

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
East Langdon Village Hall
18 November 2013

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, The Clerk, District Cllr P Watkins, District Cllr K Morris, Mr T Bailey (Engineering manager, Lumicity) and four members of the public.

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** There were no declarations of interest
2. **APOLOGIES** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Craft (holiday), Cllr B Price-Stephens (bereavement), Cllr J Watson (holiday), PCSO K Skirrow and Community Warden G Guillou-King.
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2013 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr J Dyer
Seconded: Cllr A Minns

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Defibrillator The newsletter contained an article about the proposed defibrillator. Details of fund raising events are anticipated in the New Year.

Street lighting in Martin Mill The light in question has been identified as GOIT001 previously located opposite the Coach House. The community Warden is carrying out further enquiries and the District Cllrs offered to take the matter up with DDC.

Christmas party Details of the party have been circulated in the newsletter.

Allotments There was nothing further to report on this topic.

Inspection of trees on East Langdon village green The chairman will meet with a representative from Envirocology on Wednesday 20 November to inspect the trees on East Langdon village green.

Proposed drilling of exploratory borehole at Guston KCC has advised that, following the recent request for further information to address issues raised during the planning application process, Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd has withdrawn their application but intend to re-submit in due course.

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

County and District Councillors

District Cllr Watkins updated the meeting on a number of major planning applications in the district that could soon become a reality including the proposed cinema in Dover. Local businesses are being supported by a decision to freeze car parking charges and to have a number of free days over the Christmas and New Year period. Cllr Watkins reported that the rise in Council Tax for 2014 – 2015 will be less than 2%.

PCSO Skirrow submitted a report advising of local incidents, computer scams and the legitimate presence of collectors for Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. PCSO Skirrow has been working with the Community Warden on a “Be Bright Be Seen” project at the school that had been well received. They will also have a stand at the school’s Christmas Fayre on 30 November.

Community Warden Guillou-King's report highlighted a number of highway issues and fly-tipping that have mostly been resolved. The monitoring of safety at school run times has continued. Random speed checks have also been carried out and, although there were no cases of speeding, some inappropriate speeds for the conditions were observed. The Community Warden advised that St Margaret's Bay Trust are interested in involving Langdon in a proposal to set up a youth club in St Margaret's.

Proposed Youth Club for St Margaret's Contact has been made by Tanya Harding, youth engagement and apprenticeship co-ordinator for The Bay Trust. It is understood that the proposed site for a youth club is in an existing building opposite Portal House. Members were interested in the proposal; the questionnaire will be completed on behalf of the parish and further information requested.

Parish and Town Councils Seminar (Kent Highways) Cllr Minns reported on the seminar held in Ashford on 22 October 2013 when the director of Kent Highways had been severely criticised by delegates for giving an unrealistic appraisal of the state of the roads in Kent.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

DDC – The draft programme for the examination of the Land Allocations Plan has been published. It was agreed that the parish council will not make an oral representation at the hearings.

KCC – The budget consultation has been published and is available on-line. KCC has to make savings of £91m and is consulting on proposals to save £81 and raise £10 of income through a council tax increase of 1.99%.

KALC –

- i) Parish News contained an article on KCC Winter preparations. In rural areas farmers are contracted to clear agreed routes using KCC ploughs. As a trial in some areas farmers will also treat the ploughed areas with salt.
- ii) The Electoral Commission has issued a consultation paper on "Standing for Election in the UK." Issues include the number of subscribers necessary for each tier or category of election including parish councils.
- iii) A Legislative Reform Order in draft form has been laid in Parliament to abolish the two signature rule that currently prevents local councils from using electronic payment methods.

ACRK – Free trees are once again available from the Woodland Trust. It was agreed that the council should prepare for future such offers by identifying potential sites during the year.

CPRE – Kent Voice, Fieldwork and Countryside Voice all contained articles that are relevant to current proposals for solar farms and gas exploration. It was agreed that Kent CPRE be contacted to seek advice on local solar farm proposals and that all three publications be kept on file. *Given to Cllr Shaw.*

CONNECT Ltd – The Company is the BT recognised refurbishment agent and can supply paint and parts for the upkeep of K6 telephone kiosks

YOUNG KENT – An independent charity who support youth clubs and youth organisations across Kent and Medway. Following the recent restructure of Kent Integrated Youth Services, a number of clinics will be held the first of which will be at Shepway Youth Hub5 on 26 November 2013.

CLERKS AND COUNCILS DIRECT – Legal Matters deals with Dog Law.

7. **PROPOSED SOLAR FARM** A number of residents have received letters advising them that Lumicity Ltd is interested in progressing a proposal for a solar park on land at the engine shed site. Mr Tim Bailey, engineering manager for the company who is currently liaising with the landowner and the planners, Pegasus, was present at the meeting and gave a summary of progress to date. Only one of the two projects in the pipeline can be installed due to restrictions on the amount of power that can be accepted by the 33kV line that runs through the site. DDC have advised that the Lumicity project does not need an EIA whereas one is required for the Guston scheme. The site already has planning permission for an access from Archers Court Road which will be adequate for the purposes of a potential installation. The company is looking to find ways in which the community can benefit from such a development.

Members of the Council will meet with representatives of Lumicity and the planners, Pegasus, on Wednesday 20 November.

8. **PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER** A bag of salt has been delivered to the parish hall for the use of residents. It was agreed that the KHS steward for Dover be contacted to ask for details of the contractors who will be clearing snow in Langdon and the roads that will be a priority for clearance in the event of heavy snow.
9. **VILLAGE SIGNS** County Cllr Manion has confirmed that finance is available for half the cost of two signs for West Langdon. It was therefore proposed that the signs will be ordered at a total estimated cost of £850 of which the parish council will fund £425.

Proposed: Cllr J Dyer
Seconded: Cllr A Minns

10. **KCC HIGHWAYS SURVEY** Cllr Minns will collate responses and submit the survey.
11. **FINANCE**

Approval of payments

Chq no

833	Mr A Minns – KCC seminar travel expenses	£36.40
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Proposed: Cllr J Dyer
Seconded: Cllr C Shaw

Receipts

Dividend	£ 0.32
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12. **PLANNING**
There were no items under this heading.

13. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Playing Field Cllr Shaw reported that the bees have now gone and the slide is once again in use. Recent high winds brought down some trees into the neighbouring field. The Playing Field committee has accepted a quotation from Jordan’s for £1600 to take down the entire row of trees.

The Sports officer for DDC, Sarah Philpott, has carried out an audit of playing facilities in Dover District and a shortfall has been revealed. She has again expressed an interest in developing the facilities at Langdon for which funding is available.

Village Hall The hall was awarded £250 at the recent You Decide event. The proposed improvements to the toilets and the electrical installation will need to be revised.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Budget 2014/2015 The clerk will circulate dates for a meeting to prepare a draft budget for presentation at the December meeting.

Rail Future Cllr Minns reported on a meeting in Canterbury on Saturday 16 November when the reduction in the use of rural stations following the introduction of HS1 was under discussion.

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

The meeting closed at 9.52 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....