

**MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**East Langdon Village Hall**  
**20 February 2012**

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, Cllr R Walters, The Clerk, District Cllr K Morris, PCSO G Carr and one member of the public.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** Cllr Shaw declared an interest in agenda item 7 (grants) and took no part in discussions relating to an application from Langdon Playing Field Association.
2. **APOLOGIES** Cllr J Watson (unwell), District Cllr P Watkins, County Cllr S Manion (unwell) and Community Warden G Guillou-King.
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2012 were accepted as a true record.

**Proposed: Cllr J Dyer**  
**Seconded: Cllr A Minns**

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

Parish Plan Cllr Shaw reported that the raw data has now been collated. Individual members of the steering group will now consider the data relating to the questions that they set and look for any significant outcomes.

Jubilee Celebrations The celebration on 4 June will be held on East Langdon village green. There will be a street party for the children who will also be presented with commemorative mugs. Street entertainers have been provisionally booked. The tree planting ceremony scheduled for 5 February was cancelled because of snow and has been rescheduled for Sunday 4 March.

Councillor vacancy There continues to be a vacancy.

Emergency planning Cllr Minns will attend a meeting in Lenham on 21 February.

Planning Application Consultations In reply to a letter from the clerk, Mr Tim Flisher has advised that, "from 1 March a standard letter will be emailed on each application as an alert to the relevant clerk." Additionally an electronic list of newly valid applications across the District is being emailed each Friday.

Purchase of IT equipment / broadband connection Following further discussion of the merits and practicalities of a broadband connection in the village hall, it was agreed that the cost could not be justified at present for the very limited use that would be involved. The discussion then centred on the possibility of purchasing an A3 printer in order that planning applications could be viewed and discussed at meetings. It was agreed that Cllr Shaw would test the legibility of an A3 planning application and that, subject to the test being satisfactory, an A3 printer should be purchased.

**Proposed: Cllr R Walters**  
**Seconded: Cllr J Dyer**

Maintenance of grass verges Mr Darren Solley has advised that DDC will continue to support the additional cutting regimes for the forthcoming year but the situation will be reviewed on an annual basis. Members commented on the unwieldiness of a two tier system of government in these situations.

Annual Parish Meeting To date there has been no progress with obtaining a speaker from Kent Wildlife Trust and it was agreed that Cllr Dyer would ask Mr Tony Morris if he would be willing to give a talk at the meeting.

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

District Cllr K Morris Cllr Morris reported on behalf of County Cllr Manion in response to concerns raised at the last meeting that it is the policy of KCC to increase recycling and that there are no plans to introduce charges at local sites.

A recent meeting between District Cllrs Watkins and Morris and representatives from the Parish Councils within the Ward to discuss Youth Services and Health issues had been beneficial to all parties and future discussions will be arranged.

Council Tax will rise by 3.45% in the coming year.

A decision has been made to close the fire station at St Margaret's but it is understood that all fire fighters will be redeployed. There is a question over the future use of the building and it is hoped that it could be made available for the benefit of the community.

PCSO Carr reported that there have been no crimes reported to the police from the parish of Langdon. Reports of poaching / lamping in West Langdon have been reported to the rural police partnership team. There has been one report of nuisance bikes on the byways and the police bike team have been on patrol. Attendance at coffee mornings and the Saturday market have provided opportunities for residents to express any concerns they might have.

PCSO Carr requested a list of empty, vulnerable properties in the Parish and Cllr Walters will supply this with information noted during the distribution of the parish plan questionnaires.

Chairman's report on Youth Services and Health Issues consultation Cllr Shaw confirmed District Cllr Morris' comment that this had been a useful forum in which the discussion centred on the devolution of funding for local services. Our youth stand to benefit from funding that will be available for DDC to commission services that can meet local needs and also from targeted resources in crime and disorder and health and well being. Evidence from the Parish Plan will help identify needs in Langdon. \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

DDC – The White Cliffs Country Newsletter has been received and has been posted on the website. It contains a number of useful dates of events in the area in the coming months.

KALC –

i) The Localism Conference had highlighted some worthwhile initiatives including an Inspired Facilities Programme by Sport England focused on making it easier for local groups to improve sports facilities. The closing date for applications is 2 April 2012.

ii) KALC has prepared a draft response to a KCC consultation on street lighting. It was noted that there has been similar consultation with DDC which once again highlights the inefficiencies of a two tier system. Members continue to prefer the option of turning off street lights at midnight.

ACRK –

i) Application packs have been received for the Rural Community of the year 2012 award.

ii) The Annual Summary for 2010 – 2011 has been received. It reports that 81 Parish plans have now been completed and that some funding has been available from the Colyer Fergusson Trust.

CPRE A copy of A Guide to Neighbourhood Planning has been received. *Given to Cllr Walters.*

## 7. **FINANCE**

### **Receipts**

Dividend

£0.32

**Grants** A grant of £200 was awarded to Langdon Playing Field Association towards the cost of a new barrier gate entrance onto the grass area to prevent vehicles from driving on the field. A grant of £400 was awarded to St Augustine's Church, East Langdon towards the cost of essential electrical work that is required for the church to acquire the National Certificate for insurance purposes. This includes repair to the lightning conductor and some repairs and up-dating of the internal electrics.

**Proposed: Cllr R Walters**

**Seconded: Cllr J Dyer**

### **Financial procedures**

The clerk reported improvements in the audit trail and transparency of transactions during the year. These have included the inclusion of a receipt letter when grants are distributed, counter signing of the clerk's expenses by the chairman and the addition of cheque numbers to the agendas of meetings. The bank mandate has also been updated.

## 8. PLANNING

### **Decisions by Dover District Council**

#### **DOV/11/00999**

**Proposal:** Retrospective application for the creation of vehicular access and excavation works together with the re-building of the boundary wall

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

Permission refused

## 9. COSY NOOK

Following the decision by the DDC Planners to refuse planning permission, local residents have expressed concern that they are not being adequately served by the Planning Department. It is felt that the stigma of the history of the site with its tenanted occupancy is influencing decisions and that the application is not being viewed solely in the interests of the current owner occupiers. KHS has advised that permission be refused as sight lines would be inadequate. After considerable discussion it was agreed that District Cllr Watkins be invited to visit the site to view the impact on the property and on the hamlet of Martin of the current parking situation and proposed development.

## 10. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

**Lengthman's report** KHS had coped well with snow clearing at the start of the month but have been less effective in gritting roads, other than primary routes, when low temperatures have resulted in icy conditions. This has one again resulted in a serious accident on Archer's Court Road as was reported in January. This accident had also raised concerns because of the wire that had been erected by the landowner of the adjacent fields. KHS have undertaken to investigate this together with the wire along Waterworks Lane and Waldershare Lane but there has been no response to date.

**Playing Field Committee** The grant of £2,238 has now been received and work to improve and repair to the area around the slide will start on 19 March 2012.

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Newsletter** Members were invited to contribute articles for the next newsletter that will be circulated in March.

**Phone Box** A suggestion has been received that the East Langdon phone box should also become a book shop and a local resident has offered to look after it. He offer was welcomed by Members.

**Future Health Services** The South Coast Clinical Commissioning Group will be inviting comments on their proposals at a workshop to be held at The Ark on Wednesday 7 March.

**Pond Notices** Residents of Church Farm Mews have advised that they will be putting signs around the pond warning of the danger of deep water.

**Parish Online** Cllr Shaw is trialling a web mapping software system for parishes. It includes Ordnance Survey mapping, aerial photography, addressing and other map layers.

- 12. NEXT MEETING** The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 19 March 2012 in East Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....