

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
West Langdon Village Hall
15 September 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, District Cllr K Morris and 6 members of the public

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** There were no declarations of interest
2. **APOLOGIES** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Dyer (holiday), PCSO K Skirrow (annual leave) and District Cllr P Watkins.
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2014 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr A Minns

Seconded: Cllr C Shaw

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Solar Farms Cllr Shaw reported on a meeting held with representatives from Wirsol and Conergy at their request on Wednesday 10 September. The representatives outlined the reasons for the decision to withdraw Guston 2 as being heritage issues, residential amenity concerns, the setting of the windmill, construction access and the impact from the AONB. Guston 1 had been reduced in size with a 50m border being placed between the site and the A258 to facilitate the view over the wide countryside beyond. The application will be considered by the Planning Committee on Thursday 18 September and Cllr Shaw will speak against the proposal on behalf of the Parish Council. It was noted that the officer's report recommends refusal.

Maintenance The clerk to Kingsdown Parish Council has given contact details for grass cutting and tree works. It was noted that £500 is available for the cutting of East Langdon village green and it was suggested that a final cut should be made before the winter. Mr Trevor Oku will be asked for a quotation.

Wheatsheaf Lane Planning Issues Cllr Shaw reported that he has met with the owners of the land adjacent to The Grange and visited the site. The stable block and older barn complied with a planning application made in 2000 and were being used for private use. It was agreed that no further action is required by the Parish Council.

Langdon Playing Field A local firm has been engaged to prepare plans for the new play area and to submit a planning application to DDC.

Cllr Shaw advised that the police have been made aware of the presence of men waiting in cars in the car park at night.

The Street, Martin parking issues Richard Smith has advised that KHS can only be involved in safety issues if there has been a history of accidents. Since none exists, vehicles obstructing the road must be reported to the police. Mr Smith confirmed that the owners of the concrete apron are entitled to erect bollards. It was agreed that the matter be referred to PCSO Skirrow.

Dog Waste Bin DDC have confirmed that the Parish Council can purchase and erect their own dog bin which can then be emptied at a cost of £350 p.a. . In discussion it was suggested that the cost was high and that the support of the dog trainers using the hall should be sought in the first instance.

Councillor vacancy The date for ten electors to request an election has now passed and the vacancy can be filled by co-option. It was suggested that Mr Jason Cunningham be approached.

5. **REPORTS**

County Cllr Manion Cllr Manion reported that the A258, Dover Road, will be done up following the approval of the Joint Transport Board. The closing date for this year's "You Decide" event is 10 October. The event will be held on 2 November.

District Cllr Morris Cllr Morris reported briefly on the decision to allow two new supermarkets in the Sandwich area.

6. **MEMORIAL SEAT, EAST LANGDON VILLAGE GREEN** A quotation of £760 has been received from Mr Pay to remove the seat, insert an extra section, respray and replace. In discussion the possibility was put forward of moving the seat to a smaller tree and of seeking a quotation from a second source. It was noted that the chestnut tree, although appearing healthier, is still diseased and funds are available for work to be carried out. It was also noted that an offer of a permanent Christmas tree has been made.

7. **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS** There was considerable discussion on the start time and length of meetings with a recommendation put forward that they start at 7.00pm and end at 9.00pm. It was agreed that a firm proposal be put forward at the October meeting with a view to initiating any new arrangements in the New Year.

8. **FOOTPATH ER 47** Mrs Shaw has reported that the footpath has not been marked and has not been walked sufficiently to mark the route. It was agreed that a letter will be sent to the farmer asking for the path to be marked when the crops come up.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

DDC –

i) Consultation is invited on the Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan and parishes are invited to put forward suggested sites to help reach the target of 17 additional plots by 2027.

ii) An evening for prospective new District Councillors will be held on Wednesday 6 November from 6.30 – 8.00pm at the Council Offices.

KALC - Parish News contained information on the bulk purchase of defibrillators. District Cllr Morris had earlier advised the meeting of the possible availability of a grant from the British Heart Foundation based on distance from the nearest ambulance station. It has already been agreed that quotations will be considered at the October meeting.

SOUTHERN WATER – The metering programme is now in its final year and the company will shortly return to the area to install meters that could not be fitted during the first visit.

DOVER, DEAL & DISTRICT CAB – An invitation has been received to the AGM at noon on Thursday 9 October.

HEALTHWATCH KENT – The Annual Report has been received. (*Given to Cllr B Price-Stephens*).

AIR AMBULANCE – An appeal for volunteers will be included in the next newsletter.

10. FINANCE

Report from External Auditor The External Auditor's Report for the year ending 31 March 2014 has been received. There were no matters highlighted for attention.

Approval of payments

Chq no.

873	Clerk's salary (July – September)	£503.91
	Clerk's expenses (July – September)	£ 41.68
874	Post office (PAYE July – September)	£126.00
875	Kent County Council (EiS remote back up service)	£ 57.60
876	Craigdene Ltd (Play area inspection)	£114.00
877	PKF Littlejohn (External audit)	£120.00
878	East Langdon village hall (P.O. rent 1 Apr. – 16 Sept.)	£120.00

Proposed: Cllr Craft

Seconded: Cllr B Price-Stephens

Quarterly financial report The quarterly financial report was circulated and discussed. It was noted that a new heading for section 127 payments has been added.

11. PLANNING

DECISIONS BY DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

DOV/14/00709

Proposal: Demolition of garages

Location: Garages 1-12 Westside, East Langdon, CT15 5JG

Prior approval not required

12. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Lengthman's report Cllr Minns advised that safety on Waterworks Hill continues to be an issue where posts have prohibited maintenance of the grass verge.

Playing Field Committee Burrowing bees have returned to the slide area and warning notices have been erected. There have been reports of cars being seen in the car park during the early hours of the morning and it is believed that the occupants are contributing to an increase in litter. Notices have been displayed. The annual safety inspection had just one area of medium risk namely insufficient bark at the bottom of the slide. The bark has now been topped up.

Village Hall Committee The broken window has been repaired, some new lights fitted and repairs carried out to the floor.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Agricultural Odours Cllr Minns voiced serious concerns about the intensity of the unpleasant odours this year, the length of time during which the spreading is being carried out and the effect on residents who are unable to enjoy their gardens during these periods. My Hyde advised that the industry is aware of the difficulties and that the dry weather has contributed to the unpleasantness this year. Farmers have been spreading at night so that the dew helps with the ploughing in of the waste. It was agreed that a letter will be sent to the Environmental Health Officer at DDC.

- 14. NEXT MEETING** The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 20 October 2014 in East Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed.....

Date.....