

# Lifton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Tamar Room (The Arundell) on 19<sup>th</sup> December 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, Cllr Lees, Cllr Measey and Cllr Sutton-Woodhouse

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr Glen (received and apologies approved)
- 2. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 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:** A resident attended the meeting and thanked the PC for all their work.

**Borough Cllr. Update:** Cllr Edmonds wrote to Cornwall Council's Launceston Ward Member concerning the Launceston recycling centre's booking system trial which does not allow those with a Devon postcode to book a timeslot. To-date, no response has been received so a letter has also been sent to the Leader of Cornwall Council. Cllr Edmonds has now referred the issue onto Sir Geoffrey Cox MP.

WDBC are aware of the recent central government announcement regarding devolution which will involve changes to local government and also the publication of the review of the National Policy Planning Framework which also instigate change locally.

### 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, the following matters were raised:  
Pothole located at the A30/A388 junction.

A DCC Lighting Team fault report is still 'live' for the streetlight in Oak Ridge:

Fault Reference: 72715                      Current Status: Work in Progress

Fault Type: Light not working. Date Received: 26/11/2024

Unit Type: Street Light                      Due Date: N/A

Unit Reference: Unit 5                      Date Completed: N/A

Unit Location: (Pnl)o/s No 5 Oak Ridge, Oak Ridge, Lifton.

#### Lifton Community Speed Watch Group

Cllr S Dunn provided the latest speed data report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

#### 6.2 Liftondown Telephone Kiosk

A resident of Liftondown has made another request for the BT telephone kiosk in Liftondown to be renovated and used within the community. The original request was made in 2022-23; at the PC

meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Councillors confirmed that the PC would not adopt this telephone kiosk due to cost pressures. Councillors noted that attempts had been made in the past to engage with residents in Liftondown concerning this kiosk but, at the time, no interest was expressed. At the January 2023 PC meeting, Councillors agreed to support The Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) charity with their potential adoption of this kiosk for a defibrillator, it was felt that on-going support for the project including fundraising and volunteer labour should be encouraged from the residents of Liftondown. The Chairman indicated that funding in the form of community grants could be available from West Devon to support the project and would be happy to liaise with Liftondown residents on this point.

Following the recent request to renovate/use this kiosk, the Clerk contacted The Community Heartbeat Trust. The CHT confirmed that they offered to submit an application (to BT) and sent the link to the resident in September of this year for free paint to assist with the renovation.

The CHT confirmed that they can provide defibrillator equipment for the phone box and assist with fundraising and many other factors. They stated the cost of the project is between £1500 and up depending on how it is done. From the correspondence going back to 2023, they noted that the parish council would depend upon engagement from the community to place a defibrillator and that it was not felt at the time that this was there. If this was still the case, the CHT would not recommend fitting a defibrillator unless there is a long-term commitment financially and reporters to volunteer for its upkeep.

Councillors discussed this most recent request and resolved to uphold their original decision to not adopt the BT telephone kiosk in Liftondown for the very same reasons as before, the cost implications (renovations, insurance, on-going maintenance etc.) and the lack of any wider Liftondown community support for the project.

The Clerk was asked to write to the CHT confirming the PC's decision and to ascertain whether they, the CHT, would proceed with the kiosk adoption themselves. If not, the PC will determine at a future meeting whether or not BT should be asked to remove the Liftondown kiosk. The Clerk was asked to inform the Liftondown resident of the above decision and the action being taken.

**Proposed: (DM); Seconded: (SD); All in favour. A vote was taken by a show of hands.**

### **6.3 Allotments**

The new Wain Homes development on Fore Street includes 7 allotment plots. Councillors will need to decide next year whether or not Lifton Parish Council should accept ownership of these allotments or whether they should be handed over to a site/residents' allotment committee.

The Clerk agreed to collate her research on allotments and provide a report for Councillors in early 2025.

### **6.4 Defibrillator Update**

Cllr Measey undertook the defib checks during December; it was in good working order. Cllr K Dunn agreed to undertake the checks during January.

## 7. Reports:

### 7.1 QEII Report

A grant of £6k has been granted to the QEII for improvements to the entrance gateway, the car park and for the redecoration of the pavilion. The grant needs to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

### 7.2 OPCC Councillor Advocate Scheme

Clr Gynn provided the following update:

**New interim Chief Constable** - James Vaughan, the former Chief Constable in Dorset, has been appointed (December 2024) as interim Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police.

