

## LITCHBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at 7 pm in the Village Hall**

**TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025**

- 1. Councillors present - In the absence of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, Cllr Lugar-Mawson took the chair, Cllrs Robinson, Lowery, Cox, Cllr Manners, WNC**
- 2. Apologies – Cllrs Sykes, Aked-Walker, Drinkwater**
- 3. Members of the public present – none**
- 4. Public Forum:** Members of the public can raise any issue with prior notice to the Clerk – Cllr Manners reported on:
  - the Appeal for Planning permission by DHL at Towcester is 18.2.25
  - Devolution is now not going ahead and elections are to be held on May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Budget for WNC has been set – Childrens' Services and Social care taking a large percentage, and demands are increasing.
  - WNC – Planning - will be required to build 460 houses per year and it is likely that the villages will be asked to have some
- 5. Declarations of Interest –** to receive any on agenda items – Cllrs Lugar-Mawson. Lowery and Robinson declared an interest in connection with St Martin's Fabric Trust.
- 6. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were confirmed and signed and the extraordinary meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were confirmed, to be signed at the next meeting.
- 7. Ongoing Issues:** To report progress on, and to decide on any appropriate action on the following items:
  - **Defibrillator** – to receive update (Cllr Aked - Walker) – no update available
  - **Website** - update (Clerk – Viv Hartley) – All Agendas and Minutes are on website. Newsletters added monthly and NCALC mini updates weekly. Updates from other organisations are added as they come in.
  - **Footpaths and ROW** - to receive update (Cllrs Drinkwater and Cox) – No issues to report at present. Cllr Cox will monitor and overhanging hedge near the playing field path.
  - **Snow and Tree Warden** – update (Cllr Cox) - no issues. There have been no TPO applications recently.
  - **Youth Club** – Clerk had sent agenda and minutes to organiser.
- 8. Council to discuss how it could work with The National Hedgehog Conservation Strategy –**

Cllr Cox introduced this item. Hedgehogs are classified on the 'red' list as a vulnerable species. The strategy aims to restore populations of

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hedgehogs so the species becomes a common sight in urban and rural areas as it was once. The strategies used involve conservation of habitat and addressing habitat fragmentation.

Discussion followed and the Council agreed to:

- **Clerk** to pursue advisory 20mph zones around the village as many hedgehogs are run over. Also **Clerk** to invite Helen Howard, WNC Highways Community Officer to attend a meeting to request 20mph signs.
- Advise residents to have gaps for hedgehogs to pass through gardens rather than using roads (can be up to 1 mile in a night). Cllr Cox also showed the meeting the signs residents can buy to place such a gap advising newcomers as to why the gap exists.
- **Clerk** to add information to website.

#### 9. Finance:

The following payments of accounts below were agreed:

Payee	Net	VAT	Total £	Chq/Ref No
1PCS –hosting of domain name & email November	20.00	4.00	24.00	DD
1PCS –hosting of domain name & email December	20.00	4.00	24.00	DD
V Hartley – Salary for Dec + Jan (+back pay - £60.48)	593.28		593.28	25
N Power Oct – Dec	304.80	15.24	320.04	26
D Aled -Walker – refund for Xmas tree	88.00	22.00	110.00	27

Total £1071.32

#### 10. To approve budget and set precept for year ending 31.3.26.

**The Clerk and Cllr Robinson previously circulated draft budget.**

Cllr Robinson (ICO) and Clerk had reviewed the format of the Cash book and budget.

**The Council agreed a budget figure of £12500. The Council then resolved to apply for a precept of £12500 to cover the budget.**

#### Financial matters to note:

**Bank balance at 31.12.24 – £21722.22, Bank balance at 21.1.25 - £20650.90**

**11. Internal Control Review** – report from Cllr Robinson - internal audit review carried out in the process of updating the cash book and work on the budget..

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**12. Planning Applications and updates – See Planning Register below –**  
items for consultation: none

**13. To note and action correspondence where necessary.** Various updates circulated.

**14. Other matters for report only:** To discuss issues arising too late for the agenda. No decisions can be taken.

**Cllr Robinson** - circulated a diary as a guide to activities at and between meetings.

**Cllr Lowery** - consideration of electric vehicle charger installation at the village hall. Vehicle owners would have to be booked in. An income for the village hall could be derived. He had information from ACRE and NCALC.

**15. To receive any items for the next Parish Council agenda**

**16. Date next Full Council meetings Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2025 7.00pm**

**Future meetings:**

20<sup>th</sup> May

22<sup>nd</sup> July

23<sup>rd</sup> September

18<sup>th</sup> November

20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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