

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
East Langdon Village Hall
21 January 2013

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr S Craft, Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, Cllr N Poulton, Cllr R Walters, Cllr J Watson, The Clerk, County Cllr S Manion and three members of the public.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** Cllr Shaw declared an interest in agenda item 10, Grants, and took no part in the discussion.
2. **APOLOGIES** District Cllr P Watkins, PCSO Parker-Browne and Community Warden Guillou-King.
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2012 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr S Craft
Seconded: Cllr J Watson

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Notice Board for Playing Field It was agreed that the board will have the heading "Langdon Parish Council."

Cosy Nook The chairman is still waiting to hear from District Cllr Watkins.

Parish Plan Cllr Shaw has received a number of responses from members of the steering group. The document will now have pie charts and photographs added and the final format will be available at the March meeting.

Kent Reptile and Amphibian There have been no expressions of interest in this project and it was agreed that this will no longer be an agenda item.

Emergency Planning A copy of the fire hydrant map was given to Cllr Minns.

Agricultural Odours Cllr Walters will contact Mr Welham of the NFU for an update on his discussions with local farmers. Cllr Walters will also contact Mahmut Caylioglu from Kingsdown who has positive experience of this work in Turkey.

Cllr Minns requested that Mr Welham be alerted to concerns that agricultural vehicles with spikes at the front are being driven along the local roads.

Road Safety Issues A new "school children" sign has been erected outside the Old Vicarage. The school will be organizing a competition for an additional sign and will obtain a price from KHS. The school will be asked to keep the Parish Council involved in the progress of the competition.

Disposal of Waste from Village Hall Mr Steve Maddock has agreed to put out the waste for collection as appropriate.

5. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, OTHER EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND THE KALC COMMITTEE MEETING**

County Cllr S Manion Cllr Manion reported that KCC is continuing to aim for a freeze on Council tax and that DDC is looking to limit any increase to 1.9%. KCC is working to put in place a buying deal for electricity that would be of benefit to all. Cllr Manion requested that any road problems, white lines, pot

holes etc. be reported to him by the end of the month.

Concern was expressed by members about the serious damage that is being caused by vehicles constantly creating passing places which are not only eroding land but posing danger to motorists in bad weather especially those unfamiliar with the local geography.

Chairman's report on DDC District, Town and Parish Councillors Event 8 January

i) Localisation of Council Tax Support Councils were given information to show the effect on precepts of the changes. Council Tax has not been capped but the new rules have resulted in a loss to DDC of £295,000. A grant of £284,000 has been given and it had been agreed to distribute this sum among the Town and Parish Councils. A ready reckoner has been produced to assist councils determine the resources needed for 2013/2014 that will be comprised of a reduced precept plus a grant.

ii) Environmental Enforcement In response to public concern Dover District Council will be launching a new enforcement scheme on 4th February 2013 to tackle littering and dog fouling within the District. As part of this scheme the Council will be utilising external contractors (XFOR Local Authority Services Ltd) on a 6 month trial basis to issue fixed penalty notices on those witnessed littering or failing to pick up after their dog has fouled resulting in fines of £75 for litter and £50 for dog fouling. The uniformed Environmental Enforcement Officers will operate between 7 am and 7 pm anywhere in the district which is open to the air and accessible to the public. In addition the Council is seeking to authorise other officers including Civil Enforcement Officers, PCSOs etc. in order to increase the effectiveness of the scheme.

The aim of the scheme is ultimately to change the behaviour of those who commit the offences and therefore the enforcement activities outlined above will only form part of the scheme. Other awareness raising initiatives will also be on-going which will include road shows in the main towns in the district, media campaigns, visits to schools etc.

iii) Kent Waste Partnership East Kent is leading the way in the County with keen competition between Dover and Shepway.

6. **INSPECTION OF FIRE HYDRANTS** After some discussion it was agreed that maps will be circulated to all members and that each could take responsibility for the inspection of a group of hydrants whilst out walking in the summer months.
7. **GUEST SPEAKER FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** It was agreed that Mr Tony Morris be approached in the first instance but if he is unavailable, Cllr Walters will speak to our MP, Charlie Elphicke.
8. **CHALKFOOT THEATRE** Members were reminded of the forthcoming production of The Prisoner of Zenda on Wednesday 20 March and urged to promote the event to help ensure its success. Help will be needed with front of house and refreshments.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

DDC –

i) The Land Allocations Pre-Submission Local Plan (the Plan), which was formerly called the Site Allocations Document, follows on from the Core Strategy adopted in 2012. Its primary purpose is to identify and allocate specific sites that are suitable for employment, retail and housing development in order to meet the Core Strategy's requirements and makes a major contribution to delivering the Strategy. The Plan is now open for consultation.

