

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
East Langdon Village Hall
15 July 2013

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr J Dyer, Cllr N Poulton, Cllr J Watson, The Clerk, County Cllr S Manion, PCSO K Parker-Brown, Community Warden G Guillou-King and seven 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 Barbara Price-Stephens be co-opted to fill a vacancy on the council.
Proposed: Cllr J Watson
Seconded: Cllr N Poulton
3. **APOLOGIES** Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr P Watkins, District Cllr K Morris (meeting), Cllr A Minns (family commitment) and Cllr S Craft (indisposed).
4. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2013 were accepted as a true record.
Proposed: Cllr J Dyer
Seconded: Cllr N Poulton
5. **MATTERS ARISING**

Cosy Nook District Cllr P Watkins arranged an informal meeting between the planning officer, the conservation officer (Clive Alexander) and the highways officer (Richard Smith) to explore a solution that might prove acceptable if the owner elects to submit a revised application. The suggestion is for the wall to be lowered to 1 metre for most of its length and a 3 metre gate put in 1 metre from the Old Files end. Inside the grounds of the property a gravel hard standing for two cars would be required and some landscaping and tree removal carried out.

Parish Plan The final version is now ready for proof reading.

Emergency Planning There has been no further progress and the item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Agricultural Odours A response has been received from Mr Welham and is attached at ANNEXE A. The details will be included in the next newsletter.

Four Winds The overhanging vegetation has been cut and the owner has been advised by KHS that it is his responsibility to stop the erosion of the bank.

Public Rights of Way Vegetation Clearance A report has been sent to PROW requesting that the following footpaths be cleared: ER44 & 45, ER48 and ER50 at the entrance by the junction with Pommeus Lane and Waterworks Lane. It was also reported that ER47 which was not on the original schedule is obstructed by crops leaning over the path from the rape field.

Planting on East Langdon Village Green Following a meeting to consider potential sites for the troughs, it was decided that the upkeep involved posed too many difficulties and it was decided to relocate them to the area outside the village hall where water is readily accessible. The school has been invited to help

with the planting of bulbs.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND OTHER EXTERNAL AGENCIES

County and District Councillors

County Cllr Manion reported that the government spending review requires savings of £240m over the next three years. KCC is responding to the challenge by exploring ways in which services can be better delivered. In response to Langdon's suggestion that neighbouring councils work together to deal with matters such as additional verge cutting, Cllr Manion indicated that funds could be made available and expressed his interest in working with a group of councils to explore the possibilities. Cllr Manion also requested information on the village signs that are the subject of discussions for West Langdon with a view to assisting with the cost.

Other External Agencies PCSO Parker-Brown reported that there had been a theft of jewellery in the parish. The dog fouling posters that had been requested at the previous meeting are not yet available as the penalties are currently under review.

Community Warden Guillou-King reported that he will offer a Smart Water kit to the victim of the theft and to neighbouring properties. He has reported a number of damaged road signs to KHS and most of these have now been repaired or replaced.

- 7. DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE COMMUNITY** Mr Patrick Marsh from St John Ambulance gave a presentation on defibrillators to assist the Council with making an informed decision as to the viability of having a device in the parish. Mr Marsh explained the importance of the equipment in maintaining the chain of early care for coronary victims until the medical team arrive which in a rural area would take at least 12 minutes. The machine gives spoken instructions meaning that anyone in the community can use it and, once the pads are attached, it will analyse the condition of the patient to assess whether or not defibrillation is needed. The cost of a defibrillator is in the region of £800 - £1000 for which a grant may be available. There are additional costs for replacement pads c.£25 and the battery which would need replacing after five years.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

DDC – Local organisations can once again apply for grants of up to £2,500 from the DDC and KCC funded “You Decide” Grant Scheme. The closing date for applications is 13 September 2013.

KCC – The operation of children's centres is under review and a proposal setting out how the available money can be focused more on services for children and their families and less on overheads is open for consultation.

ACRK –

- i) Rural News contained information on the Woodland Trust's free tree offer to school and community groups.
- ii) Oast to Coast included an advertisement from PV World for an Instant Solar Energy Kit.

KENT COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIPS – together with the Kent Downs AONB Unit, the CMPs have launched Good Woods that is aiming to breathe new life into UK woodlands. In Kent, they will be helping to identify appropriate woodlands, deliver woodland visits and give advice and reports.

