

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
East Langdon Village Hall
23 March 2015

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr S Craft, Cllr J Dyer, Cllr B Price-Stephens, The Clerk, District Cllr K Morris, PCSO K Skirrow, Community Warden G Guillou-King and 6 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, County Cllr S Manion, Cllr A Minns (unwell) and Cllr J Watson (unwell).
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2015 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr S Craft

Seconded: Cllr J Dyer

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Memorial Seat The seat has been moved.

Church Lane West Langdon County Cllr Manion will meet with Mr S Rivers of KHS on Thursday 26 March.

Allotments The water pipes have been laid and are awaiting connection. Clearing of the ground is underway.

Defibrillator The case has been installed at the reception area of the campsite. The defibrillator will be put in place when arrangements have been made for a weekly inspection.

Common Land at end of Roman Road, Martin Mill Confirmation has been received from DDC that the site has not be deleted from the category of "protected open space" in the Land Allocations Document.

Tree removal The diseased horse chestnut tree on East Langdon village green will be removed on Tuesday 7 April.

Car parking around village green The owner of the black VW is believed to live at Guilford Cottages. The chairman will suggest that it would be less intrusive if parked to the side of the green.

Car parking in Westside / use of former garage site DDC's Estate Valuation Manager expects to inspect the site in the near future and will report back.

5. **REPORTS**

District Councillor Keith Morris reported that DDC has met for the last time before the election. He went on the report on the recent Planning Committee meeting at which the Guston Court Solar Farm was approved. Cllr Morris passed on a message from County Cllr Manion that he will forward the revised highway works programme.

PCSO Skirrow reported a number of incidents in the parish; door to door salesmen in the Guston Road area, a road traffic collision on East Langdon Road and a distraction burglary at Martindale Crescent when a handbag was stolen. There have been further problems with toys being left on the pavements in Westside.

Community Warden Guillou-King reported ongoing problems with the soakaway in Lucerne Lane. Damage to the fire hydrant sign at the bottom of Guston Road will be reported.

Audit Workshop The clerk reported on the workshop that she and the Chairman attended at Lenham on 26 February. Parishes whose turnover does not exceed £25,000 are to comply with the Local Government Transparency Code from April 2015 that will replace the External Audit from 2017. The increase in Langdon's turnover created by the Playing Field grant offers exemption for two years but there are a number of measures that need to be put in place; adoption of financial regulations, publication of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and publishing of draft minutes on the website.

Meeting with DDC Planners The chairman reported on a very constructive meeting arranged by District Cllr Watkins with Mr Mike Ebbs and three planning officers attended by District Cllr Morris, Cllr Shaw and Cllr Minns. The purpose of the meeting was to improve understanding of a number of aspects of planning that have arisen in recent applications.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

DDC – Public Consultation on the Draft Kingsdown Conservation Area will run from 12 March until 23 April.

KALC -

- i) A training module “Introducing VAT and Employment Tax for Local Councils” will be held at Ditton Community Centre on 27 May.
- ii) A questionnaire has been received on Neighbourhood Planning and Community Assets.

ACRK - Oast to Coast has been received together with the Annual summary 2013 – 2014.

CLERKS & COUNCILS DIRECT – The Newsletter has been received.

KENT POLICE – The new Community Safety inspector for the Dover District has invited two representatives to a Police Parish Forum on 27 May at Whitfield Village Hall.

CAROLINE THOMAS – Toadwatch is underway and two local families have shown an interest in taking part. The signs will be taken down at the end of the season and stored at the village hall.

WHEATSHEAF LANE – A resident has expressed concern about the type of hardcore used by other residents to repair the track since it contains broken ceramics and glass that pose a danger to vehicles and animals. Cllr Dyer had inspected the site and confirmed the unsuitability of the material. In discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council is unable to become involved in the matter as Wheatsheaf Lane is a private road. It was suggested that the complainant approach the Environmental Health Officer at DDC since there are potential health and safety issues.

COAST CONSULTATION – The Coastal Access report submitted by Natural England in 2013 has been approved by the Secretary of State.

7. **FINANCE**

Approval of payments

Chq no.

891	Clerk's salary (Jan – March)	£ 570.70
	Clerk's expenses (Jan – March)	£ 70.41
	Clerk's computer allowance(2014 - 2015)	£ 110

	Clerk's broadband allowance (2014 – 2015)	£ 100
892	HM Revenue & Customs	£ 142.80
893	Cllr C Shaw (Chairman's allowance)	£ 100
	Cllr C Shaw (Newsletter printing)	£ 30.13
	Cllr C Shaw (Travel expenses KALC Audit Workshop)	£ 45.50
894	East Langdon Village Hall (P.O. support 28 weeks)	£ 140
	East Langdon Parish Hall (Grant)	£ 150
895	Langdon Playing Field Association (Grant)	£ 240
	Langdon Playing Field Association (insurance)	£1000
896	Mr M Pay (Re-housing of memorial seat)	£ 230
	<u>Receipts</u>	
	Bank interest	£ 3.51

Proposed: Cllr S Craft

Seconded: Cllr B Price-Stephens

Quarterly Finance Statement The quarterly financial statement was circulated and discussed. It was noted that there is an estimated underspend of £2094 on the 2014/15 budget. The clerk advised that careful attention should be given to spending and budgeting in 2015/16 to ensure that the reserve remains at an acceptable level.

Adoption of Financial Regulations A customised version of the NALC Model Financial Regulations had been previously circulated to members. It was noted that paragraph 11.1.f had been incorrectly modified and was amended to read, "If less than three tenders are received for contracts above £60,000 or if all the tenders are identical the council may make such arrangements as it thinks fit for procuring the goods or materials or executing the works." Subject to the amendment, it was proposed and agreed unanimously that the Financial Regulations be adopted.

Proposed: Cllr S Craft

Seconded: Cllr J Dyer

Appointment of Internal Auditor It was agreed that Mrs Julie Pamplin be invited to carry out the internal audit.

Proposed: Cllr S Craft

Seconded: Cllr J Dyer

8. PLANNING

DECISIONS BY DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

DOV/15/00024

Proposal: Erection of a detached dwelling

Location: Land adjacent to 38 Westside, East Langdon, CT15 5JG

Permission refused

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

Permission granted

9. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Lengthman The lengthman drew attention to the unacceptable amount of litter that is collecting in the verges around the parish and along Archers Court Road. It was agreed that DDC be requested to clear the area before the vegetation grows.

Playing Field Committee Cllr Shaw reported that installation of the new equipment is well underway and that extra work has been carried out by the contractors without any additional charge to the Playing Field. It is hoped that an opening ceremony can be arranged.

Village Hall Committee A new cleaner has been appointed.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Martin Vale Farmhouse Concerns expressed at earlier meetings about developments at Martin Vale have resulted in visits from Enforcement officers on three occasions. The owners took the opportunity to introduce themselves to the meeting, outline the reasons for the works and reassure members that advice had been taken and that there would be no adverse impact on the local community arising from the Health Clinic.

Market Sign It was requested that, as the market is now closed, the sign at the end of Church Lane be removed.

11. NEXT MEETING Monday 20 April at 7.00pm to be followed by the Annual Parish meeting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed.....

Date.....