

Lifton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Tamar Room (The Arundell) on 17th October 2024

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

Present: Cllr Edmonds (Chairman), Cllr Alexander, Cllr K Dunn, Cllr S Dunn, Cllr Gynn and Cllr Measey

1. Apologies: Cllr Glen, Cllr Lees and Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse

2. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on 26th September 2024 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/Guest Speakers: None

5. Public Participation/Borough Cllr. Update:

Public Participation: None

Borough Cllr. Update: A Full Council meeting was held in early October; two resolutions were passed. The first resolution is in relation to the change in Winter fuel payments. WDBC have written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ensure those with the greatest need still received this payment. WDBC are also conducting an awareness campaign; potentially, 16,000 pensioners have been identified within the borough and the campaign is to ensure they check their eligibility to claim other benefits. WDBC may be able to provide support to eligible residents via the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Household Support Fund.

The second resolution passed relates to the Tavistock to Plymouth rail line and the Government's intention to review the rail line into Plymouth. A letter has been sent to the Government encouraging funding for this project to go forward. The success of the Okehampton to Exeter rail line has been cited in the letter along with the imminent development of the new Okehampton travel hub.

Cllr Edmonds is continuing to work with the Ward Member for Milton Ford in relation to road improvements and road safety in the 'Iron Railings' location following recent fatalities at this location.

6. General items:

6.1 Highways Update

The Clerk provided a report to Councillors prior to the meeting which detailed highways matters that have been reported to or from Devon County Council Highways (or other departments) since the last meeting. Please see separate attachment 'Appendix A'.

In addition to the above, an update was provided on:

W241789891 - Pothole, Pothole (Single or multiple). Location: Road from Leat Farm to Gatherley Farm, Lifton. Thank you for contacting us about this issue, which was originally reported on 12-October-2024. The record was completed on the 16-October-2024. The following information is now available: A repair has already been undertaken, or is due to be undertaken, at the location you provided. No further action is necessary.

W241791419 - Thank you for the following report: Problem: Pothole, Public Information Portal, Pothole (Single or multiple). Location: Road past Harts Farm, Lifton. Date Reported: 16/10/2024. 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 23/10/2024.

W241789574 - Highway Maintenance Faults (Works), Empty Location: Darkey Lane, Lifton.
Thank you for contacting us about this issue, which was originally reported on 10-October-2024. The record was completed on the 16-October-2024. The following information is now available; The problem has been repaired.

The following update was also provided:

Fore Street 'village green' – The DCC Highways Officer has confirmed that this area is public highways land and that any new bollards at this location would need to conform to DCC Highways specification. An example of a bollard that would meet this specification was circulated at the meeting. The bollards would need installing securely by a Chapter 8 approved contractor and the siting of these bollards may lead to future problems with vehicles parking on the main road side partly on the verge itself. Councillors agreed to not pursue this matter any further.

The faulty VAS is now working; an issue with the wiring has been fixed.

The 'trench' in the road by West End Cottages and the gas main trench outside the Community Centre have both been repaired.

The faulty street lights on Fore Street have been referred to the National Grid; a target date of 24th October for repairs has been given. If the lights are still not working beyond this date, Lifton PC have been asked to report these faulty lights again to DCC's lighting team.

Cllr Edmonds undertook a survey of County and Parish salt bins to ensure they are topped up before the cold weather arrives. Cllr Edmonds will liaise with the local primary school in relation to the area near the old police station.

Lifton Community Speed Watch Group

Cllr S Dunn provided the latest speed data report at the meeting. 6 speed watch sessions have taken place. In Liftondown and Fore Street, the VAS is making a difference in reducing the number of those caught speeding. D&C Police were in attendance at one of the sessions; one of the CSW Group volunteers has given permission for a Police bike or van to be parked in their layby.

The bi-directional site by Darkey Lane has been given the go-ahead; the CSW volunteers will now be able to monitor vehicle's travelling in both directions at this location.