CLERKS & COUNCILS DIRECT – The newsletter has been received (*Given to Cllr Price-Stephens*)

DOVER, DEAL & DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – The Annual Parochial Appeal has been launched and is seeking help with the increased administrative costs arising from the Governments delegation of large areas of benefit administration to the CABs. It was agreed that the request will be filed for consideration at the end of the financial year.

9. **VILLAGE SIGNS** Mr Richard Heap from KHS has met with West Langdon residents and agreed that signs could be placed at the two crossroads on Sutton Road. New drawings with revised prices will be produced for consideration at the next meeting. Anomalies between the road names in regular usage and those used by DDC and allied services were also drawn to the attention of Mr Heap.
10. **FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTION** Members reported some difficulty in identifying all of the hydrants on the map but will forward their comments to Cllr Minns for collation. A cursory inspection of road signs had been carried out and it was agreed that a more detailed report on the location and condition of signs will be brought to the next meeting.
11. **GRASS VERGES** Guston, Whitfield, Ripple, Sutton, St Margaret's and Ringwold parish councils were contacted to consider a joint initiative to carry out strimming where poor visibility presented a road hazard. St Margaret's is disinclined although requested more information when available but there has been no response to date from the other councils.

12. **FINANCE**

Approval of payments

Chq no

818 Kent County Council – computer backup service £ 57.60

819 St Augustine's Church – churchyard strimming £ 50.00

Receipts

Bank interest £3.17

Proposed: Cllr J Dyer
Seconded: Cllr J Watson

13. **PLANNING**

DECISIONS BY DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

DOV/13/00324

Proposal: Renewal of planning permission DOV/10/00216 for rear restaurant including revised parking layout

Location: The Old Lantern, The Street, Martin, Dover CT15 5JL

Permission granted

14. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Playing Field Cllr Shaw reported that the AGM was held on Monday 24 June. A working party will be carrying out some remedial work to the rubberised surface of the play area.

Village Hall Cllr Shaw reported that, although the new doors and windows have been fitted, one door is faulty and is awaiting replacement. The market is now only held on the first Saturday of the month.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Drama Production The company, Strangefaces, who have taken over the service previously provided by Chalkfoot, will perform in East Langdon Parish Hall on Friday 28 March 2014.

16. NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 19 August 2013 in East Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNEXE A

Dear Ms. Hyde, Thank you for your most recent letter of 1st July. I hope you will not mind if I perhaps start by explaining some basic facts about waste spreading particularly as regards sewage sludge. The sewage companies have been very grateful and pleased that Agriculture has been able to absorb quantities of these and other solids so as to reduce their disposal as land fill or in the past disposal to the sea or rivers. It is important to the whole population that Agriculture continues to absorb this waste until perhaps other disposal channels have been found. Some techniques such as drying and pelletising while having benefits such as reduced smell may have had to be abandoned as too wasteful of energy.

Agriculture is happy to take this solid in the public interest if it is cost effective to do so and there is a worthwhile nutritional benefit to the food crops grown for our consumption. If it becomes too expensive or difficult to take this solid farmers will cease to take it. My job as the local NFU Representative is among other things to try and represent farmers and their activities in a good light and explain to other bodies what the farming community is trying to do.

Turning to specifics I hope you are aware that the waste is generally spread by independent spreading contractors in the short time slot between harvest and new crop sowing. The time slot is further constrained by weather, crop rotations, contractor availability etc etc. In this area of East Kent there are a number of contractors spreading a number of different types of solid as well as people spreading poultry manures, farm yard manure and farm slurry often all in the same time slot which is fortunately often a very brief period.

There are some voluntary codes of practice associated with this activity and I am not aware of any instances of these codes being broken. You can also deduce from what I have already said that the heaps are on land owned by a number of land owners, the heaps will be on different land parcels in different years and the landowners farm in more than one parish. For these reasons one of larger spreading contractors has already stated that they will not be able to warn as to when exactly they will spread any heap But have offered to try and start and complete any spreading in a working week.

On a technical point I believe only one firm has odour reducing "fan machines"

I would therefore ask for some sympathy from yourselves as the Agricultural Community plays its part in disposing of this waste. I would refer you to Thames Water and Southern Water 's websites which show what an important issue this is. Thames' website makes reference to agriculture taking 72% of their sludge but also it refers to both a short term and long term strategy. They currently produce 14.2% of their electricity needs from sewage sludge but the long term strategy is perhaps to use more sludge for power generation. You will also see their assertion that disposal to agricultural land is the best practical environmental option and is supported by the UK Government and European Commission.

I am always available to try and help with local problems and I hope you find this letter helpful,

Mike Welham NFU Group Secretary East Kent