

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
West Langdon Village Hall
19 May 2014

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr S Craft, Cllr A Minns, Cllr B Price-Stephens, Cllr J Watson, The Clerk, County Cllr S Manion, PCSO K Skirrow, Community Warden G Guillou-King and 8 members of the public

1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS There were no declarations of interest

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN AND REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Shaw was re-elected as chairman.

Proposed: Cllr S Craft

Seconded: Cllr B Price-Stephens

Cllr Minns was re-elected as vice-chairman.

Proposed: Cllr J Watson

Seconded: Cllr S Craft

Cllr C Shaw was re-elected as Village Hall Representative

Cllr A Minns was re-elected as Playing Field Representative

Cllr Minns agreed to act as lead name for representation at KALC meetings.

3. APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Dyer (holiday), Cllr N Poulton (OU assignment) and District Cllr P Watkins

4. MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2014 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr S Craft

Seconded: Cllr B Price-Stephens

5. MATTERS ARISING

Street Lighting in Martin Mill Mr Meares of Barley Close has expressed concern on behalf of elderly residents about KCC's decision to turn off the street lights between midnight and 5.00 am. County Cllr Manion commented that, nationally, there is no evidence of an increase in crime in areas where similar decisions have been taken.

Solar Farms The determination deadline for the Engine Shed Site has now passed. A date for the application to be heard by the Planning Committee has yet to be set. A number of petitions have been submitted in favour of the Guston Court application following cold calling by two people "representing the company." County Cllr Manion advised that letters can be submitted up to the date of the committee meeting but they will not necessarily be reported on.

Verge Trimming Considerable concern was expressed that KCC's need to cut costs is creating a dangerous environment in a number of areas while overgrown foliage is causing damage to the bodywork of cars. It was agreed that the responsibility for maintaining the verges in a safe state rests with KCC and not the parish council and that all dangerous areas will be reported to KHS for action.

6. **REPORTS** County Cllr Manion reported that an extra £8.6m had been received from the government for repairs following the bad winter weather. An extensive programme of pothole repairs is underway with some roads such as Waterworks Lane also benefiting from top dressing. A significant portion of the money will go to drainage schemes in areas such as Sutton, Alkham, Bridge etc. In response to a question from Cllr Minns, County Cllr Manion advised that the local traffic problems that arise when the A258 is closed had not been a subject for discussion by the Joint Transport Board.

Other External Agencies

PCSO Skirrow reported the damage to and thefts from motor vehicles is on the increase and there have been incidents in the parish. A firearm incident where an air rifle was being used outside the boundary was investigated and advice given.

Community Warden Guillou-King advised that the overgrown verges at the Hollands Hill junction have been reported and the danger has been agreed by the KHS steward. A number of visits have been made to the playing field car park after hours to check for any unwelcome behaviour. The public needs to be alert to the many scams that are circulating and to issues with scrap metal dealers and the theft of metal items from gardens.

SECAMB Event Cllr Minns reported on the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner and South East Coast Ambulance Service Event held on 2 April. Ann Barnes, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, framed her vision for Kent Police, including the Police and Crime plan and the vital role that Local Councils can play in creating safer communities; Neighbourhood Watch and Victim Support feature high in the plans. Cllr John Rivers, Member of SECAMB Inclusion Hub Advisory hub gave a presentation on the voluntary work of Community First Responders during which it was revealed that portable defibrillators can be obtained for £650 with extra cost for weatherproof boxes.

Following discussion of Cllr Minns' report, it was agreed that the defibrillator option should be investigated further with a view to purchase and possible partial reimbursement through fund raising. Cllr Shaw will approach Hawthorn Farm again as a possible site and Cllr Minns will confirm availability.

7. **SPEED LIMITS** Cllr Shaw introduced this item by referring to comments about road safety that had been raised in the Parish Plan questionnaires and more recently contact made by Mrs Sheila Webb who has pursued the introduction of a 20 mph limit in East Langdon with County Cllr Manion and KCC. There are concerns in Martin Mill and Martin about incidents of inconsiderate driving but the discussion focused on the dangers to pedestrians in East Langdon especially at the beginning and end of the school day.

There were three parents present who told of the dangers in The Street where the road is narrow, there are no pavements and parked cars create a further hazard. The school operates a "Walk to School" programme on Wednesdays when some 64 children use the road both from the village green and from the village hall. It has been necessary on occasion for parents to slow traffic themselves, especially cars approaching from Waldershare Lane. The school sign at The Old Vicarage is not obvious.

KCC has stated that 20mph limits will only be funded where there is justification in terms of achieving a reduction in casualties. The police crash records show no personal injuries in East Langdon during the past three years. Cllr Minns expressed concern about KCC's reactive rather than proactive approach.

