

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
East Langdon Village Hall
20 August 2012

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr S Craft, Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, Cllr J Watson, The Clerk, County Cllr S Manion, Community Warden Gordon G Guillou-King, PCSO K Parker-Brown and two members of the public.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** Cllr Shaw declared a business interest in item 7e.
2. **APOLOGIES** District Cllr P Watkins and Cllr R Walters (work commitment)
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2012 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr S Craft
Seconded: Cllr A Minns

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Vacancy The chairman has discussed the vacancy with an interested parishioner.

Cosy Nook Cllr Shaw is awaiting a reply from District Cllr Watkins. It was noted that the wall has been patched up within the constraints of the planning refusal.

Code of Conduct The Clerk reported on the training session that was held on 26 July in Deal Town Hall:

- The requirement to publicise the adoption of the new code will be carried out by DDC.
- DDC will publish on their website information on the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) of members and Parish Councils will be given a link to the DDC register.

Noticeboard for Playing Field The playing Field Committee will be consulted about the possibility of renovating the former Martin Mill noticeboard. The cost of materials is estimated at £110.

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

County Cllr S Manion Cllr Manion reported that the pungent smells caused by the annual spread of manure have resulted in an increase in the number of complaints being received by DDC. The Senior Environmental Officer has advised that land must be cultivated within 24 hours of spreading. It is believed that farmers are following the code of practice but the scale of the problem suggests that the MP should become involved with a request for national guidelines to be reviewed.

A.L. results have now been published and these show a significant improvement in the county. A number of local schools especially Dover School for Girls, Roger Manwoods and St Edmunds have produced very good results.

KCC is carrying out a campaign on rural traffic safety.

PCSO PCSO Parker-Brown was pleased to advise that no crime has been reported in the parish in the past three months. Loud music from a private party on Saturday 18 August had resulted in twelve complaints being made to the police between 10.01pm and 3.04am. The home owners will be visited by PCSO Parker-Brown and Community Warden Guillou-King.

Community Warden Mr Guillou-King added further comment about the unpleasant smells that the area has suffered in recent weeks and urged members of the public to complain to the environmental department at DDC. It was agreed that the Parish Council will also submit a formal complaint.

Langdon Primary School welcomes the road safety advice that is offered and is keen to embrace all available talks on safety matters.

Mr Guillou-King will pursue the clearing of ER44 that was reported in June and will also report to KHS the road signs that are obscured by vegetation.

Kent Fire Service Visit Cllr Minns reported on the interesting visit that he had made to Folkestone Fire Station where the aim had been to promote general awareness of safety and, in particular, that of vulnerable people in the community.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

DDC – There will be changes to Council Tax and Council Tax benefits from April 2013 when the government grant will be reduced by 10 – 15%. Members were in favour of the changes proposed by DDC in their consultation document.

KCC –

- i) The closing date for applications for Community Projects funding in 2012 is 3 September.
- ii) The current version of the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way is being updated and comments are invited by 19 October 2012.
- iii) Central Government is making funding available to improve community transport with two bidding rounds closing on 1 December 2012 and 1 April 2013 respectively. A roadshow will be held at Lenham on 3 September. There was considerable interest expressed in pursuing the possibilities of this opportunity especially in the light of future access to new facilities at Whitfield and the school's current need for a new minibus.

KALC – The Localism conference is now scheduled to take place on Saturday 29 September in Tunbridge Wells.

ACRK –

- i) Rural News gave details of the KCC Capital Grants Scheme for Village Halls for which the deadline is 31 December 2012. Cllr Shaw advised that the next newsletter will contain a questionnaire to gauge the support of the community for the proposed improvements to the hall.
- ii) The Annual Meeting will be held in Elham on Thursday 13 September.

CPRE – Countryside Voice has been received and was given to *Cllr Shaw*.

KPFA – The quarterly newsletter has been received.

St Margaret's Parish Council – The Council has produced a Neighbourhood Plan which was received with interest by members. The industry and thoroughness of St Margaret's Parish Council was applauded and the only comment put forward for their consideration was the inclusion of a bulk buying scheme for fuel.

