

Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Tamar Room (The Arundell), Lifton on 23rd November 2023

*These minutes are provisional until they are agreed and signed by the Chairman at
the next meeting of the parish council*

Present: Cllr C Edmonds (Chairman), Cllr Dunn, Cllr Glen, Cllr Gynn, Cllr Lees, Cllr Measey and Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on 19th October 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Dispensations and Declarations of Interest: None

4. Visiting Speaker: None

5. Public Participation/Borough Cllr. Update:

Public Participation: A resident who lives on the Cornish side of the river Tamar raised concerns in relation to item 9.1 Planning Applications - 3309/23/FUL and 3671/23/FUL and the associated works at Gatherley Farm/Roadford Lake being undertaken by South West Water and their contractors. The resident expressed concern that the proposed site (land at Gatherley Wood), was in fact the wrong location for the temporary water abstraction plant; that this temporary plant would in fact become permanent; and that the proposed works would massively change the visual impact of the location. There would be considerable noise disturbance coming from the site and that the works would affect the ecology of the river, causing problems to the local wildlife. The local resident said that this unspoilt location risked being destroyed and that, in their view, the abstraction should not go ahead.

Borough Cllr. Update: WDBC were in the process of developing a 2024-2028 corporate strategy; full details were available on their website: <https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/news/2023/what-important-you-west-devon-have-your-say>

6. General items:

6.1 Highways Update

The Clerk provided the following details to Councillors that had been reported to or from Devon Highways since the last meeting as follows:

Temporary Traffic Notice - Road from Disused Quarry to Kelly Cross, Lifton (TTRO2353912) - Monday 20 November 2023 until Friday 24 November 2023 (both dates inclusive). This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - 900m New Water Mains Installation.

Temporary Traffic Notice - Road past Harts Farm, Lifton (TTRO2353895) - Monday 11 December 2023 until Friday 15 December 2023. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - 900m New Water Pipe Installation.

Temporary Traffic Notice - Road past Elmfield, Lifton (TTRO2353840) - Monday 18 December 2023 until Thursday 21 December 2023 (both dates inclusive). This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - 900mm New Water Mains Pipe Install.

Temporary Traffic Order - Road from Leat Farm to Gatherley Farm, Lifton (TTRO2453852) -Thursday 1 February 2024 (For a Maximum of 18 Months) - Anticipated Finish Tuesday 6 February 2024. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - Road Crossing for 900m New Water Mains Pipe Installation.

Temporary Traffic Notice - Road from Sydenham Bridge to Splatt Mill Bridge, Lifton (TTRO2353721) - New Dates 12/02/2024 - 15/02/2024. This temporary restriction is considered necessary to enable - De-Veg and Pointing on HRE Structure.

Full details of all DCC Temporary Traffic Notices/Orders can be found via: [News November 2023 - Lifton Parish Council \(liftonpc.org.uk\)](https://www.liftonpc.org.uk/news/november-2023)

ENQ231679438 - Thank you for the following report: Problem: Highway Comments, Signs & Markers, Enquiry. Location: North Road, Lifton. Date Reported: 15/11/2023. The details have been sent to our team so that an assessment can be carried out. We anticipate that this assessment will be completed by 06/12/2023.

W231682552 - Thank you for the following report: Problem: Pothole, Public Information Portal, Pothole (Single or multiple). Location: Road from Leat Farm to Gatherley Farm, Lifton. Date Reported: 23/11/2023. The details have been sent to our team so that an assessment can be carried out. We anticipate that this assessment will be completed by 30/11/2023.

Other highways matters raised by Councillors at the meeting: On New Road there was a redundant speed camera sign behind foliage (near houses on St Mary's side). Please could Highways remove this sign.

The VAS at the top of Darkey Lane was now working.

Cllr Dunn provided the Speed Watch Report for the past two months. There were not as many sessions carried out over the last two months as the volunteers were hampered by the weather and as a number of them had been away. The group are still catching more people speeding than they would like and still believe that Lifton would benefit from having new VAS units showing the actual speed the vehicles are traveling at certain points in the village.

