

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
East Langdon Village Hall
16 January 2012

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr S Craft, Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, Cllr R Walters, The Clerk, County Cllr S Manion, PCSO G Carr and one member of the public.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** There were no declarations of interest.
2. **APOLOGIES** Cllr J Watson (unwell), District Cllr P Watkins, District Cllr K Morris (DDC meeting) and Community Warden G Guillou-King.
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2011 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr J Dyer
Seconded: Cllr R Walters

4. MATTERS ARISING

Parish Plan Cllr Shaw reported that Ms Matthews has made excellent progress with the lengthy task of keying in the data from the questionnaires and preliminary results are imminent.

Jubilee Celebrations Six people attended the meeting on 9 January 2012 when initial ideas were discussed for a Jubilee celebration in East Langdon on Monday 4 June 2012. A tree will be planted in the churchyard on 5 February to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Accession.

Councillor vacancy There continues to be a vacancy.

Emergency planning Cllr Minns expressed an interest in becoming the coordinator for the parish and will attend one of three meetings to be arranged by KCC and KALC.

Revised Housing Assistance Policy DDC is updating the policy detailing the types of discretionary loans and grants available to householders to assist with essential repairs and improvements to make their homes safe and healthy. The policy also assists with persons receiving a Disabled Facilities Grant. Members agreed to email their views to the Clerk who will consolidate a response on behalf of the Council.

Household Waste Recycling Centre Service The consultation document provoked lengthy discussion and it was decided that members would give individual on-line responses indicating their concerns about possible reductions in the service despite the need for KCC to reduce costs in this area.

Parish Substitute to the LDF Group Bruce McArthur from Sholden has been selected.

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

County Cllr S Manion Cllr Manion reported that KCC will not require a rise in council tax but some increase is likely from DDC which has one of the lowest tax bases in the county.

KCC are examining schemes to reduce road congestion arising from roadworks.

A system of lane-charging would incur high charges during the day but low costs for work done during the night.

Other External Agencies PCSO Carr reported that there have been no calls in the ward that have needed a neighbourhood response. Attendance at coffee mornings and the Saturday market have provided opportunities for residents to express any concerns they might have.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

DDC – Full electronic notification of planning applications will be introduced from 1 March 2012 after which hard copy consultations will not be sent. The Council is now registered to respond to applications electronically but members were alarmed to learn that the system requires the Clerk to check regularly for new applications. It was agreed that a letter of objection be sent to DDC, copies to all other parishes, advising them that in a well ordered society it is their responsibility to promulgate information. Furthermore there is a duty on DDC to inform the Parish Council as statutory consultees.

The purchase of IT equipment for viewing applications at meetings was discussed at length. It was agreed that a quotation will be sought for the installation of a Broadband connection in East Langdon village hall and that the Clerk will express an interest in joining a proposed Parish Council forum where matters arising from the new system can be discussed. It was suggested that future “round robin” responses would be via email with all members of the Council copied in.

KHS – KCC will continue to provide one rural swathe cut per year and clarification has been requested from DDC as to whether or not they will continue to provide an additional cut and, if not, what the cost to the Parish Council would be.

KALC –

i) Parish News gave dates of a Localism Conference on 28 January and three free pilot events with KCC on Community Emergency Planning on 6, 21 and 29 February.

ii) The minutes of the committee meeting held on 20 October 2011 have been received together with the agenda for the next meeting on 19 January.

ACRK – Rural News gave notice of a one day event on Neighbourhood Planning on 29 March and the Kent Community Rail Partnership Annual Stakeholders Meeting on 28 March.

Woodland Trust is offering free community tree packs to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.

KCPFA – The newsletter gave details of grants that have been awarded.

7. **LARGE AGRICULTURAL VEHICLES** Cllr Walters advised that this matter is inextricably linked with the concerns about the posts and wires that have been erected on land adjoining Waterworks Lane and Waldershare Lane which have resulted in standing aside space being severely restricted for pedestrians. KHS continue to examine the situation. The potential dangers have been further highlighted by an accident on Archers Court Road when a motor cyclist was thrown through a similar wire structure. Cllr Minns expressed concern about overhanging branches and brambles that are

causing damage to private vehicles especially in the Martin Gorse area. It was noted that the swathe cuts authorised by KCC are at a low level and some local control is clearly needed; a rebate on the costs incurred should be expected.

8. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** It was agreed that a speaker be invited from Kent Wildlife Trust.

9. **FINANCE**

Receipts

Bank interest £2.20

10. **PLANNING**

Decisions by Dover District Council

DOV/11/00925

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension

Location Station House, Station Road, Martin Mill

Permission granted

TREWORK IN CONSERVATION AREA – CONSULTATION

TC/11/00123

Proposal: Shorten one leaning stem to reduce cantilever effect

Location: Shepherd's Hay, The Street, Martin, Dover, CT15 5JP

Permission granted

11. **REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES**

Lengthman's report The Lengthman's report was dealt with under item 7.

Playing Field Committee KCC have confirmed the grant for £2,238 for the improvement and repair to the area around the slide.

Village Hall Committee Langdon Primary School is interested in using the hall for a table tennis club.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Defra Rural Broadband Funding Scheme Cllr Shaw will submit an EOI on behalf of the parish.

11. **NEXT MEETING** The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 20 February 2012 in East Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....