

**MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**East Langdon Village Hall**  
**15 October 2012**

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr S Craft, Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, Cllr J Watson  
 The Clerk, County Cllr S Manion, District Cllr K Morris, PCSO K Parker-Brown and  
 nine members of the public.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** There were no declarations of interest.
2. **COUNCILLOR VACANCY** It was proposed and agreed unanimously that Mrs Nicola Poulton be co-opted to fill a vacancy on the council.  
**Proposed: Cllr Dyer**  
**Seconded: Cllr Minns**
3. **APOLOGIES** District Cllr P Watkins, Cllr R Walters (holiday) and Community Warden G Guillou-King.
4. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2012 were accepted as a true record.  
**Proposed: Cllr S Craft**  
**Seconded: Cllr A Minns**
5. **MATTERS ARISING**  
Noticeboard for Playing Field It is hoped that work can start shortly and that the noticeboard can be secured to the hooped metal fencing.  
Refuse collection in West Langdon A letter has been sent to Mr Roger Walton, Director of Environment and Corporate Assets at DDC, following concerns expressed at the previous meeting together with a subsequent series of emails from residents. The matter is being investigated and a response will be available at the next meeting. County Cllr Manion advised the meeting that Veolia would have to bear the additional costs of the inefficiencies.
6. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, OTHER EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND THE CLERKS CONFERENCE**  
County Cllr S Manion There was a record response, 15,000, to the Make Kent Faster campaign and KCC is aiming to have Fast Broadband available to 90% of the County by 2014 with the remaining 10% having a minimum speed of 2Mb. Cllr Manion believes that all areas should be treated equally as they are with other utilities such as telephone, and will monitor the situation closely.  
  
District Cllr K Morris Cllr Morris reported that the proposed Whitfield development is back on track and that planning permission has been granted for both phases.

The proposed changes to Council tax benefits have now gone through Cabinet.

Changes in Government funding for Council houses has resulted in these now being owned by DDC. This offers DDC the opportunity to improve derelict sites in council areas.

PCSO PCSO Parker-Brown reported that the owners of the properties that were targeted by burglars have been visited by the Community Warden, security locks have been fitted and property marked. A quad bike has been stolen from another property in recent weeks.

PCSO Parker-Browne expressed concern that there had been a number of pedlars in the area who claimed that they carried Kent Police identification. This is untrue and it is important that residents are made aware of the risks attached to encouraging this illegal trade.

KCC Highways Meeting Cllr Minns reported on the meeting held on Ashford on 10 October 2012 where two major issues were discussed:

- i) A 20 mph speed limit has recently been installed in Leeds but KCC are reluctant to extend this to other areas because of cost and the lack of data showing a significant number of deaths as a result of speeding on rural roads. It is also understood that the police would not enforce the limit even if it was introduced.
- ii) There has been an increase in the number of lorries using unsuitable rural roads as a result of Sat Navs. Cllr Minns had suggested that businesses in rural areas should be encouraged to specify access to their premises.

There were also complaints about the difficulties of reporting faults on the portal and in particular the irritation of not being able to report multiple faults. The complaints had been noted.

## **7. EAST LANGDON PLANTING PROPOSAL**

An alternative proposal has been put forward which focuses on the three corners of the green and would involve filling the dip at the Old Vicarage corner before planting with daffodils. During discussion it was agreed that the time for planting this year has now passed and that there is now an opportunity to consider tree planting and the long term maintenance of the area. An informal meeting will be arranged on the green to consider the programme.

## **8. EMERGENCY PLANNING**

This item was moved to the end of the agenda when Cllr Minns gave a presentation on the style of documentation that is required and examples of situations that could give rise to the need to evacuate residents and provide shelter in a central place. The village halls, The Lantern and the waiting room at Martin Mill station were identified as focal points in each of the villages. It was agreed that the template be circulated to councillors requesting they fill in the relevant parts for collation at a later date.

## 9. 20 mph ZONES IN LANGDON

Cllr Shaw drew attention to comments in the Parish Plan questionnaires that had shown concern about the perceived danger of large tractors being driven through the villages, and especially Martin, at high speeds. The introduction of a 20 mph speed limit would make the area safer for all residents and, in particular, for children. It was noted from Cllr Minns' report that funding is not forthcoming from KCC but it was felt that an approach could be made for funding from the County Councillor. The introduction of such a limit in Martin could help resolve the Cosy Nook situation where Kent Highways continue to oppose the planning application because of restricted sight lines. It was agreed that members would carry out research to identify villages like East Langdon and Martin where 20 mph limits have been introduced and that the cost of hiring speed equipment would be investigated.