The group are still on the lookout for more volunteers as this would mean they would be able to run more sessions; adverts for speedwatch volunteers will be placed in the village noticeboards.

6.2 Lifton Road Safety Plan – Printing Quote

The Chairman confirmed that the printing cost for the road safety plan public consultation document including the questionnaire was £100. The consultation document/questionnaire was now ready to be hand-delivered by Councillors to Lifton households. The closing date for completed questionnaires to be returned to the village shop is Friday, 15th December 2023.

Councillors agreed the suggested route planner and were all issued with a supply of public consultation documents/questionnaires to distribute.

6.3 Community Centre Car Park

The Community Centre Committee contacted Lifton Parish Council concerning an issue they are having with a lorry that is parking without their permission in the community centre carpark. The

committee reported that they have spoken to the local community police officer and said that there is a sign in place already that states only people using the community centre itself are permitted to park there. The Community Centre Committee asked whether this was something Lifton Parish Council could advise on.

The Clerk confirmed that Lifton Parish Council cannot provide assistance in relation to parking issues on private land. As a result, Lifton Parish Council have no power to assist with or enforce parking restrictions in or around the community centre car park.

Action: The Clerk was asked to provide the above response to the Community Centre Committee.

6.4 Snow Warden Scheme & Parish Salt Bins

The Clerk reported that there had been no interest expressed in the volunteer Snow Contractor position to help with the physical distribution of salt on local Lifton roads during frost/icy weather conditions.

Councillors would be asked to consider whether to provide additional salt bins at Liftondown and in Tinhay, at the next meeting. Alternatively, Councillors could agree to place bags of salt around the parish, where needed.

Action: Councillors to discuss the purchase of additional salt bins/salt bag locations at December's meeting.

6.5 Defibrillator Update

Cllr Measey undertook the defib checks during November and agreed to continue in December. The Clerk had purchased two Defib Prep Kits (including scissors etc.) as a result of the original kit going missing from the defib box at the Community Centre.

Action: Cllr Measey agreed to undertake the defib checks during December.

7. Reports:

7.1 OPCC Councillor Advocate Scheme

Cllr Gynn confirmed that he would join the OPCC Councillor Advocate Scheme. Cllr Dunn agreed to act as backup should Cllr Gynn not be able to attend any future seminars/events.

Cllr Gynn provided a summary of the Anti-Social Behaviour seminar that he had recently attended online.

8. Finance

8.1 For payment

Clerk's salary for November including backdated pay of £333.66	£ 1,034.36
(Payment of Employer NICs due to HMRC for period 8 (06 Nov - 05 Dec) = £38.14)	
Clerk's expenses: Poppy Wreath for Lifton PC	£ 23.98
Norton Anti-Virus Subscription (PC Laptop)	£ 34.99
MJ & MW Bickle & Son: Verge trimming WDD (inc. £ 498.00 VAT)	£ 2,988.00
ICO: Data protection renewal fee (by direct debit)	£ 35.00
Defib Warehouse: x2 Defib prep kits (inc. £ 5.19 VAT)	£ 31.12
Martin Ashley & Son Gardening Services:	
Grass cutting – Lifton Cemetery (inc. £ 157.50 VAT)	£ 945.00
Grass cutting – Village green/verges & Weed spray (inc. £ 243.25 VAT)	£ 1,459.50
Grass cutting & strimming – QEII Recreation Ground (inc. £ 115.40 VAT)	£ 692.40

Lifton Parish Council: Minutes of the Meeting of 23rd November 2023

The Arundell – Tamar room bookings for Lifton PC meetings on: 27th July 2023 £ 40.00
19th October 2023 £ 40.00
Tamar room booking for Lifton PC meeting on 23rd November 2023 (inc. £6.67 VAT) £ 40.00

Proposed (SD) and seconded (TSW); all in favour that the above payments be made online.

