

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
East Langdon Village Hall
16 December 2013

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr S Craft, Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, Cllr J Watson, The Clerk, County Cllr S Manion, 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 District Cllr P Watkins, Cllr N Poulton (son unwell) and PCSO K Skirrow.
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2013 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr A Minns

Seconded: Cllr J Dyer

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Street lighting in Martin Mill It was noted that Green Lane is an unadopted road and uncertainty was expressed about the ownership of and responsibility for lighting. Further enquiries will be made.

Christmas party The party was enjoyed by some 30 – 40 children together with parents and grandparents and had been a very successful community event. Mr Hyde thanked the council for sponsoring the event.

Allotments The Christmas tree has been removed and erected on the village green.

Inspection of trees on East Langdon village green Quotations for the removal of the defective horse chestnut tree have been received from Envirocology Ltd (£1373.29 to include a replacement tree) and Jordans (c. £600). Provision for work will be made in the budget.

Village Signs The two signs for West Langdon have been ordered at a total cost of £795.42.

St Margaret's Bay Trust Cllr Shaw has contacted Tanya Harding to express interest in the project. A questionnaire has been completed on behalf of the parish and all responses are being collated for presentation to St Margaret's parish council.

Preparations for Winter The Highway Steward for Dover has confirmed that Mr Goddard is the farmer with responsibility for clearing the minor roads in the area. The order for clearance will be determined by Mr Goddard when he goes out. It was noted that the salt bin at the top of Solton Lane has not been replaced and a reminder will be sent to KHS. Velcourt would be prepared to carry out salting on Waldershare Lane in the region of Enifer Down. County Cllr Manion suggested that a salt bin could be provided when funds permit.

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

County and District Councillors County Cllr Manion reported on work that is being undertaken to ensure that lottery funding becomes available again following the focus on the Olympic Games. KCC is looking to revise the provision of Freedom passes so that a) they are more affordable and b) they can be made available to sixth formers.

PCSO Skirrow submitted a report advising residents to be aware of “purse dippers” in the local high streets and to be security conscious at home.

Community Warden Guillou reported on the damage caused by recent storms which resulted in flooding and fallen trees. Lucerne Lane and Guston Road were particularly badly affected. Work on safety matters with the school continues as do random speed checks in East Langdon.

Dover District Annual Town and Parish Meeting Cllr Shaw reported on the meeting held at DDC on 11 December 2013. A presentation by Mike Connolly on the budget and council tax highlighted the impact that further reductions in government grants will have on precepts.

The enviro-crime team set up to tackle littering and dog fouling is active between 6am and 9pm. The work is no longer undertaken by an agency but by DDC employees.

Peter Marsh gave a presentation on dementia and the work that is being done by KCC to raise awareness. A memory café has been set up in every district.

Can we save visible policing? Cllr Minns reported on a conference held at Kent Police College on 6 December 2013 where discussion centred on the need to meet the expectation of the public for visible policing while achieving savings and minimising increases in the police precept. The employment of additional PCSOs will enable a higher level of visible policing.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

DDC – The examination in public into the Land Allocations local plan will start on 28 January 2014 at the DDC offices. Christopher Anstey has been appointed as the independent inspector. The site allocation for East Langdon, north of Langdon primary school, will be examined on 5 February 2014.

KALC –

i) Local audit Notification has been received of a four week consultation on draft regulations that give effect to the new local audit arrangements.

ii) KFRS Safety plan The deadline for comments is 13 January 2014.

iii) Parish News The closing date for nominations for the KALC Community Awards Scheme is Friday 28 February 2014.

EYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL An email has been received from District Cllr Ovenden outlining the applications that have been received for the installation of wind turbines at Barville Farm, Waldershare DOV/13/00914 and Thornton Lane, Eastry DOV/13/00927 and requesting that Langdon Parish Council submit comments to DDC. During discussion it was noted that there were similarities in terms of impact on the landscape and aviation issues to the site in Langdon parish that had been refused at Appeal in 2009. It was agreed unanimously that the council would submit objections to both applications.

“Langdon Parish Council objects to this application. The Council refers to the Appeal Decision of Mr Ian Lavender (APP/X2220/A/08/2071880) of 16 March 2009 in which he refers to the rolling landscape of this area of Kent as being “quintessentially English” and one in which the silhouette of a turbine would be “unacceptingly inelegant.” It is the opinion of Langdon Parish Council that the same description applies to the landscape under consideration in this application and that the installation of a 100m high turbine would have

an unacceptable impact.

Langdon Parish Council understands that the very real concerns about the safety of aviation that existed in 2009 remain unresolved. The Council therefore asks that DDC require the developer to demonstrate that Manston airport is completely confident that the technology is already in place to eliminate any possible risk to aviation.”

7. PROPOSED SOLAR FARM

i) Report on meeting with Lumicity and Pegasus 20 November 2013

Cllr Shaw reported on the main findings of the meeting a copy of which is attached at Annexe A.

ii) Report on exhibition held by Pegasus on behalf of Wirsol Solar for solar farms adjoining the A258 and request for meeting.

