

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
West Langdon Village Hall
23 September 2013

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr S Craft, Cllr A Minns, Cllr B Price-Stephens, Cllr J Watson, The Clerk, District Cllr K Morris, PCSO K Parker-Brown, and five members of the public.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** There were no declarations of interest
2. **APOLOGIES** Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr P Watkins, County Cllr S Manion, Cllr J Dyer (holiday), Cllr N Poulton and Community Warden G Guillou-King.
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 13 August 2013 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr A Minns
Seconded: Cllr C Shaw

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Parish Plan The document has now gone to print. It was agreed that the plan will be published on the website and that individual copies will be accompanied by a covering letter.

Planting on East Langdon Village Green Autumn crocuses were scheduled for planting on Saturday 14 September.

Village Signs There is currently no further progress with the West Langdon signs. Mrs Miller is awaiting a reply from County Cllr Manion concerning finance. It has been noted that many of the road signs in the parish are dirty except where cleaning is carried out by parishioners.

Hydrant Survey Cllr Minns reported that the survey is now complete and had proved to be a useful exercise. Cllr Minns will email the report to KFRS and monitor progress on the necessary repairs.

Defibrillator Cllr Shaw reported on a defibrillator project that has been undertaken in Chiddingstone where the cost of the equipment was c. £1400. The manager at Hawthorn Farm Caravan Park has shown a keen interest in having a device on site which could prove to be a conveniently central position for much of the parish.

Solar farms An email has been received from Guston Parish Council alerting Langdon to the application opposite the Swingate. Mr Hyde expressed concern about the lack of policy to defend applications for renewable energy with DDC relying on data from 2001. He suggested that zones could be created in the same way that housing and retail parks are zoned. Cllr Morris advised that any policies would need to comply with those in force at KCC as they have overall responsibility for energy.

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

County and District Councillors An application for temporary use of land (for up to 52 weeks) to allow drilling of an exploratory borehole to test insitu coal

measures for methane gas, including provision of drilling rigs and associated site compound has been made at Guston Court Farm, Guston. District Cllr Morris reported that this is a KCC matter with DDC as a statutory consultee. Every effort is being made to give the public the opportunity to speak to this application by referring it to the scrutiny committee and asking KCC to hold the planning meeting in Dover rather than Maidstone.

An application for a solar farm at Marshborough was turned down by the planning committee due to the impact on the countryside and the use of grade 1 agricultural land. The company is expected to appeal.

A loophole in the Localism Act has given an opportunity for funds to be released from the housing revenue account, which is in credit to the tune of some £13.5m, before 1 October 2013. This will help to balance the books and provide a cushion for some time to come.

Other External Agencies

PCSO Parker-Brown reported two incidents in the parish: the theft of a motor vehicle from Westside and an attempted break-in in The Street.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

DDC –

- i) Details of printing facilities and printing rates at DDC have been received.
- ii) A consultation exercise is underway to help shape the budget for 2014/15 and beyond. Residents are invited to rank their spending priorities for a selection of 17 council services.

KCC –

- i) The Justice Secretary, Chris Grayling, has announced a consultation on reform of the law around Judicial Review. If implemented it could reduce some of the delay that can impact on the effectiveness of decision making and the financial costs that developers can face. The Ministry proposes to create a specialist planning court to speed up the legal process and drive out meritless cases that clog the courts.
- ii) Salt bags are being offered again and it was agreed that a delivery be requested together with a new bag.

KALC –

- i) The Parish News had previously been circulated.
- ii) The Fire Brigades union have announced that they will take strike action from 12 noon until 4pm on Wednesday 25 September. KFRS will respond to 999 calls and have issued guidelines to assist local people with safety matters during the strike period.
- iii) KFRS is looking to recruit volunteers to help with the dissemination of safety information in the community.

ACRK –

- i) Rural News published the date of the AGM as 17 October at Brabourne Barn.
- ii) Oast to Coast has been received. *Given to Cllr Price-Stephens*

CPRE – The AGM for CPRE in Dover will be held on Saturday 5 October at The Guildhall, Sandwich.

CLERKS AND COUNCILS DIRECT – The newsletter contained a useful article on allotments law.