[Total payments for November: £ 7364.35]

Action: Clerk to make all payments online.

8.2 Receipts/Payment received:

Interest – October	£ 7.92
DCC Grass cutting fund 2023-24 (WDD & Urban)	£3,772.00
JH Spry & Son: Burial fee & Exclusive Rights	£ 475.00

8.3 Outstanding invoices: None

The November invoices for payment and the bank statements issued on 1st November 2023 were seen and signed by two Councillors.

General matters relating to Finance:

8.4 National Salary Award 2023-24 (Clerk's salary)

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services has come to an agreement on the 2023/24 pay award, applicable from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The terms of the agreement include: with effect from 1 April 2023, for all spinal points to 43, the agreed award was a flat rate payment of £1,925. For all spinal points above that the award was 3.88%. NALC has produced updated pay scales which were shared with Parish Councils by DALC in their newsletter number 48.

The Clerks pay has been adjusted accordingly and backdated pay owed has been included under item 8.1 on this agenda. Councillors noted the national salary award for 2023-24.

8.5 Donation requests:

Royal British Legion 2023 Poppy Appeal

Councillors discussed the annual donation to the 2023 Poppy Appeal and agreed to donate £50.00.

Proposed (DM) and seconded (CG); All in favour.

Action: The Clerk to make an online donation of £50 to the RBL 2023 Poppy Appeal.

Lifton Community Centre – Defib training session

The Community Centre Committee are arranging a training session on the safe use of the Defibrillator on the 26.01.24 with a professional trainer who is charging £170 + VAT. They are going to invite the hirers of the hall and anyone else that would be interested. There is a maximum of 20 people able to attend. The Community Centre Trustees have asked Lifton Parish Council if they could help with the payment or part payment of this training.

Cllr Edmonds reported that he could support this training under his West Devon Ward Member role and could provide a contribution of £100 from his WDBC Localities Fund.

Councillors discussed the donation request and asked the Clerk to make further enquiries with the Community Centre Committee to find out if they had explored using a representative from the South West Ambulance Service to conduct defib training. Councillors wanted to also ask the committee whether they wished to participate in the monthly defib checks.

Action: The Clerk to contact the Community Centre Committee as detailed above and to provide a further update to December's PC meeting.

8.6 Budget Monitoring 2023-24

Councillors noted the budget monitoring spreadsheet provided by the Clerk prior to the meeting which showed year to date and estimated year-end figures for 2023-24.

8.7 Budget Planning 2024-25

The Clerk provided a draft budget spreadsheet to Councillors detailing proposals for the 2024-25 budget and precept figure. Councillors were asked to submit any questions or comments about the proposals to the Clerk by Friday, 8th December 2023.

A final decision on the 2024-25 budget and precept figure would be made at December's PC meeting.

9. Planning

9.1 Applications:

3309/23/FUL - Proposal: Construction and operation of temporary water abstraction plant and ancillary works. Site Address: Land At Gatherley Wood, Road from Leat Farm to Gatherley Farm, Lifton, Devon.

Councillors were informed that they were only being asked to consider the planning documents in front of them; they were not required to consider abstraction rates or water quality as these matters are the responsibility of the Environment Agency.

The Chairman provided details about the diameter and length of pipe that would be placed above ground for the operation of the temporary water abstraction plant. South West Water (SWW) had confirmed that the water being abstracted would be used in North Devon and Cornwall.

The temporary water abstraction would be 3 million mega litres a day between November to March but only when certain river conditions permit. South West Water have said that the abstraction should not impact the river quality or wildlife.

Some Councillors questioned this and whether the abstraction rates would indeed damage the water levels. Councillors were informed that they would have to trust SWW and the Environment Agency monitoring abstraction rates. There was also a 'Drinking Water Inspectorate' who's role was to ensure safe drinking water.