Community Warden Guillou-King outlined the measures that have been taken to date including speed checks and the issue of high vis jackets for which there has been a poor take up. He reminded the meeting that the painting on the road of SLOW signs had been promised but the funding had not been forthcoming. He suggested a new programme of speed checks and also referred the parents to the road safety website that offers different options for the way forward.

Cllr Shaw assured parents of the parish council's support and proposed that Mr Tony Jensen from Kent Highways be invited for a site visit to examine the alternative means of traffic calming that could be considered.

- 8. RURAL SERVICES NETWORK** A Rural Sounding Board of Parish Council representatives is being established. Online consultation will be used to help inform wider debates about rural issues and, where appropriate, work to influence decision makers. Cllr Shaw agreed to act as the representative for Langdon.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

DDC –

- i) The next Neighbourhood Forum will be held at Sutton Parish Community Centre of 11 June at 7.00pm when the topic for discussion will be “The Future of Energy.”
- ii) DDC is proposing to amend the Off-Street Parking Places Order which include reducing the car parking charging times from the current 9am – 6pm period to 9am – 5pm.

KCC –

- i) The amount of money available and the application process for KCC Members Grants has changed. Each County Councillor has £25,000 to allocate for community grants and / or highway projects. County Cllr Manion advised that he is allocating £15,000 to community grants and £10,000 to highway projects.
- i) Rising Star bursaries of up to £150 are available for young people to develop a talent or achieve a goal that would otherwise not be possible e.g. sports coaching or equipment, music or dance tuition where parents or carers are in receipt of one or more prescribed benefits.

ACRK Rural News contained details of Falls Prevention Classes that are being run for the over 65s and over 55s in the case of long term illness or disability. Local classes will be held on Thursdays at The Golf Centre, Deal and Living Well Church Dover from 29 May.

KALC Parish News gave dates of training sessions including the Clerks Conference on 12 June and The Councillors Conference on 19 July

KPEA The April newsletter has been received.

FOYLE FOUNDATION A small grants scheme invites applications for grants of £1,000 to £10,000 from charities with an annual turnover of less than £100,000 where it can be demonstrated that the funding would make a

significant difference to their work.

SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL The council has submitted a proposal to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act “That the government take the necessary action to allow a percentage of Business Rates to be paid direct to Parish and Town Councils for the benefit of local economic growth” for which it is seeking support from other councils.

Following discussion it was agreed that, with few businesses in the parish, Langdon did not have a strong view on the proposal,

10. FINANCE

Presentation of accounts year ending 31st March 2014 The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2014, copies of which are attached, were approved.

Proposed: Cllr S Craft
Seconded: Cllr J Watson

Annual governance statements It was agreed that the requirements of the Audit Commission had been met during the year 2013/2014

Proposed: Cllr J Watson
Seconded: Cllr A Minns

Internal Auditor's report The internal auditor was satisfied that all financial arrangements were satisfactory and there were no recommendations for action.

Approval of payments

Chq no.

859	Broker Network Ltd Parish - Council Insurance	£298.69
860	St Augustine's Church – graveyard strimming	£ 50.00
861	Mrs J Pamplin – internal auditor	£ 60.00

Receipts

Dividend	£ 0.32
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Proposed: Cllr S Craft
Seconded: Cllr J Watson

Charities Following discussion, it was agreed that donations of £50 will be made both to Dover, Deal & District Citizens Advice Bureau and to the Kent Division of Victim Support. It was noted that, in the past, the Council has only donated to local charities but it was agreed that parishioners could be in need of assistance from CAB and Victim Support.

Proposed: Cllr A Minns
Seconded: Cllr S Craft

11. PLANNING

The Meadow The Senior investigation Officer has advised that consent is required for the three units of occupation that were reported in January 2014. The owner has been invited to apply for retrospective planning permission for

one unit and Certificates of Lawful Use for the other two.

Planning Matters District Cllr Watkins had previously offered to facilitate a meeting between representatives of the Council and a planning officer. In the light of recent planning issues it was agreed that such a meeting would be beneficial and informative.

12. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Lengthman's report All items had been raised under earlier agenda headings.

Playing Field Committee Cllr Shaw reported on the AGM and the possibility of applying for a grant of up to £65,000 from the South East Community Grant Scheme for additional facilities on the playing field. The main proposals under consideration are a shelter for families and a Multi Use Games Area both of which would require a period of public consultation and planning permission.

A Dog Show will be held on Sunday 20 July organised by Denise Coyle to raise funds for the field. Entertainment will be provided by Applause Street Theatre.

Village Hall Committee A successful quiz night was held on 26 April 2014 organised by Veronica King. £254 was raised for hall funds.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS There were no items under this heading.

14. NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 16 June 2014 in East Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

