

**MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**East Langdon Village Hall**  
**17 December 2012**

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr S Craft, Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, Cllr N Poulton, Cllr J Watson, The Clerk, County Cllr S Manion, PDSO K Parker-Brown and two members of the public.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** There were no declarations of interest.
2. **APOLOGIES** District Cllr P Watkins, Cllr R Walters (business meeting).
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2012 were accepted as a true record.

**Proposed: Cllr N Poulton**  
**Seconded: Cllr A Minns**

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Notice Board for Playing Field It is hoped that the work will be completed by the end of January 2013.

Cosy Nook The chairman is still waiting to hear from District Cllr Watkins and it was agreed that in the meantime an informal meeting between the owner of the property, Cllr Shaw and Cllr Minns would be helpful.

Parish Plan Cllr Shaw has circulated a draft Parish Plan to the steering group for comment prior to a meeting early in the New Year.

Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group A request for volunteers to lead the group has been published in the newsletter.

Emergency Planning Modifications to the template continue and permission to reproduce the ordnance survey map of the area is now needed.

Kent Savers The Kent Savers Group is in the early stages of planning and the chairman is awaiting a telephone call from Mr Chris Hunt the acting manager.
5. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, OTHER EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND THE KALC COMMITTEE MEETING**

County Cllr S Manion Cllr Manion reported on the launch of the Grow For it campaign that offers interest free loans to companies wanting to set up or expand businesses. Grants have already been awarded to businesses on the former Pfizer site.

PCSO PCSO Parker-Brown reported that there had been no increase in the crime rate for the parish. Her report on safety issues in East Langdon is minuted in agenda item 8.

Chairman's report on meeting with District Cllr Watkins A second meeting for the chairpersons of Guston, Ripple, St Margaret's and Langdon with Cllr Watkins and Mr Bryn Hill, Alternative Services Delivery Manager, had proved to be an informative session much of which focussed on the devolving of local services. Youth Services in particular offers possible funding opportunities for Langdon. Library services are under review and it could be beneficial if the Langdon mobile library could be rescheduled to Tuesday morning to link in with the post office

and coffee mornings at the village hall.

6. **AGRICULTURAL ODOURS** On 5 December 2012 Cllr Walters met with Mr Mike Welham, local NFU secretary. Local farmers had previously been contacted and indicated support for the meeting which was amicable and sought to establish the facts and share perceptions of all the parties. It was confirmed that a compound based on human sludge has been used by some farmers in recent years and that this has been stored, prepared, spread and ploughed in according to the Code of Practice. The concerns of residents were highlighted as was the lack of notice that spreading was to take place. It was noted that details of spreading activities are notified to DDC. Mr Welham will discuss the issues raised with farmers and contractors and a further meeting will be held in the New Year. A full copy of Cllr Walters report is attached at Annex A.
7. **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT** Cllr Minns had previously circulated details of charges from Central Taxis for the hire of minibuses. It was agreed that the information should be posted on a noticeboard in the village hall for the benefit of any interested parishioners. The clerk reported that the school has received a grant that will facilitate the purchase of a second-hand minibus early in 2013. The minibus will be available for community use at weekends and during the school holidays. It was agreed that this arrangement offers a potential solution to the community transport issues that have been discussed in recent months.
8. **ROAD SAFETY ISSUES IN EAST LANGDON** Community Warden Guillou-King and PCSO Parker-Brown have carried out a number of patrols in East Langdon on Wednesdays when the school Travel Plan is in operation and on other random occasions. There is a need for improved signage: the school sign outside the Old Rectory will be renewed and "SLOW" signs painted on the road could be considered. The headteacher of the school is interested in holding a competition for pupils to design an additional sign that can be mounted on the aforementioned post. This could be funded jointly by the Parish Council and the school.

It was noted that children wear dark clothing and PCSO Parker-Brown will investigate funding sources for the provision of high-visibility arm bands. Random patrols will continue, advice will be given to parents where necessary and road safety talks will be provided at the school. PCSO Parker-Brown will carry out speed checks with the use of SIS equipment.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**  
DDC - An enforcement scheme will be launched on 4 February 2013 to tackle littering and dog fouling in the District utilising external contractors on a six month trial basis. Penalty notices will be issued to those witnessed littering or failing to pick up after their dog has fouled. The aim of the scheme is to change the behaviour of those who commit the offences. The initiative will be discussed at a meeting for District, Town and Parish councillors at 6.00pm on Tuesday 8 January together with matters relating to Council Tax Benefit Localisation.  
KHS - Information on Winter Service provided by KHS has been published in the December newsletter.

KALC - A report has been circulated from Kent Fire and Rescue Services relating to fire hydrant provision and ways in which Parish Councils could assist KFRS by undertaking inspection reports. Members expressed an interest in discussing the ideas further and agreed that this will be an agenda item at the January meeting.

ACRK - Rural News contained details of The Sport England Small Grants Programme that uses lottery funding to help young people adopt and maintain a sporting habit for life.

KPFA - The newsletter has been received.

CPRE – Fieldwork has been received. *Given to Cllr Minns*

LORD LIEUTENANT OF KENT - An invitation has been received to the annual Civic Service at Maidstone All Saints on Tuesday 12 March at 11.00 am.

