

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
East Langdon Village Hall
21 November 2011

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

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** There were no declarations of interest.
2. **APOLOGIES** Cllr J Watson (unwell), District Cllr P Watkins and PCSO G Carr (off duty).
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2011 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr A Minns

Seconded: Cllr S Craft

4. MATTERS ARISING

Parish Plan Cllr Walters reported that 105 questionnaires were returned and a group of volunteers is currently carrying out initial categorising of the open questions. Ms Louise Matthews, who has professional experience of analysing questionnaires and access to relevant software, will analyse the responses in the New Year at minimum cost to the council. The main expenditure will lie in printing costs. County Cllr Manion highlighted the importance of the plan in the light of the Localism Bill.

Jubilee Celebrations It was agreed that the date for the celebration needs to be fixed and an initial meeting set up for interested parties.

Councillor vacancy There continues to be a vacancy.

New Brompton The decision notice for the refusal of planning permission at New Brompton was read and concern was expressed.

Emergency planning It was agreed that East Langdon village hall should be offered as a Rest Centre in the event of a local emergency. KCC's Emergency Planning Team is encouraging local councils to produce their own emergency plans and County Cllr Manion offered to forward examples from other authorities.

Salt bag The bag of salt and sand has been delivered and Cllr Craft offered to ask Velcourt with assistance to move it to a more convenient place in the car park. A notice in the newsletter will ask for volunteers to distribute salt to strategic sites in the event of severe weather. Parishioners will be invited to help themselves to the supply.

5. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND OTHER EXTERNAL AGENCIES**

County Cllr S Manion Cllr Manion reported on the success of the “You Decide” event on 29 October.

Discussions on street lighting continue and KCC currently favour the option of switching off the lights between midnight and 5am which would produce a 10% reduction in costs. It was noted that the majority of respondents to the parish plan questionnaire had also favoured this option.

The new waste collection service is proving cost effective and all households should have wheelie bins by Christmas.

KALC Committee Meeting Cllr Shaw reported that KCC Landscaping Services are being realigned and cost cuts are likely to result in a reduction in the cutting of verges in rural areas unless these create a traffic hazard. It is suggested that groups of parishes could work together to supplement cuts or to employ a local contractor and claw back the allowance paid to KCS.

There is the possibility of an increase in night flights at Kent International Airport for the transportation of freight.

KALC AGM Cllr Shaw had attended the morning session when Kent Police Authority reported on the recent operational review. The Chief Executive of Kent Fire Services addressed the implications of a £12m budget reduction over 3 years and described the changing role of the service for who the major part of their work involves attending the scenes of accidents and dealing with vulnerable people.

Dover District Neighbourhood Forum “You Decide” There were presentations from 24 organisations of whom 16 were successful. There were three recommendations for awards to local groups: East Langdon Cricket Club (£2,500 for the refurbishment of the pavilion), Langdon Playing Field Association (£2,238 for safety work around the slide) and St Augustine’s Church (£1,392 for the cleaning and restoration of the stained glass windows).

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

DDC –

i) Nominations area requested for a substitute representative to the LDF Group in place of Mr Derek Wanstall.

ii) Comments are invited by 22 December on the proposed standards for open space provision in the Dover District and on a proposed policy for implementing the standards.

KCC –

i) Part of the Pfizer site has been proposed in the Kent Mineral and Waste Sites Development Plan for the handling of waste from external sources. It was agreed that such a development would not impact on Langdon and that no response to the

consultation document is necessary.

ii) HOSC notes from County Cllr Chard confirmed that the consultation on East Kent maternity services was launched in October.

KHS –

i) Details of the new Dover operations team have been received following reorganisation.

ii) The Highways and Transportation Tracker Survey was given to Cllr Walters.

iii) A summary of winter preparations has been received which states that “an army of 180 farmers is on standby to clear dedicated routes when cold weather sets in. They have all been provided with snowploughs by KCC to keep key rural roads open.” It was agreed that a letter be sent asking for further information as to the arrangements that are in place for clearing rural routes and the need to have contacts in rural areas who can disseminate information on the road conditions.

KALC –

i) Parish News published the dates for a Chairmanship Conference, 7 January 2012 and a Localism Conference on 28 January.

The East Kent Archive is now shut and all material is being transferred to a new Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone.

ii) Comments are invited on three government consultations:

a) Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (deadline 5 January 2012)

b) Community Infrastructure Levy (deadline 30 December 2011)

c) Local Government Pension Scheme (deadline 30 December 2011)

It was agreed that responses should be considered for the first two categories.

