

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
East Langdon Village Hall
15 November 2010

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr S Craft, Cllr J Dyer, Cllr R Walters, The Clerk, County Cllr S Manion, District Cllr I Ward and five members of the public.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** There were no declarations of interest.
2. **APOLOGIES** There were apologies from Cllr Beer (traffic jam) Cllr Watson (holiday), District Cllr P Watkins and Community Warden Gordon Guillou-King.
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2010 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Craft
Seconded: Cllr Dyer

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Vacancies There continues to be a vacancy.

Seat on Village Green More finance is available for the seat and work can now commence.

New noticeboard Quotations for a 6 x A4 sheet noticeboard were considered from Arien Signs (£787) and Greenbarnes Ltd (£657) together with an offer to repair the board at Martin with soft wood for approx. £100. It was agreed that the specification from Greenbarnes met the requirement of the Council and a decision was made to accept their quotation and also the offer of repair to the Martin noticeboard.

Proposed: Cllr Walters
Seconded: Cllr Craft
Agreed unanimously

The Meadow There has been no response from DDC to the query. The matter will be pursued.

Salt bins The surveys have been carried out and the findings communicated to KHS. A request for a salt bin at the crossroads of Waldershare Lane and Archer's Court Road (West Langdon side) was noted.

Erosion of verges The NFU has provided a summary of the conditions of use for over-width vehicles. Concerns about the adverse effect on the verges caused by the machinery were voiced at a NFU area wide meeting on 11 November.

Whitfield Urban Expansion Draft Masterplan Concern was expressed about the phasing of the building project as a new primary school is not planned until 1600 dwellings have been completed. There is the potential for a shortfall in the number of school places available in the interim with a possible increase in local traffic as parents drive to other schools in the area.

5. LDF SITE ALLOCATIONS DOCUMENT DDC must provide 1200 homes in rural areas but the impact on local amenities has to be taken into account. Langdon Parish Council has always resisted expansion into the rural area and extension outside the rural envelope but the need for affordable housing had been clearly identified and this must not be compromised. There was considerable discussion during which it was agreed that the Parish Plan should be revisited and that an Open Meeting should be arranged for Monday 29 November to invite further comment before a response is submitted.

6. REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICER

There was no report available.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

DDC – Advice has been received that District, Town and Parish elections will be held on Thursday 5 May 2011 together with estimates of costs for both contested and uncontested elections.

KCC

- i) Proposed changes to planning application validation process are in accordance with government advice that Planning Authorities revisit their documents to ensure the information requirements were appropriate in terms of assisting planning applicants and simplifying the planning process.
- ii) Bold steps for Kent: Medium Term Plan to 2014/15 is a consultation draft replacing the previous four year plan “Towards 2010.” The document and closing date for comment arrived between meetings and the following observations were sent on behalf of the Council. *The Council would wish to respond on the matter of transport gridlock in East Kent. The council sees the completion of the dualling of the A2 as a priority both to relieve congestion during peak times at present but, more importantly, to make provision for the increase in housing in the Dover District that will put great pressure on the already overloaded road network and force more people to use the narrow country lanes whose surfaces and verges cannot stand up to the wear and tear. It is encouraging to see that the A2 could benefit from the introduction of a vignettes system but I am sure that the Council would wish to see improvements to the A2 and adjoining roads such as the A258 given higher priority if East Kent is to achieve its potential for growth.*
- iii) The second Kent Railway Summit began to define Kent’s priorities for action. These included extending the high-speed service from Dover via Deal and Sandwich to Ramsgate.
- iv) Details of a home-based business survey have been posted on the parish web site.

KHS - A license is required for temporary and permanent attachments to illuminated street furniture on the highway.

ACRK –

- i) Oast to Coast focused on improving broadband speeds in rural areas. It is understood that grants are available from KCC to assist with the costs of installing VFAST that can offer up to 10mbit. It was agreed that this should be explored further.
- ii) The Annual Summary for 2009 – 2010 showed that the distribution of grants during the year had totalled £902,957 with Dover district receiving £195,211.

- iii) Rural News advised that each KCC Member has a grant of £25,000 to spend on projects that fit in with the objectives of the Highways Department. These can include improving footpaths and better cycling facilities.

ERHA – The annual report showed that 88 new homes were completed in the financial year 2009/10 and a further 50 area under construction.

Kent Miners Festival – The Festival will be held at Aylesham for the next two years and will once again become a one day event.