In Langdon three areas have been identified:

- a) It was noted that the sole allocated site in East Langdon is that at the top of Westside bordering the school and it is therefore assumed that the proposed sites at Langdon Court Farm and that adjacent to Langdon Court bungalows have been withdrawn.
- b) The land adjoining the village green at West Langdon has been designated a protected open space.
- c) There is an application for the common land at the end of Green Lane in Martin Mill to be deregistered.

After some discussion it was agreed unanimously that the Council supports the proposals for East and West Langdon. A final decision about the land at Martin Mill has been deferred until there is further information on the rights associated with the land.

ii) A publication on Affordable Housing by the Rural Housing Alliance reopened discussion on the failure of a previous initiative to provide such accommodation in East Langdon.

KCC –

- i) The Kent Lane Rental Scheme will come into effect on 28 May 2013 with a trial period commencing on 4 March.
- ii) The brochure of Adult Education classes in the area was shown to the meeting in response to a request from Kent Adult Education. A presentation on the types of course available in the district can be provided.

KALC –

- i) Parish News contained a report on a Pilot Lorry Watch Scheme in Leeds and an update on the Pilot Caretaker Scheme in Wittersham.
- ii) An update on the Make Kent Quicker Campaign reported an excellent response from over 16,500 businesses and households which had secured an early slot in the Government's broadband procurement pipeline. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in April 2013 and the first services will come on line in 2014.
- iii) The Department for Transport has launched a consultation examining the speed limit for HGVs over 7.5 tonnes on single carriageway roads since the 40mph limit causes unnecessary cost to operators, congestion and avoidable overtaking accidents. A draft response from KALC was felt to be inappropriate for modern vehicles that require less braking distance than was previously the case.

County Cllr Manion advised the meeting that the Highways Agency is proposing to permanently close off the 6 lay-bys along the section of the A2 between the Whitfield roundabout and the Shepherdswell traffic lights when the current work on street lighting is completed. DDC, KCC Highways and the local Parishes are concerned about where displaced lorries, that routinely park in these lay-bys, will park and fear that they will end up trawling the nearby villages, estates and road network trying to find parking places.

In order to demonstrate a case to keep the lay-bys open, the Highways Agency have requested reports of increased lorry movements and/or parking that have been noticed since 7th January 2013 when the lay-bays were first closed. Any such activity should be reported to Kent Highways.

ACRK – Oast to Coast contained information on a rural evidence database that has been commissioned and would be of benefit to organisations seeking grant funding. *Given to Cllr Walters.*

Clerks and Councils Direct – The newsletter contained an interesting article on the maintenance of closed churchyards.

CPRE – Kent Voice has been received. *Given to Cllr Shaw*

10. FINANCE

Approval of payments

Chq no.

794	Kent County Council (KCS) – grounds maintenance 2 nd half of year	£275
795	Mr C Shaw (newsletter printing costs – 2 editions)	£ 54

It was noted that the grounds maintenance costs are c.£240 under budget and members requested that a log of visits be requested from Landscape Services.

Proposed: Cllr R Walters

Seconded: Cllr N Poulton

Receipts

Bank interest	£ 2.54
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Budget 2013 – 2014

In response to the information provided by DDC as reported by the Chairman in agenda item 5 and the effects on Council Tax that can now be seen using the ready reckoner, it was agreed that the budget be trimmed to £11,000. It was noted that, whilst power is being devolved downwards, funding is not being made available to finance the changes.

Proposed: Cllr R Walters

Seconded: Cllr J Dyer

Carried unanimously

Precept 2013 – 2014

The total resource requirement of £11,000 will be met by a grant from DDC of £961.75 and a precept of £10,038.25 resulting in an increase in Council Tax of 0.37%.

Grants to Local Organisations

A grant of £200 was awarded to East Langdon Parish Hall towards the purchase of automatic hot air hand driers and attendant electrical works. A grant of £672 was made to St Augustine's Church for the purchase of a rotary mower.

In discussion it was noted that the Parish Plan indicates support for the maintenance of the church and that a robust mower is needed for the uneven terrain. The grant is conditional on the mower being available for use by the Parish Council where appropriate.

Proposed: Cllr R Walters

Seconded: Cllr J Dyer

Carried unanimously

Maintenance of the Churchyard at West Langdon

This item had been raised during discussion of the budget at the December meeting, agenda item 10i. It was agreed that a grant of £200 be awarded to St Mary's church to cover the cost of grass cutting.

Proposed: Cllr S Craft

Seconded: Cllr J Dyer

Carried unanimously

11. PLANNING**PLANNING APPLICATIONS****DOV/12/00996**

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990

Proposal: Replacement of existing rooflights with glazed roof tiles

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

The Council has no objections.

DOV/13/00001

Proposal: Retention of existing dwelling for permanent residential occupation

Location: Log Cabin & Access at Enifer Down Farm, East Langdon, CT15 5GZ

The Council has no objections

DECISIONS BY DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**DOV/10/1011**

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

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.

Permission granted

12. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

There were no further reports.

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 18 March 2013 in East Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....