Royal Mail – All mail is now handled at a new, state-of-the-art, Mail Centre in Rochester.

Correspondence from Parishioners

- i) Mrs L Shaw of Guilford Cottages has experienced problems with the collection of refuse and conflicting information about the schedule. During discussion it was mentioned that a new calendar had caused some confusion in the parish but that generally the system was operating effectively. It was suggested that a copy of the schedule be placed on the noticeboard in the village hall and that the situation be monitored.
- ii) A concern from Ms C Le Long about the amount of rubbish that is being left on the playing field has been noted.

KHS – Orders for the refilling of salt bags are now being processed. It was agreed that a refill would be welcomed although the bag needs to be moved to a position in the car park where the salt cannot damage vegetation.

7. FINANCE

a) Report from External Auditor The External Auditor's Report for the year ending 31 March 2012 has been received. There were no matters highlighted for attention.

b) Approval of payments

Chq no

780	Kent County Council (KCS) – grounds maintenance	£878.34
781	Audit Commission – external audit fees	£162

c) Receipts

Donations for Jubilee mugs	£ 15
Bank interest	£ 2.83
Dividend	£ 0.32

Proposed: Cllr S Craft

Seconded: Cllr J Dyer

d) To approve the purchase of a PA system for use in the Parish The clerk reported that further discussion with KBS had reinforced the suitability of the proposed PA and, in the event of the QR portable 15 system proving inadequate, KBS would take it back and provide an alternative system. A quotation from Stagebeat in Hampshire was £50 less but it was agreed that the flexibility and local proximity of KBS outweighed the difference in price. It was therefore agreed to purchase the system together with two boom microphone stands and a single tripod speaker stand for a total cost of £378.

Proposed: Cllr A Minns
Seconded: Cllr J Watson
Carried unanimously

- e) **To approve the subscription to a backup service for parish data** Cllr Shaw advised that a back-up system for up to 3GB of data is available from KCC (EiS) for an annual subscription of £48. It was agreed that investment in a back-up system was desirable and reflected a responsible attitude towards the protection of parish data.

Proposed: Cllr A Minns
Seconded: Cllr S Craft
Carried unanimously

- f) **To consider an appropriate planting scheme in East Langdon as requested by the donor of the £500 2012 celebrations cheque** Mr W Pate has offered to draft a proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

8. PLANNING

Amended documents have been received for:

Proposal: Outline planning application for the construction of up to 1,400 residential units, comprising 2-5 bed units, 66 bed care home (Class C2) and supported living units with vehicular access off the A256. Provision of new 420 place 2FE Primary School including early years provision, energy centre and local centre comprising up to 250sqm of retail space (Class A1 – A3) along with all associated access arrangements, car parking, infrastructure and landscaping, with all matters (except the means of access off the A256) reserved for future consideration.

Location: Phase 1, Whitfield Urban Extension, (land south east of Archer's Court Road), Whitfield, Dover

The Council has no further comment to add at this stage.

DECISIONS BY DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

DOV/12/00381

Proposal: Construction of a concrete pad

Location: Field 41B, Langdon Court Farm, Langdon Top Road, Langdon, Dover CT15 5HB

Permission granted

DOV/12/00444

Proposal: Erection of stables, a detached barn, construction of hard standing and alterations to existing access (existing stables and barn to be demolished)

Location: Site on West side of East Langdon Road, Martin, Dover CT15 5JJ

Permission refused

9. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Lengthman's report The banks are once again being eroded by tractors and trailers which are also causing damage to the new road surface. It was noted that the large combine harvester is scratching walls on both sides of the road in The Street, East Langdon.

Playing Field Committee The annual safety report has been received containing good comments about the improvements to the slide area. There were no serious issues with all findings graded low risk. A quotation is being sought for tree cutting. The play area continues to be very well used.

- 10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** There were no items under this heading that had not received attention earlier in the meeting.
- 11. **NEXT MEETING** The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 17 September 2012 in West Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.37 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....