The clerk reported on the exhibition held at Burgoyne Heights Community Centre on Monday 16 December. The two proposed sites cover over 100 acres with the nearer, larger site (site 2) lying mainly in the parish of Langdon. Much of the information regarding installation and environmental issues is the same as reported for the Lumicity application. Connection to the grid would be to the west of Guston with all cabling running underground. Site 2 would house five inverter stations that would require concrete bases. Traffic issues on the A258 have already been highlighted by Guston Parish Council and it has been agreed that there would not be any traffic movements between 8.45am and 9.15am. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being prepared and it is hoped that a planning application will be submitted in the New Year.

Following discussion it was agreed that the developers and planners be invited to meet with the parish council in January 2014.

8. FINANCE

Approval of payments

Chq no

834	KCC – West Langdon signs	£795.42
835	Clerk’s salary	£499.05
	Clerk’s expenses	£ 63.46
836	St Augustine’s church – Churchyard strimming	£ 75
837	Commercial Services Trading Ltd – playing field maintenance	£810.64
838	HM Revenue and Customs	£124.60
839	Mr A Minns –travel expenses Rail and Police seminars	£ 86.50

Proposed: Cllr S Craft

Seconded: Cllr J Watson

Quarterly financial statement The quarterly financial statement was circulated and discussed. It was noted that the budget figure for Playing field Maintenance should read £1414 and not £1570 as shown.

Budget 2014 – 2015

- i) To consider an increase in the clerk's salary from SCP26 to SCP 27 The increase was agreed unanimously

Proposed: Cllr J Watson

Seconded: Cllr J Dyer

- ii) To consider the draft budget for 2014 – 2015

It was agreed that

- a) the allocation for printing the newsletters be raised from £80 to £100.
- b) the budget for training courses be increased from £400 to £450.
- c) the quotation of £1449 from Commercial Services Trading Ltd for the maintenance of the field and play area be accepted.
- d) the budget for village green mowing should also include the work done by volunteers at West Langdon and that the heading be amended to read "Village green mowing."
- e) a budget of £500 be allocated to tree works on East Langdon village green
- f) a budget of £300 be allocated to youth projects as identified in the Parish Plan.

It was proposed that the budget, details of which had been previously circulated, be approved.

Proposed: Cllr S Craft

Seconded: Cllr J Dyer

- iii) To agree a date for grant applications from parish organisations

Applications will close on 10 February 2014.

9. PLANNING

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Ref: TC/13/00149

TREWORK IN CONSERVATION AREA – CONSULTATION

Proposal: Fell 18 leyland cypress

Location: The Old Vicarage, The Street, East Langdon, Dover CT15 5JF

It was noted that permission had been granted before the end of the consultation period.

Ref: DOV/13/01033

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension and rear extension to existing garage (existing shed to be demolished)

Location: Aeolus, Waterworks Lane, Martin, Dover CT15 5JN

The council had no objections and commented, "The proposals will improve the property as a family home."

10. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Playing Field Jordans have been given the contract to top the trees around the perimeter of the field

Village Hall Work on the electrical installation will be undertaken in the near future. There will not be a dance on New Year's Eve but the hall will be made available for families to come and celebrate together.

- 11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** There were no items under this heading.
- 12. **NEXT MEETING** The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 20 January 2014 in East Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNEXE A

Present: Lumicity: Tristan Fischer (Founder of Lumicity), Sam Crockford (commercial director) and Tim Bailey (engineering manager).

Pegasus: Richard Morrison

Langdon Parish Council: Chris Shaw, John Dyer, Barbara Price-Stephens and Jannine Hyde

Lumicity Solar farms are low margin activities but since solar radiation is constant, they are reliable. Farms are only suited to the south coast and parts of Norfolk. Large areas of the South West are no longer available because of the lack of capacity on the 33kV lines. The 33kV line is almost at capacity and, if approved, this would be the last project in the area leaving just 2MW available. Panels would face south and be set at the optimised angle for the area. Panels would be 6 – 8 metres apart and fixed with a post that is vibrated into the ground thus avoiding the use of concrete. 30 inverter stations would feed into one meter house possibly situated close to the access road behind the trees and the size of a 40ft container. All cables would be underground. The panels are designed to absorb light, not reflect it and do not present a problem for aircraft. The proposed 50 acre site is sufficiently far from the road not to be seen and would be surrounded by hedging and the existing hedges augmented. Environmental issues are important. The grass would need to be grazed for most of the year. The planting of indigenous wild flowers would encourage bees and Dover bee keepers are interested in having hives on the site. The landowner would be given grazing rights that he needs to show that he has the land available for agricultural use in order to claim single farm payments. The landowner says the land is grade 3. The “empty” area around the engine shed is for the benefit of residents in Pineham. The landowner has insisted on having access to the engine shed should he need to use it. Infrared cameras would be installed for security but there would not be any lighting. The Company is keen that the local community benefit.

Pegasus (planning group) Kernon Countryside Consultants Ltd will provide a land report containing an assessment of the quality of the land. A transport management plan will be drawn up. The road is filmed before and after installation to check for damage. Since there is no concrete on site, the only large transport will be one lorry a day during the 12 weeks of installation. A screening opinion has been carried out and DDC confirm that an EIA is not required.

