

**MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**East Langdon Village Hall**  
**17 June 2013**

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr S Craft, Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, Cllr N Poulton, The Clerk, District Cllr K Morris, PCSO K Parker-Brown, Community Warden G Guillou-King and five members of the public.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** There were no declarations of interest
2. **APOLOGIES** Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr S Manion and District Cllr P Watkins
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2013 were accepted as a true record.

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

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Cosy Nook On 11 June 2013 Mr Andrew Smith from KHS had an informal meeting with the owner and a neighbour. Following a lengthy discussion, Mr Smith put forward two proposals:

- i) lower the end of the wall closest to Old Files Farm to improve the sight line which would involve excavating an area inside the site for parking.
- ii) push back the whole wall and create a lay-by for parking.

Mr Smith will discuss the proposals with DDC planning and report back to the owner.

Parish Plan The layout of the booklet had to be reformatted resulting in a change in pagination. Data from the 2011 census will be added to fill the space.

Emergency Planning Members chose an area in the parish in which they would carry out a visual inspection of the fire hydrants and report using forms supplied by the Fire Service. At the same time members will carry out an inspection of the road signs using photographic evidence where possible so that damaged and dirty signs can be reported to KHS. It was agreed that a register of all signs in the parish will then be created.

Agricultural Odours Mr Welham has responded neither to the letter of 7 May nor to an email requesting a response. It was agreed that a further letter be sent.

Four Winds Cllr Shaw has emailed Mr Donovan and is awaiting a reply.

Road Signs Mr Richard Heaps from KHS has visited West Langdon and suggested two sites close to the village green where a village sign could be erected. He supplied samples of two designs that would be appropriate at an all-inclusive price of £850 or £500 for one sign. During discussion Mr Miller stated that the signs needed to be erected at the cross roads with Abbey Road. It was noted that the Council has £500 available for signs. It was agreed that further investigation will be undertaken to see if the cost can be reduced by the Council finding an alternative source and arranging for the installation.

Councillor vacancy Notices advertising the vacancy have been displayed on the notice boards since 3 June 2013. If an election has not been demanded by ten

parishioners before 21 June, the Council will be able to co-opt a new member. Mrs Barbara Price-Stephens has written a letter formally expressing an interest in becoming a councillor.

Public Rights of Way Vegetation Clearance Denise Roffey, PROW area officer for Dover District, has confirmed that KCC is responsible for maintaining the surfaces of footpaths but they do not own the land. The responsibility for clearing overhanging branches rests with the owners of the adjoining land. She also stated that if the Parish Council was to pay for the clearing of vegetation then the administrative costs involved would outweigh any savings and therefore the cost of any necessary clearing would continue to be met by PROW. It was agreed that the Council would identify any problem areas by 24 June and report these to The Clerk.

Use of East Langdon Parish Hall The village hall committee continues to be aware of the sensitive relationship between the hall and neighbouring properties and feel that the use of the premises for band practices is not practical at present.

Planting on East Langdon Village Green A number of receptacles were offered as planters following a request in the newsletter and a wooden trough and rectangular stone trough have been gratefully accepted. Mrs Sheila Pound and Mr John Waller have kindly agreed to take over the mowing of the green following the departure of Mr Walters. A meeting will be arranged with them to determine the best positions for the troughs.

St John's Ambulance Mr Patrick Marsh will give a talk on defibrillators at the July meeting.

## **5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND OTHER EXTERNAL AGENCIES**

County and District Councillors District Cllr Morris reported that the Planning Committee has approved the planning application for Western Heights and Farthingloe. The application includes a 130 bed hotel and conference centre, conversion of the Drop Redoubt to a museum/visitor centre and a significant number of residential units.

Other External Agencies PCSO Parker-Brown reported that there had been no significant reports of criminal activity in the parish. A Kent Police Open Day will be held on 7 July from 10am – 4pm at the Kent Police Training School in Maidstone.

PCSO Parker-Brown gave an informative talk on Littering and Dog Fouling Enforcement in the Dover District and explained the importance of Incident Report Books that authorise officers to record incidents that can result in fines being issued. In discussion it was stated that dog fouling is an issue on the playing field and in Wheatsheafe Lane and a request was made for notices that can be displayed.

Cllr Poulton raised the issue of mini motorbikes that are causing a disturbance. PCSO Parker-Brown asked that incidents are reported to the police using 101.