## 10. PARISH PLAN

It was agreed that work should resume on the Parish Plan with a view to completion before the end of the year.

## 11. CORRESPONDENCE

DDC – Comments have been invited on an application from St Margaret's Parish Council for a Neighbourhood Area.

KCC – The views of local communities on the delivery of highway services in Kent are being sought. It was agreed that individual members will complete the survey and that views will be collated at the November meeting.

ACRK –

i) Rural News contained information on a variety of funding opportunities including "Sharing Heritage Fund" which is available to groups wishing to celebrate their community's heritage.

The Live Music Act 2012 came into force on 1 October and will benefit village halls and other small venues.

ii) Oast to Coast contained an article on the Stockbury Community Bus. *Given to Cllr Minns*

CPRE – The Dover AGM is being held on Saturday 20 October at the Guildhall, Sandwich

NHS – The Pharmacy Appeal Committee has dismissed the appeal made by a group of local GPs against the PCT Decision Regarding the Rurality of Dover, Deal, Sandwich and Surrounding Areas.

CHALKFOOT – The Chalkfoot Theatre Company will give a performance of The Prisoner of Zenda in East Langdon Village hall on Wednesday 20 March 2013. The company requires a guaranteed sum of £250 which is equivalent to the sale of 31 tickets. Any additional box office takings will be split 80% / 20% in Chalkfoot's favour but money raised from refreshments will be retained by the community. It was agreed unanimously that the Parish Council would act as the promoter of the performance and would underwrite the initial cost of £250.

**Proposed: Cllr Dyer**

**Seconded: Cllr Watson**

COUNTRYWIDE – The company which offers a grounds maintenance programme has submitted a quotation for the playing field and also for the cutting

of East Langdon Village Green. The quotation will be considered in December when the budget for 2013/2014 is discussed.

VISTALEISURE – An appeal has been received for assistance with funding for the purchase of equipment. It was agreed that the request will be held on file for consideration at the end of the financial year.

CLERKS & COUNCILS DIRECT - The newsletter has been received.

GLASDON – A discount of 10% is currently available on goods such as salt bins.

TOWER MINT – Commemorative coronation medals, 1953 – 2013, are available for £1.99.

KENT REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN GROUP – A committee member has learned that many dead toads were seen in East Langdon in the Spring and she has offered to help set up a patrol for Spring 2013. It was agreed that some local residents with a particular interest in wild life will be approached with a view to setting up a meeting.

AGRICULTURAL ODOURS – A communication has been received from Mr R Swain of Eastry expressing interest in the progress that the Council has made in pursuing the matter with DDC. Mr A Hyde advised members that farmers are obeying the rules and incorporating the waste as required which does not necessarily mean ploughing it in. He has learned from a QC that in law there is a potential issue of nuisance and it is expected that there will be a test case at some point. After some discussion it was agreed that it is in the interests of the NFU to avoid such a case and that a letter will be sent to the local NFU secretary requesting a meeting.

## 12. FINANCE

### Approval of payments

#### Chq No.

|     |   |      |
|-----|---|------|
| 788 | St Augustine's Church (grass cutting in grave yard) | £250 |
|-----|---|------|

#### Receipts

|               |  |       |
|---------------|--|-------|
| Bank interest |  | £2.75 |
|---------------|--|-------|

**Proposed: Cllr A Minns**

**Seconded: Cllr J Dyer**

## 13. PLANNING

### DECISIONS BY DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

#### DOV/12/00680

**Planning** (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

**Planning** (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990

**Proposal:** Removal of corrugated metal roof and replace with Kent peg tiles

**Location:** Langdon Abbey Barn, West Langdon, Dover CT15 5HJ

Permission granted.

## 14. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Playing Field Committee The gatepost at the pedestrian entrance to the field has been repaired and it was suggested that chevrons or triangles be put on it as a warning to vehicles.

A member of the public has issued a claim following an accident on the slide in August 2012.

Cllr Shaw reported that, although the area around the children’s play area is very clean, a great deal of rubbish has been dumped in the hedges.

A presentation will be made at the “You Decide” event on Thursday 18 October for a grant towards the cost of cutting the boundary trees.

Village Hall Committee

Three new heaters have been purchased to replace the broken ones.

An additional market is being held on Tuesdays with the aim of encouraging more residents to use the post office.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Dates of Council Meetings in 2013 It was agreed that there will not be a Council meeting in February as the clerk will be absent.

Telephone lines In response to a question about trees damaging telephone lines in East Langdon, the chairman replied that the responsibility for cutting the branches rests with BT.

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

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....