

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

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr S Craft, Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, Cllr R Walters, Cllr J Watson, The Clerk, County Cllr S Manion, Community Warden Gordon G Guillou-King and one member of the public.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** Cllr Shaw declared a business interest in item 10d.
2. **APOLOGIES** District Cllr P Watkins and District Cllr K Morris (work commitment)
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2012 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr A Minns
Seconded: Cllr J Watson

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Vacancy The chairman has contacted three parishioners who had indicated in the Parish Plan questionnaire an interest in becoming a councillor. There has been one positive response to date.

Cosy Nook District Cllr Watkins has nothing further to report at present. It was noted that part of the wall has been demolished and that the owners need closure on the sight lines issue if they are to be spared unnecessary expense.

West Langdon Signs The Fire Service responded promptly to the request to move the hydrant sign from the village sign.

Cutting of grass verges The verges have been cut, with the exception of a section at the top of Waterworks lane, but the standard of the work is very poor in a number of areas e.g. Solton Lane. There was some discussion on the continuing problem of overhanging hedgerows that cause damage to cars and are a danger to cyclists and pedestrians and it was agreed that this would be pursued at the next KALC committee meeting.

Wheelie bins DDC waste and recycling department are dealing with the matter of the wheelie bins in Martin Mill that have given rise to a complaint.

5. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, OTHER EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND THE CLERKS CONFERENCE**

County Cllr S Manion Cllr Manion reported that a number of foreign teams are using facilities in Kent during their preparation for the Olympic Games.

Kent has adopted a new Code of Conduct which is some improvement on the previous version but it expected that there will be further modifications.

Community Warden Mr Guillou-King reported that there is a new PCSO in the parish, Katie Parker-Brown who is based for much of her time at DDC. Langdon continues to be a low crime area with no reported incidents of rural crime and no anti-social behaviour. Mr Guillou-King has been working with KHS over a number of road issues including drainage problems around West Langdon pond.

He is also monitoring the large amount of litter that appears in the car-park at the playing field and is regularly involved with reading at the school and giving instruction on road safety and computer safety.

Cllr Minns raised the matter of a tipper truck that is parked partly on the pavement at the bottom of West Side and causing an obstruction. Mr Guillou-King will investigate.

6. CODE OF CONDUCT

Revised definition of Other Significant Interest The Council voted unanimously to adopt the revised definition of paragraph 2.2 as advised by the Council's Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer.

Proposed: Cllr R Walters

Seconded: Cllr A Minns

Gifts and hospitality A list of gifts, benefits and hospitality which do not need to be registered was issued to members. It was agreed that the list be adopted as an annexe to the Code of Conduct.

Proposed: Cllr A Minns

Seconded: Cllr R Walters

Dispensations The council voted unanimously to authorise the Clerk to grant a dispensation following a written request where it is considered that:

- (a) without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business; or
- (b) without the dispensation, the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business.

Proposed: Cllr J Dyer

Seconded: Cllr R Walters

Disclosed Pecuniary Interest Form Members were advised that the interests of spouses / partners are now to be declared on the form and that all information will be published on the website. It was agreed that the completed forms will not be submitted until after the training event on 30 July when any queries that might arise can be resolved.

7. EAST LANGDON TELEPHONE BOX

The telephone box is to become a book shop, shelving has been erected and a lockable metal box is being made that can be secured to the box. Members welcomed the interest shown by Mrs O'dell in initiating this project and Mrs Showler's willingness to use her skills to produce professional signs.

8. NOTICE BOARD FOR PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Shaw advised that a notice board on the playing field area would allow the opportunity for parishioners to advertise events and for notices specific to the field to be displayed. The idea was agreed in principle and possible options will be examined including the viability of repairing the former Martin Mill board.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

KCC – It was agreed that the KCC consultation on the Kent Lane Rental Scheme was unlikely to impact on the roads in the parish and that a response was not required.

KALC – Parish News advised that a Localism Conference will be held in September.

ACRK –

i) Oast to Coast contained an interesting article on ways of ensuring that a Parish Plan becomes a useful working document. *(Given to Cllr Walters)*

ii) Rural News advised that the AGM will be held on 13 September.

CPRE – Bill Bryson has been succeeded as President by Sir Andrew Motion.

Clerks and Councils Direct - The newsletter has been received.

NHS Litigation Authority – A number of local surgeries have appealed against the Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT's decision regarding the rurality of Dover, Deal, Sandwich and surrounding areas.

10. FINANCE

a) Approval of payments

Chq no

780	Mr R Wakefield (telephone box shelving)	£41.99
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b) Receipts

KCC Member's Grant (Jubilee celebration)	£200
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Proposed: Cllr R Walters

Seconded: Cllr S Craft

c) **To consider the purchase of a PA system for use in the Parish** The clerk reported on the visit of a representative from KBS Sound and his recommendation that a QR Portable 15 would be a suitable sound system that could be used both in the hall and at outdoor events. The cost, together with a tripod and two boom microphone stands would be £358. Following some discussion it was agreed that further enquiries would be made from the company to allow for a more informed decision to be taken.

d) **To consider subscribing to a backup service for parish data** Cllr Shaw advised that a back up service could be provided by KCC/EIS and a quotation will be available for consideration at the next meeting.

e) **To consider applications for community grant schemes** Details of the KCC Member Community Engagement Grant Scheme are now available and it was suggested that these be posted on the notice boards inviting suggestions for organisations that might benefit.

11. PLANNING

DECISIONS BY DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

DOV/12/00372

Proposal: To use site for touring caravans during 7th January to 7th February

Location: Hawthorn Farm, Station Road, Martin Mill, Dover CT15 5LA

Permission granted.

DOV/12/00279

Proposal: Erection of a single storey side extension (existing extension to be demolished)

Location: Martin Farmhouse, The Street, Martin CT15 5JL
Permission granted

12. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Lengthman's report Sutton Road has been resurfaced and it is believed that this will reduce the risk of skidding in snowy weather.

Playing Field Committee The AGM will take place on Monday 23 July. Mr Plommer has requested that the leylandii are topped to prevent them falling into his field.

Village Hall Committee Jenny Bradbury from ACRK has provided useful information on grants and has given a critical appraisal of the charging policy for the hall. The parish council could raise a loan for the repairs to the roof that can be repaid through the precept over a number of years. A parish survey will be needed to establish the priority of the community and this will inform a business plan. It was agreed that the survey should be linked into the findings of the parish plan questionnaire and circulated in the next newsletter.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Hosepipe ban The ban has now been lifted and Cllr Minns had previously circulated a statement from Mr Gavin McHale of Veolia, "Following the unprecedented rainfall since the 6th April and the continuing forecasts for wet conditions we have determined it is no longer necessary to impose restrictions on the use of water. Notwithstanding we continue to urge our customers to be efficient with their use of water and express our thanks to all those who exercised restraint during the period the restrictions were in place."

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

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....