Community Warden Guillou-King reported that an ad hoc inspection of signs has been carried out and foliage cut back where possible. He warned that there are a

number of scams at present and that theft of heating oil continues to be a problem. An inspection of footpaths will be carried out and the results will be reported to the clerk.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

DDC – In addition to the information given by PCSO Parker-Brown on littering and Dog Fouling Enforcement, Mr Kluczynski, leader of the DDC Environmental Crime Team, advised that the parish can choose to participate in the Incident Report book Scheme but members would be required to attend training.

Affinity Water – The new draft Water Resources Management plan for 2015 – 2040 has been published for public consultation that will close on 12 August 2013.

KALC –

i) South East Water has published its Draft Water Resources plan outlining how they will meet the demand for water between 2015 and 2040. Proposals include building a new reservoir at Broadoak and the construction of a brackish desalination scheme at Reculver. The closing date for comments is 12 August 2013.

ii) Following consultation on its proposals for street lighting, KCC has issued a revised set of proposals of which the main areas are:

- the trial switch off for 12 months of some 3,100 lights mainly on roads leading in or out of settlements. Crime levels and road safety will be monitored throughout the period.
- part night lighting from 12 midnight until 5.30am on minor and high speed roads. Some 70,000 lights would be involved but there is a list of exclusion criteria relating to safety matters.

iii) The results have been published of a survey carried out in 2012 on behalf of KCC Highways and Transportation. They broadly show that there is greater satisfaction in urban rather than rural areas.

iv) The Government has announced that communities will have a greater say over the siting of onshore windfarms and will have increased benefits from hosting developments that do proceed.

v) Parish News had details of a series of events where Parish Councils can meet Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner. The meeting on 31 July is at Hawkinge Community Centre.

Dover District Volunteer Centre – A Community Transport Scheme provides a volunteer led car scheme enabling people to attend medical and social appointments or go shopping where public transport is not an option. The Centre also offers a befriending scheme to individuals who are housebound or feel isolated. A volunteer Befriender will visit once a week.

Martin Mill Station Susan Phillips has been appointed as the customer service assistant at the station. She is keen to receive constructive ideas as to improvements that people would like to see so as to encourage use of the train service.

Royal Mail Changes in the arrangements for delivering mail could result in alterations to the timing of standard deliveries in the area.

7. **OVERHANGING TREES IN MARTIN** Cllr Minns reported that an elderly resident had been upset to receive an enforcement notice requiring him to cut back overhanging trees. During the ensuing discussion it was noted that KHS seem to be slow to fulfil their own responsibilities with the removal of ragwort in the verges and cutting of hedges. In the light of such inconsistency, it seems unreasonable to target individuals in such a heavy handed manner.
8. **REFUSE COLLECTIONS** Cllr Minns reported that the contract of the Veolia waste collectors does not allow them to take additional bags when wheelie bins are overfull. DDC advise that households of more than five people can apply to have an additional wheelie bin.

There is still no correlation between collection and road sweeping days.

9. **FINANCE**

**Approval of payments**

**Chq no**

814	Clerk's Salary (April – June)	£499.05
	Clerk's expenses (April – June)	£ 33.12
815	HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE April – June)	£124.00
816	CPRE (Subscription)	£ 29.00
817	Mr C Shaw (Newsletter printing)	£ 29.16

**Proposed: Cllr A Minns**

**Seconded: Cllr J Dyer**

**Quarterly financial statement** The quarterly financial statement was circulated and discussed.

10. **PLANNING**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**DOV/13/00439**

**Proposal:** Remove two overhanging branches from one beech tree; cut back overhanging limbs from seven sycamores.

**Location:** Land at Leaze Wood Waterworks Lane, Martin, Dover CT15 5JW  
The Council had no objections.

11. **REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES**

**Lengthman** Cllr Craft reported that details of the schedule for hedge cutting have been requested. The pond at West Langdon has been dug out.

**Playing Field** Cllr Shaw reported that the AGM will be held on Monday 24 June. The court hearing for the insurance claim has been cancelled but the insurance company, Ecclesiastical, are still contesting.

**Village Hall** Cllr Shaw reported that the new doors and windows have been fitted, a jumble sale raised £92 and in future the market will only be held on the first Saturday of the month. The possibility of holding more drama productions in the hall is being investigated.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Date of September Meeting It was agreed that the date of the meeting will be changed to Monday 23 September.

West Side Residents have asked permission to clear up the area adjacent to the “car park” and possibly install a seat. It was agreed that offers of help to improve the area are to be encouraged.

Verge cutting Cllr Craft expressed concern about the tall vegetation at many road junctions that is impeding vision for motorists. It was suggested that other parishes be contacted to see if there is any interest in working together to pay a local contractor to carry out remedial work

**13. NEXT MEETING** The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 15 July 2013 in East Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....