Cllr S Dunn and others from the CSW Group attended the Speed Watch Conference in Exeter; the presentation slides will be circulated to all Councillors shortly

A report was shared with Councillors at the meeting detailing the number of letters sent by the Police to those caught speeding in the last month. D&C Police count the letters over rolling 12-month period and every year the letters are rescinded. Cllr S Dunn is pursuing improvements to the way in which the police process the letters to ensure those caught continuously speeding are dealt with.

6.2 Burial Ground: The Law Commission's Consultation Paper on Burial and Cremation

Councillors received a copy of The Law Commission's consultation paper prior to the meeting and resolved to support NALC's blanket response. Proposed; seconded. All in favour.

6.3 Lifton Village Trail Leaflet

Cllr K Dunn has been working with Lifton's History Group to amend the leaflet before it is reprinted. The leaflet is now a word document so improvements along with amendments can be made.

Cllr K Dunn and Cllr S Dunn will work together to formulate the changes and will circulate the revised leaflet to all Councillors for comments prior to it being reprinted.

6.4 Parish Footpaths

Cllr S Dunn has asked the U3A ramblers and walkers to walk Lifton's footpaths and they have been given leaflets in order to do so in the future.

Cllr K Dunn has been in liaison with the local Scouts and they are also happy to help. They have been given leaflets, a couple for each of the different groups.

People are asked to walk the parish footpaths, encouraged to take photographs and to report any problems with access such as obstructions, over grown vegetation etc., to:

[Report a problem with a public right of way - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport)

6.5 Mobile Phone Mast – St Mary's Church

At the last Lifton PC meeting it was reported that the mobile phone mast at St Mary's Church will not be installed until April 2025 at the earliest as a result of supply issues with the equipment required. West Devon Borough Council Ward Member, Cllr. Edmonds, had sent a letter of complaint about the delay to Vodaphone, copied to Network Solutions and the local MP. Planning permission for the mast was granted back in 2017.

The local MP as acknowledged the letter and Network Solutions have forwarded the letter to a manager. Cllr Edmonds will provide a further update in due course; he will be back in contact with the local MP if there isn't a positive response from Network Solutions.

7. Reports:

7.1 QEII Report to include consideration for a new notice at the recreation ground re: vandalism

The management committee held a meeting on Monday 7th October 2024. The Treasurer raised concerns that expenditure was exceeding income, principally due to repairs to the pavilion. As there were no signs of the pressure on overheads abating, the committee decided on two courses of action:

1. To increase the fee to Lifton FC to £900.00 per season.
2. To approach the parish council to increase their contribution to £1500.00.

The pavilion requires further refurbishment along with the carpark entrance together with paths to the play area and pavilion. It is hoped to obtain Section 106 money to cover these costs.

Unfortunately, the pavilion has suffered vandalism which requires wooden railings to be re-placed, a further cost which the committee can ill afford. While not wishing to draw attention to recent vandalism, it was also felt that it should not pass without comment. It was decided to approach the parish council for comment and draw attention to the QEII being a facility for all and vandalism was spoiling the enjoyment of the majority.

The roundabout has now been repaired under guarantee.

Notices are to be placed both in the pavilion and on the noticeboard advising that the pavilion was available for hire in a bid to increase bookings.

Councillors discussed what action can be taken concerning the recent pavilion vandalism. They discussed the options available such as putting up signs, improved lighting and posting a message on local social media. Councillors also discussed contacting local businesses for a contribution towards materials for the repairs.

Cllr Edmonds has spoken to the local PCSO and Neighbourhood Team, they will increase patrols in the area.

Councillors resolved to ask the Clerk to put a suitable message out from Lifton Parish Council on local social media highlighting the QEII as a much-loved community facility and that it should be kept nice for all to use; not necessarily drawing attention to the recent vandalism. The Clerk was also asked to contact a local builder's merchant regarding materials or a contribution to the pavilion repairs. Proposed; seconded. All in favour.

Action: The Clerk to put a draft social media notice together in liaison with Chairman and Vice-Chairman for posting on the village Facebook page. The Clerk to write to the local builder's merchant as detailed above.

7.2 OPCC Councillor Advocate Scheme

Cllr Gynn provided the report below which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting: A message from OPCC customer engagement - Subject: The reopening of some police enquiry offices. It has become apparent that a few of our advocates (especially those that may have recently joined) are not aware of the next police station front desks to be reopened (Police Enquiry Offices).