ACRK –

i) Rural News gave a reminder of the fuel savings that might be achieved by village halls.

ii) Kent Village of the Year was Elham who also won the environmental award.

iii) Volunteers are being sought for training as “local champions” to give out information and answer questions about the Digital Switchover in their community. Training will take place in Whitfield village hall at 2pm on 9 December 2011.

iv) There will be a meeting on 28 February 2012 at 7pm in Lenham Community Centre to discuss the best way of forming a Rural Fuel Consortium.

CPRE –

i) The Kent AGM will be held on Friday 25 November at Lenham Community Centre.

ii) Kent Voice contained further information on the Kent Mineral and Waste Sites Development and offered training on both planning and neighbourhood planning. *(Given to Cllr Walters)*

iii) Countryside Voice was given to *Cllr Shaw*.

KPFA The autumn newsletter has been received.

LANGDON PLAYING FIELD – In October a request was been received from the Playing Field committee for a grant to help provide small gifts for children at the Christmas Fayre. Following some discussion it was agreed that the council would

sponsor the Fayre to the sum of £100.

Proposed: Cllr R Walters

Seconded: Cllr S Craft

CLERKS AND COUNCILS DIRECT – The Newsletter contained an article on the role of a councillor. *(Given to Cllr Dyer)*.

VICTIM SUPPORT – A Request for a donation will be held on file until the end of the financial year.

KENT FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE Cllr Minns will respond to a consultation on draft plans to close a number of part-time fire stations.

FIRST RESPONDERS Following an appeal from First Responders in April, the Council has been advised that the team Leader has been accused of spending some of the monies raised for his own benefit.

7.

FINANCE

Bank mandate

It was resolved that the authorised signatories in the current Mandate, for the Account detailed in section 2, be changed in accordance with section 5, and the current Mandate will continue as amended.

Proposed: Cllr R Walters

Seconded: Cllr S Craft

Carried unanimously

Approval of payments

Mr C Shaw – newsletter printing costs £15.60

Mr C Shaw – parish plan questionnaire printing costs £40.50

Receipts

Dividend £0.32

Proposed: Cllr S Craft

Seconded: Cllr R Walters

Insurance for firework display It was agreed that in the event of the Langdon Playing Field Association being unable to provide public liability cover for the firework display on 10 December the Parish Council would take charge of the event with cover from Aviva Insurance. It was noted that the Universal Fireworks of Hythe have the necessary insurance cover for all matters concerned with public safety during the display.

Proposed: Cllr R Walters

Seconded: Cllr J Dyer

8.

PLANNING

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DOV/11/00899 Retrospective application for the installation of a flue

Location: Cosy Nook, The Street, Martin CT15 5JP

A decision was made between meetings under Section 6 Standing Orders. The council had no objections.

DOV/11/00925 Erection of a single storey rear extension

Location Station House, Station Road, Martin Mill

A decision was made between meetings under Section 6 Standing Orders. There was one objection and the council commented: There is some concern that the extension is too large for the overall size of the plot. In mitigation the area is well screened with hedging and the extension will not be visible from the road.

Decisions by Dover District Council

DOV/11/00742 Construction of an access road

Location: Field 41A, Langdon Court Farm, East Langdon

Permission granted

DOV/11/00541 Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) for continued use of land as garden.

Location: Rainbows End, Wheatsheaf Lane, Martin

Permission granted

TREWORK IN CONSERVATION AREA – CONSULTATION

TC/11/00086

Proposal: Remove self seeded Sycamore trees situated on the front (north west)

Location: Cosy Nook, The Street, Martin CT15 5JP

Raise no objection

Planning Round Robin

Following problems with the circulation of planning applications between meetings, it was agreed that the matter will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

9. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Playing Field Committee Planning continues for the Christmas Fayre and firework display on 10 December.

Village Hall Committee On 9 November some 90 people attended an interesting talk by Lorraine Sencicle on the history of the various railway lines in the Dover area and their special importance in the war years. Mr Tony Newton was thanked for organising the event which produced £231.65 for hall funds.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fire station at St Margaret's Cllr Minns reported on a meeting in St Margaret's village hall when a large audience voiced their objections to the proposed closure of the fire station. The authorities acknowledge that the closure would result in an increase in the attendance time at incidents.

11. NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 19 December 2011 in East Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....