Clerks and Councils Direct – The newsletter contained legal advice on the management of village halls.

Sustainable Communities Act - This is now being progressed by the government.

Dorman – Literature has been received from the manufactures of vehicle activated signs. *Given to Cllr Walters*

Airvolution Energy – The Company has advised that it is considering applying for planning permission for a 95m to tip wind turbine at the “Engine Shed land” near to Archer’s Court Road.

8. FINANCE

Approval of payments

Clerk’s Salary (2 months) £377.93

Clerk’s Expenses (Aug – Nov) £ 38.93

Proposed: Cllr Walters

Seconded: Cllr Craft

PLANNING

PLANNING APPLICATION

DOV/10/00982: Erection of a 60m temporary met-mast for a period of 18 months

Location: Engine Shed Land, East Langdon, Dover (TR 317:465)

Information on the application was taken from members of the public after which the matter was considered by the council and a unanimous decision taken that Langdon Parish Council strongly objects to this proposal. In elaboration, the council’s comments are attached in Annexe A

DECISIONS BY DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

TREWORK IN CONSERVATION AREA

TC/10/00080 30% crown reduction to one sycamore tree, including clearance of roof and neighbouring property; also removal of two stems near base of tree.

Location: The Old Vicarage, The Street, East Langdon

Permission granted.

10. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Lengthman’s Report KHS is negotiating a new contract for repairs. There will be improvements in the reporting system and it is thought that the appointment of a

local lengthman could be cost effective.

Playing Field Committee The Fayre will take place from 3 – 5 pm on Saturday 11 December.

Village Hall Committee Interest has been registered in the Big Lotteries Fund.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Report from County Cllr Manion The need to save £340 million over the next four years with a 16% cut in year one has resulted in a comprehensive spending review. One positive outcome is closer co-operation between districts of which the new more cost effective waste contracts are a good example.

Over 550 potholes have been repaired in Dover District during the year. Cllr Manion requested names of farmers who would help with the clearance of minor roads in the event of snowfall. It was noted that a clearer system of authorisation for this work needs to be implemented

KALC Annual Meeting Cllr Walters represented the Council at the meeting held on 13 November which he had found to be a positive experience with excellent presentations from three strong speakers. The Chief Inspector of Kent Police affirmed a commitment to maintaining a police presence in rural areas while Kent Highways acknowledged that, while they perform well with maintenance of bypasses, they are bad at maintaining rural roads. The MP for Tunbridge Wells, Greg Clark, who is also Minister for Decentralisation described ways in which parishes will be given more authority although there will be no requirement for councils to take on extra responsibilities. He emphasised the importance of a parish plan which, with well supported ideas, would become the basis of all planning in the village and identify needs e.g. snow clearance.

- 12. **NEXT MEETING** The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on 20 December 2010 in East Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

1. There is no purpose for the mast except to gather wind speed data as a precursor to an application to site wind turbine/s at the location. An Anemometer mast had been erected at the Old Engine Shed site, Enifer Down, in 2008 to record wind availability for the Dover North Wind Farm scheme for an 18 month period and so data is already available for the area.
2. Assuming the premise as in item No. 1 above, we remind the DDC and applicant of the Inspector's report following the dismissal of the appeal by Ecotricity for the 5 turbines at East Langdon which in summary concluded that the site is unsuitable for wind turbines, single or multiple.
(Ref. APP/x2220/A/08/2071880/NWF 16 March 2009).
3. The position of the mast is in the flight path corridor of the operational airstrip at "Inglenook", Sutton and as such presents a serious hazard to aircraft entering or leaving the area. It contravenes guidance contained in CAP793.
4. The 60m mast and associated guy-lines support structure will be a visual intrusion into the sensitive rural landscape and especially on properties in West Langdon. The proposed site is on rising ground of an open field site with prominent visibility across the rolling downlands and village locations.
5. The submission of this application and possible erection of the Met-Mast would be detrimental to the well-being of the residents of the adjacent hamlets and villages of West Langdon, Pineham and Whitfield. The original application for 5 wind turbines at East Langdon caused considerable anxiety, stress and anger. The fact that over 800 objections were made by residents, surrounding parish councils and community organisations, together with serious financial outlay to challenge Ecotricity's appeal, indicated the strength of feeling which still remains today. The community remains scarred and the spectre of another wind Farm project is already causing concern.

The parish council urges the applicant to carefully consider the Inspector's findings of the original Dover North appeal and reflect on the negative impact such a project would have if it was pursued.