Acting CC Vaughan has stated that he has three clear priorities: -

- To rapidly improve performance
- The restoration of public confidence
- To improve standards of professionalism.

### Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029

In November 2023, the PCC (Alison Hernandez) launched a public survey, asking which policing issues seemed most important. The 2,500 responses were then used to decide which issues mattered most to them.

On 2nd December 2024 the updated plan was presented by the PCC at an on-line meeting (Teams). A slide summary was sent to Councillor Advocates including Clr Chris Gynn who presented it to the parish council.

The new Chief Constable now has four priorities which were established after the public engagement:

- Antisocial Behaviour
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Serious Violence
- Theft.

## 8. Finance

### 8.1 For payment:

Clerk's salary for December	£ 730.73
The Arundell: Tamar Room hire for LPC meeting 19.12.24 (inc. £6.67 VAT)	£ 40.00

Donations made:

Royal British Legion 2024 Poppy Appeal	£ 50.00
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**Proposed (SD) and seconded (CG); all in favour that the above payments be made online.**

[Above payments: £ 820.73]

**Action: Clerk to make all payments online.**

The above invoices for payment were seen and signed by two Councillors.

### 8.2 Receipts:

Interest	£ 7.89
DCC: Locality Budget Grant towards new VAS	£ 500.00
Co-Op Funerals: Burial fee	£ 175.00
E. Pascoe & Son: Memorial fee	£ 100.00

### 8.3 Outstanding invoices: None

#### General matters relating to Finance:

##### **8.4 Donation request: Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon**

Councillors discussed the donation request received from Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon. In 2023-24, Citizens Advice TNMWD worked with 47 residents of Lifton with 225 problems, generating £30,278.00 in additional household income.

Councillors agreed to make a donation of £ 150.00 to Citizens Advice TNMWDDM. Councillors agreed to move £50 from the 'Donations: Village Groups' budget line in order to make the donation to Citizens Advice; to-date, no donations have been requested for village groups.

**Proposed (TSW) and seconded (DM); All in favour.**

**Action: The Clerk to make an online donation payment to Citizens Advice TNMWD for £ 150.00.**

##### **8.5 Budget Setting 2025-26**

Councillors discussed the draft budget at the November meeting and received the budget proposal again prior to this meeting.

**Motion: Councillors resolved to set the budget for 2025-26 at £ 25,670 (including the use of £898.00 from earmarked reserves). Proposed (AL); Seconded (SD); All in favour.**

##### **8.6 Precept Setting 2025-26**

Councillors discussed the precept figure for 2025-26 and agreed to increase the precept to ensure a balanced budget, healthy reserves and to cover rising costs in the next financial year.

The precept calculator had been received from West Devon Borough Council; the PC's proposed precept increase would result in the 'Band D' parish rate being £39.45, this is an increase of £2.56.

**Motion: Councillors resolved to set the precept for 2025-26 at £ 17,984.**

**Proposed (AL); Seconded (DM); All in favour.**

**Action: The Clerk to submit the precept to WDBC.**

## 9. Planning

### **9.1 Applications:**

3581/24/LBC - Proposal: Listed building consent for amendment to 0173/24/LBC (replace damaged roof tiles). Site Address: Lifton Hall Hotel, New Road, Lifton PL16 0DR

Councillors agreed to support this application.

**Proposed and seconded. PC decision: support (9); not support (0); abstain (0). All in favour.**

**A vote was taken by a show of hands.**

### **9.2 Approvals:**

3130/24/PDM Prior Approval Agricultural Building to Dwelling C3. Site Address: Land at SX 393 845 Lifton. Description: 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)). **Decision:** Prior Approval Required and Given

3172/24/CLE Certificate of Lawfulness for Existing Use. Site Address: Land at SX 393 849 Lifton. Description: Certificate of lawfulness for existing part constructed industrial unit. **Decision:** Cert of Lawfulness (Existing) Certified

**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:*

3671/24/AGR Agricultural Determination. Site Address: Land at SX 364 861 Launceston. Description: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed portal steel-framed agricultural building measuring 18.48m (length) x 12.2m (breadth) x 6.85m (height to ridge)

3672/24/AGR Agricultural Determination. Site Address: Land at SX 364 861 Launceston. Description: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed new agricultural track (length 275mtrs x width 3.6mtrs

**10. Correspondence:** None

**11. Councillors' items for future agenda:** Allotments and Liftondown BT kiosk.

Meeting closed at 20.05.

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

**Next Meeting:** 7.00pm, Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 (Tamar Room, The Arundell)