These are: Tavistock, Liskeard, Ivybridge, Exeter (city centre).

The project to renovate and recruit for these offices is ongoing, but these are due to be opened and up and running to the public by the next financial year and so far, this is looking to be on schedule and in fact we are looking at an opening for the very early part of next year for Tavistock, Liskeard and Ivybridge.

Note: Launceston continues as a functioning police enquiry office with desk-opening times: Monday to Saturday 10am to 3pm; Closed on Sundays and bank holidays.

8. Finance

8.1 For payment:

Clerk's salary for October	£ 700.70
Clerk's expenses (laptop case)	£ 9.99
WDBC: Emptying of bins (inc. £ 159.12 VAT)	£ 954.72
WDBC: Recharge for uncontested Lifton PC elections May 2023	£ 79.20
The Arundell: Tamar Room hire for LPC meeting 17.10.24 (inc. £6.67 VAT)	£ 40.00

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

[Above payments: £1784.61]

Action: Clerk to make all payments online.

8.2 Receipts:

Interest	£ 7.40
WDBC: 2nd half precept 2024-25	£ 8,326.00
Spry Funerals: Burial fee	£ 175.00

8.3 Outstanding invoices: None

The October invoices for payment along with the bank statements dated 1st October 2024 were seen and signed by two Councillors.

General matters relating to Finance:

8.4 Bank reconciliation

Councillors noted the bank reconciliation from July to September 2024; it was duly signed by two Councillors.

8.5 Budget monitoring 2024-25

Councillors received the budget monitoring spreadsheet prior to the meeting and noted the figures provided. The Clerk would update these as part of the 2025-26 budget setting process. Councillors will discuss next years' budget at the main November PC meeting.

9. Planning

9.1 Applications:

3056/24/FUL - Proposal: Erection of two storey extensions to northern & eastern elevations of factory building, installation of 1 x ventilation terminal & 1 x roof maintenance access hatch to factory building roof with associated ancillary infrastructure inc. construction of new concrete hardstanding, partial relocation of existing kerb line & connection to existing drainage system. Site Address: Ambrosia Creamery, Station Road, Tinhay, PL16 0BB

Councillors discussed this application and although the proposals were straightforward, they expressed concern about the possible impact from both noise and light pollution from these new factory building extensions.

Councillors voted in support of this application with the added caveat that the Planning Officer be asked to consider any potential impact from increased noise or light pollution as a result of the proposed works.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (6); not support (0); abstain (0). A vote was taken by a show of hands.

2819/24/HHO - Proposal: Householder application for building of shepherds hut. Site Address: Cob Barn, Launceston, PL15 9QX

Councillors voted in support of this application on the understanding the 'shepherds hut' is ancillary to the main building only and used for its intended purpose as a home office.

Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (6); not support (0); abstain (0). A vote was taken by a show of hands.

9.2 Approvals:

1918/24/VAR - Description: Application for variation of conditions 1 (Approved Plans) and 3 (Ground Source Heat Pumps) of reserved matters consent 2873/22/ARM to substitute Ground Source Heat

Pumps for Air Source Heat Pumps. Applicant Name: Wain Homes (South West). Site Address: Development Site At Sx 382 850, Fore Street, Lifton. **Decision:** Conditional Approval

9.3 Refusals: None

General matters relating to Planning:

9.4 Appeal update: Site Address: Land At Ngr Sx392853, North Road, Lifton, PL16 0EF

9.5 For information only: 3130/24/PDM - Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1No dwelling house (Class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b)). Location: Land at SX 393 845 Lifton

10. Correspondence: Councillors noted the following items:

London Hearts: Defibrillator fund now open

11. Councillors' items for future agenda: QEII Committee: Terms of Reference and Village Trail Leaflet.

Meeting closed at 20:20.

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

Next Meeting: An extra-ordinary PC meeting at 7.00pm on Thursday, 7th November, followed by the pre-planned PC meeting on Thursday, 28th November 2024 (Venue's tbc)