote strong, sustainable and healthy communities through voluntary and community action.

IT WAS AGREED: That the Parish Council will apply for membership to DDCVS.

2837 CORRESPONDENCE

An email has been received from TDEG Bike group asking whether the Parish Council wished to go ahead installing a bike rack in the parish or whether it could instead be donated to Litton School, who are keen to have a bike rack in the school playground.

IT WAS RESOLVED: That the bike rack can be donated to the school.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR MARCH MEETING

IT WAS AGREED: To place 'survey of village priorities' on the parish Council's March Agenda.

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