Some Councillors agreed it was difficult to make a decision based on their knowledge and the proposed plans and questioned the justification for the temporary abstraction; potential flaws in the ecology report were also raised by one Councillor. All Councillors noted that Roadford Lake was currently at 60% capacity.

Councillors made the overall decision to not to support this planning application.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (1); not support (4); abstain (2).

3671/23/FUL - Proposal: Construction, installation & de-commissioning of temporary self-spanning pipe bridge over River Lyd. Site Address: Land At Sx 399 850, Spry Lane, Lifton

Councillors received details about the installation and de-commissioning of a temporary self-spanning pipe bridge over the River Lyd which would be removed in August 2024; some Councillors felt that this pipe bridge was dependent on the previous planning application.

The pipework will eventually go under the riverbed and join existing infrastructure; this temporary pipe bridge across river was necessary as it is not possible to work in the river during the proposed construction period commencing December 2023.

Some Councillors felt that they were unable to make an informed decision based on the information provided in this application. Some Councillors felt this application was irrelevant as the previous temporary water abstraction application had not been supported. Councillors were advised that this was a separate application and not contingent on the previous application.

Councillors agreed to not support this application.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (1); not support (4); abstain (2).

Independent of the above decisions, Councillors would welcome an opportunity to engage with South West Water in the future, prior to a planning application for a permanent pipeline/pumping station being submitted.

2888/23/FUL - Proposal: Conversion and extension of existing garage structure to form a new dwelling. Site Address: Old Manor House, Duntz Hill, Lifton PL16 0BJ

Councillors noted the imaginative plans but expressed concern with the actual design proposals, the site itself is within a conservation area. The proposed design would also mean that other properties would be looked down on. Councillors were not against the property being extended but noted that the proposals were not sensitive to the conservation area it sat within; they felt the design did not fit into the surroundings.

Councillors agreed to not support this application.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (0); not support (6); abstain (1).

3374/23/ARM - Proposal: Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval reference 1408/20/OPA for the erection of an industrial building & associated works. Site Address: Land to the North and West of Lifton Strawberry Fields, Lifton PL16 0DE

The outline planning application had been previously supported by Councillors. The proposed units/workshops would bring further employment and business to the village.

Councillors agreed to support this application.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (7); not support (0); abstain (0).

3399/23/OPA - Proposal: Application for outline planning permission with all matters reserved for erection of a dwelling. Site Address: Land At Ngr Sx392853, North Road, Lifton

Councillors discussed the proposed location for the erection of this new dwelling at the end of North Road, currently a field.

Councillors were concerned that this proposal represents visual coalescence between the two villages of Tinchay and Lifton, which is contrary to the Joint Local Plan.

Councillors agreed to not support this application.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (0); not support (7); abstain (0).

9.2 Approvals:

3082/23/PAA - Location: Strawberry Fields Lifton PL16 0DE. Application Type: Prior Approval Application. Proposal: Prior Approval Application for proposed new agricultural track following planning application 2785/23/AGR. **Decision:** Prior Approval Required and Given

3154/23/ARC - Location: Development Site At Sx 382 850 Fore Street Lifton. Applicant Name: Wain Homes (South West) LTD. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions (discharge). Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (Ground Source Heat Pumps) & 6 (External Finishes) of planning consent 2873/22/ARM. **Decision:** Discharge of Conditions - Split Decision

9.3 Refusals: None

General matters relating to Planning:

9.4 There is no statutory consultation requirement on the applications below - the information is being sent for information only: 3665/23/ARC - Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions (discharge). Development Site At Sx 382 850 Fore Street Lifton. Applicant: Wain Homes South West LTD. Application for approval of details reserved by condition 2 (Slates/Walls) of planning consent 2873/22/ARM.

10. Correspondence: None

11. Councillors' items for future agenda: Budget/precept setting and salt bins.

Next Meeting: 7.00pm, Thursday, 14th December 2023 (Tamar Room, The Arundell)

Meeting closed at 21:10.

SIGNED..... Date.....