ENGLISH RURAL HOUSING – The annual report has been received. *Given to Cllr Shaw.*

## 10. FINANCE

### Approval of payments

#### Chq no

790	Clerk's Salary (October – December)	£312.33
790	Clerk's Expenses (October – December)	£ 62.33
791	HM Revenue and Customs (PAYE Oct – Dec)	£ 80.60
792	Kent County Council (Computer back-up service)	£ 28.00
793	Mr A Minns (Travel expenses KHS seminar)	£ 36.40

**Proposed: Cllr J Watson**

**Seconded: Cllr N Poulton**

**Quarterly financial statement** The quarterly financial statement was circulated and discussed. It was noted that there is currently an amount of £485 VAT that is reclaimable and that this is a significant figure when considering the budget and precept for 2013/14.

### **Budget 2012 – 2013**

i) To consider extending the field strimming contract to include the car park surrounds LPFA has obtained a quotation from Landscape Services for £250 for the strimming of the grass surround of the field car park and picnic table area on 8 occasions. Following some discussion, it was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council would extend the strimming contract as requested and would reduce the grant given to LPFA towards the cost of insurance by £250.

**Proposed: Cllr S Craft**

**Seconded: Cllr J Dyer**

ii) To consider an increase in the clerk's salary from SCP25 to SCP 26 The increase was agreed unanimously.

**Proposed: Cllr A Minns**

**Seconded: Cllr N Poulton**

iii) To consider the draft budget for 2013 – 2014

A quotation for grounds maintenance and the possible future mowing of East Langdon village green has been received from Countrywide Grounds maintenance. The cost of strimming and mowing of the playing field (excluding the car park area) was £250 less than Landscape Services but this was offset by a higher

charge of £400 / £153 per occasion for flailing. It was therefore proposed and agreed that the quotation from Landscape Services be accepted.

**Proposed: Cllr N Poulton**

**Seconded: Cllr J Watson**

It was agreed that the sum of £500 be included in the budget should it become necessary to pay for the cutting of East Langdon village green.

It was agreed that the fee for the internal auditor be raised from £50 to £60. There will be a reduction in the amount payable for the external audit from £135 to £100.

It was agreed that the sum of £500 that had previously been allocated to the 2012 fund should remain in the budget under the heading Community Projects with a view to making provision for youth in the parish.

A letter of thanks has been received from the PCC of St Augustine's church for the grant towards the cost of strimming the new graveyard and a further grant of £250 was approved.

A letter has been received from Mrs Rosemary Plommer requesting a grant of £200 towards the cost of mowing the grass in the graveyard at West Langdon. This will be considered formally at the January meeting.

It was proposed that the budget, details of which had been previously circulated, be approved.

**Proposed: Cllr S Craft**

**Seconded: Cllr N Poulton**

iv) To agree the Precept for 2013 – 2014 After some discussion it was agreed to defer a decision on the precept to the January meeting to allow time for the impact on the Council Tax base rate to be formalised following government decisions on reductions in funding.

## 11. PLANNING

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Ref: DOV/12/00975**

**PROPOSAL:** Erection of a first floor extension with dormer window to facilitate conversion to annexe and store

**LOCATION:** Jossenblock, The Street, East Langdon, Dover CT15 5JF

The council has no objections

## 12. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Playing Field Committee Cllr Shaw reported that there nothing further has been heard about the accident claim.

Village Hall Committee Following an observation from a member of the public, there was discussion about the disposal of waste from the hall. This has become

particularly unpleasant in the wake of several parties and also a significant increase in waste following the Tuesday markets. The matter will be referred to the village hall committee.

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items under this heading.

**14. NEXT MEETING** The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 21 January 2013 in East Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

## ANNEX A

### REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL BY CLLR WALTERS ON AGRICULTURAL ODOURS

1. Following discussion at November council meeting, a meeting with NFU was arranged for 5 December. Robert Walters represented the Council, Mike Welham the NFU on behalf of local farmers who had all been contacted prior to the meeting and had indicated support for the meeting. The meeting, which was very amicable, sought to establish facts and share perceptions of all the parties.

1. The practice of fertilising fields after harvesting, using a compound based on human sludge, has increased in recent years as a consequence of increasing chemical fertiliser prices and the ban on water companies dumping waste sludge at sea as used to be common in the last century.

2. Different sludges are used in different parts of the country. In Langdon and adjoining parishes, only human sludge is used. Other areas use chicken manure, the odour from which can be, according to reports, be even more unpleasant.

3. The problem is the revolting smell which pervades the area downwind of where the material has been spread on to the fields and ploughed in. Apart from the matter of wind direction (somewhat impractical due to the inability of the contractor to control it), it appears that the sludge is being stored, prepared, spread and ploughed in all according to the Code of Practice. It was noted that the peak periods of malodour do NOT coincide with the peak time of activity on the field BUT at seemingly random periods over the days following. The cause is not known, but wind direction, wind speed and weather conditions would seem to contribute.

4. Concerns of residents focussed on control of the worst odour levels, given the feelings of nausea that had been experienced by a variety of people, ranging from bus passengers to professional gardeners. Also, lack of notice as to the date and location of spreading prevented residents from re-arranging social events.

5. NFU stated that details of spreading activities ARE advised to DDC, and NFU would see what could be done to extend the communication process to Parish level.

6. Mike Welham will discuss the above with the farming and contracting fraternity and come back to us in the New Year.