

**MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**East Langdon Village Hall**  
**19 January 2015**

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, Cllr B Price-Stephens, The Clerk, District Cllr K Morris, Community Warden G Guillou-King, PCSO K Skirrow and 5 members of the public

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** There were no declarations of interest.
2. **APOLOGIES** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Watson (work related), Cllr S Craft (emergency property repairs), County Cllr S Manion and District Cllr P Watkins.
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2014 were accepted as a true record.

**Proposed: Cllr J Dyer**  
**Seconded: Cllr C Shaw**

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Vacancy There have been no further expressions of interest.

Memorial Seat Mr Pay has been instructed to move the seat.

Church Lane West Langdon A visit from County Cllr Manion is anticipated.

Barn on west side of East Langdon Road The owner is aware of the planning condition and work on demolishing the barn has started. With reference to earlier concerns about flooding, a new gully is helping with the problem.

Defibrillator The manager of Hawthorn Farm will advise when the electricians will be on site.

5. **REPORTS**

District Councillor K Morris reported that District Cllr Watkins has made some progress regarding a replacement lamp post for Roman Road, Martin Mill.

PCSO Kerry Skirrow reported a number of traffic related calls. There have been a number of suspicious door to door callers and the PCSO advised that pedlars must have an official licence.

A member of the public questioned an increase in metal detection in the area especially in the early morning. It was agreed that Velcourt and Ledger will be contacted.

Community Warden Guillou-King reported an increase in incidents of fly-tipping with a significant number of fridges dumped in the post-Christmas period.

6. **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING**

Cllr Minns reported on the seminar that had identified county wide areas of risk including the high density of air traffic over Kent. Local risks are presented by the railway, fallen trees, snow and the loss of mains services. It was agreed that councillors are the first point of contact in the event of an emergency and that a revision of emergency planning is needed.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

### DDC –

- i) The Tree and Horticulture Officer at DDC has agreed that the diseased chestnut tree on East Langdon village green needs to be removed. The tree is cankerous and the possibility of branches breaking off is a safety risk. It was agreed that two quotations for the removal of the tree will be obtained and considered at the next meeting.
- ii) Work has now started on the construction of eight new homes in Dover's St James's development.
- iii) DDC's Cabinet has agreed to freeze parking charges across the district for the next financial year.

KCC – Consultation is being carried out until 8 April on the future delivery of library, registration and archive services in Kent. The preferred KCC option is the setting up of a Charitable Trust to deliver the LRA service.

### KALC –

- i) A transparency code for smaller authorities is expected to come into force at the end of March 2015. Initial examination of the document suggests that Langdon will only need to carry out a few minor procedural changes in order to comply.
- ii) The appropriate sum for Section 137 Expenditure has been confirmed as £7.30 for 2015/2016.
- iii) A public awareness event will be held on 21 January in the Council Chamber as part of a campaign to encourage more people to stand for election as councillors.
- iv) Parish News drew attention to Kent's Bee Plan which aims to raise public awareness of the plight of bees and their importance to our rural community.
- v) KALC and NALC have given robust responses to The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2015/16.
- vi) Nominations for the Community Awards Scheme for 2015 should be made by Friday 30 January.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION – An Electoral Review of KCC is being carried out to deliver equality for voters across the county. The review will propose a reduction in the number of County Councillors from 84 to 81 and changes in the number of divisions and division boundaries. The first round of consultation will close on 2 March 2015.

LORD LIEUTENANT OF KENT – An invitation has been received to the Annual Civic Service at Rochester Cathedral on Tuesday 10 March 2015.

CLERKS & COUNCILS DIRECT – The newsletter has been received.

PARKERS DESIGN AND PRINT – An introductory offer has been received from a team of graphic designers and print professionals in Canterbury.

## 8. FINANCE

### Approval of payments

#### Chq no.

887	Anne Snoad – Christmas Party goods	£189.56
888	Mr C Shaw – Christmas Party goods	£ 36.07
889	Mrs J Hyde – Christmas Party food	£ 17.67

### Receipts

Donation from Tristan Logan towards purchase of defibrillator	£50
Bank interest	£ 4.26

**Proposed: Cllr A Minns**  
**Seconded: Cllr B Price-Stephens**

### Budget 2014 – 2015

- i) To consider increasing the clerk's hours from 18hrs to 19hrs a month wef April 2015. The increase was agreed unanimously

**Proposed: Cllr B Price-Stephen**  
**Seconded: Cllr A Minns**

- ii) To consider the draft budget for 2015 – 2016

It was agreed that

- a) the allocation for the clerk's broadband be restored to its 2013/2014 level of £180.
- b) the budget for the audit to be raised to £360 to take account of an increase in charge arising from the additional income of the playing field grant.
- c) the budget for the playing field insurance to be increased to £1400 to cover the new equipment.
- d) a budget of £661 be allocated in the event of a contested parish council election.
- e) a budget of £250 be allocated for grass strimming in the newly planted community orchard.
- f) no allocation for PAYE admin, additional maintenance, tree works E/L and youth project

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

**Proposed: Cllr J Dyer**  
**Seconded: Cllr B Price-Stephens**

### Precept 2015 – 2016

It was agreed that the total resource requirement of £12,645 as detailed in the budget will be met by a grant from DDC of £325.10 and a precept of £12,319.90 resulting in an increase in Council Tax of 6.07%.

**Proposed: Cllr B Price-Stephens**  
**Seconded: Cllr J Dyer**

**9. PLANNING****PLANNING APPLICATIONS****Ref: DOV/14/01133**

**Proposal:** construction of 9.47 hectare pv solar farm for the production of electricity comprising solar panels set on fixed frames with associated infrastructure.

**Location:** Land at Guston Court Farm, Hangmans Lane, Guston CT15

During discussion it was noted that the area has been reduced and confined to grade 3b land. Nonetheless this is still good, productive agricultural land and the impact of an industrial installation in the rural landscape remains. The access route is unchanged and impacts on the Skylark Trail.

A vote was taken the result of which was:

In favour : 0

Against : 4

Abstentions: 0

**The council objects to the application.**

**Ref: DOV/14/01186**

**Proposal:** Erection of a combined uv water treatment and motor control building

**Location:** Martin Gorse WSW, West Langdon CT15 5JW

**The council has no objections** and comments, "During the construction period, access to the site should be via Archers Court Road and Waterworks Lane.

Reason: To protect the safety and well-being of residents."

**10. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES**

Playing Field Committee The hinges on the gate have been repaired and weekly inspections continue. Cllr Shaw reported on a helpful conversation with Maria Cook from Craigdene who is willing to act in a consultancy role to oversee the installation of the new equipment.

Village Hall Committee A quotation of £3500 + VAT has been received for the removal of asbestos from the roof.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Guest Speaker for Annual Parish Meeting It was suggested that Mr Colin Smith be invited.

**12. NEXT MEETING** The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on 16 February 2015 in East Langdon village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.53pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