GUSTON PARISH COUNCIL – An email has been received advising receipt of the planning application for drilling referred to in item 5 and requesting support. Cllr Shaw reported on a meeting held on Thursday 19 September called by Guston Parish Council and Burgoyne residents' association and attended by 85+ people. The speakers were Oliver Taylor, a geologist, who spoke on behalf of the applicant Coastal Oil & Gas Ltd and the chairman of Balcombe parish council who spoke on the implications of the application and handling the press.

The company has permission to drill at a site in Woodnesborough and has applications in for Tilmanstone, Shepherdswell and Guston. In order to carry out drilling the company is required to apply for a Petroleum Exploratory Drilling Licence (PEDL) from the government. It is known that the coal seam runs through these areas and that the strata dip towards Dover. The landowner will receive payment for the lease of the land but any minerals that may be extracted belong to the Crown.

PCSO Parker-Brown advised that she has been in attendance at meetings to assess the tensions that exist.

It was agreed that the application will be an agenda item for the next meeting.
DATA PROTECTION A request from a parishioner for Langdon Action Group supporters to be circulated with details of the Guston application was refused being a contravention of data protection.

—

7. **EMERGENCY TRAFFIC PLANNING** A fatality on the A258 with the subsequent closure of the road and redirection of traffic had once again resulted in a log jam in Martin and Martin Mill. Concern was again expressed at the lack of local road knowledge shown by the police and Cllr Minns will submit a report to the chief constable. PCSO Parker-Brown advised that, in the event of an incident such as this, officers are likely to be brought in from other areas such as Thanet.
8. **STREET LIGHTING IN MARTIN MILL** A wooden lamp post that had rotted has been removed from Roman Road leaving those residents without any street lighting. DDC's policy is to maintain lighting that is under their ownership until it fails and then to remove it. Any replacement is the responsibility of Kent Highways who claim that it is a decision for DDC.

PCSO Parker-Brown offered to take the matter up with both DDC and KHS.

9. **ALLOTMENTS** The allotments in The Street, East Langdon, that are owned by the church have fallen into a state of neglect and the PCC of St Augustine's has asked for involvement from the parish council to help improve this important asset. Consideration is being given to the possibility of reducing the size of the plots and to laying on mains water.
10. **FINANCE**
Report from External Auditor The External Auditor's Report for the year ending 31 March 2013 has been received. There were no matters highlighted for attention.

Approval of payments**Chq no**

| | | |
|-----|---|---------|
| 822 | Clerk's Salary (July – September) | £498.85 |
| | Clerk's expenses (July – September) | £ 60.68 |
| 823 | HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE July - September) | £124.80 |
| 824 | St Augustine's Church – churchyard strimming | £ 50.00 |
| 825 | Craigdene Ltd – play area inspection | £114.00 |
| 826 | PKF Littlejohn LLP – external auditor | £120.00 |
| 827 | East Langdon Parish Hall (P.O rent 4 Apr – 19 Sept) | £120.00 |

Proposed: Cllr S Craft**Seconded: Cllr A Minns**

Quarterly Finance Statement The quarterly finance statement was circulated and discussed.

11. PLANNING**DECISIONS BY DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL****DOV/13/00565**

Proposal: Erection of a single storey side extension

Location: 1 Church Farm Mews, The Street, East Langdon CT15 5FE

Permission granted

12. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Lengthman The lengthman reported that tractors are causing considerable damage to the grass banks. West Langdon will be carrying out a litter pick in an attempt to tidy the area following the exposure of rubbish when the verges were cut.

Playing Field The annual inspection has been carried out. The report recommended work to improve the soft impact area and this has been carried out. All other observations were low risk.

A new memorial bench has been installed in memory of June and Ginger Beer. A new site is needed for the original bench.

Village Hall An application has been made to the “You Decide” KCC & DDC Community Grants Programme for a grant towards the cost of improving the toilets and carrying out the necessary updating of the electrical installation.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Christmas Party A meeting will be held in East Langdon village hall on Wednesday 16 October for those interested in organising a Christmas party for the children of the parish together with making decorations and decorating the Christmas tree on the village green. It was agreed that funds can be made available from the community projects allocation.

Postal Services Cllr Minns reported that postal supervisors had been observed having problems finding properties in Martin when training new recruits thus highlighting the difficulties faced by postal workers in rural areas.

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

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....