

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

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns The Clerk, District Cllr K Morris and 1 member of the public

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** There were no declarations of interest
2. **APOLOGIES** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Craft (unwell), Cllr B Price-Stephens (unwell), Cllr J Watson (work commitment), County Cllr S Manion, Cllr P Watkins, Community Warden L Kidd and PCSO Skirrow
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meetings held on 21 September 2015 were carried forward to the November meeting for approval.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Martin Mill Station Project There was considerable discussion about the potential community benefit offered by the disused waiting room and disappointment at the lack of interest shown by the residents of Martin Mill.

Applause Autumn Programme It was agreed that the FB Pocket Orchestra who offer a programme of 1920s and 30s dance music be booked for either the 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

DDC monitoring information for Langdon A further update will be submitted to DDC correcting the bus information and adding the post office, defibrillator and public phone in the camp site.

Agricultural odours KALC have recommended that the matter is taken to the KALC Dover Area Committee who can then approach DDC to push along with the NFU for a more effective local strategy.

Street lighting Martin Mill District Cllr Morris advised that Paul Watkins believes that the light in Green Lane has been replaced. An answer is awaited from Mr Roger Walton.

Litter at Archer's Court Road Whitfield Parish Council have advised that they have made contact with MacDonald's and KFC and do not think it necessary to pursue the matter further at this stage. The situation remains high on the agenda and is regularly monitored.
5. **REPORTS**

District Cllr Morris advised of an imminent report on the replacement of the Dover Sports Hall. A further report will address the building of a retirement village at Whitfield. A planning application is expected from Lidl for a new store in the business park. The Department of Transport has indicated that Manston airport is no longer under consideration for operation Stack; preference is now for a site in Shepway.

PCSO Skirrow Members were disappointed to hear that PCSO Skirrow is no longer able to attend meetings due to a change in her shift patterns

Community Warden Kidd had submitted a report giving advice on a number of community health and safety issues.
6. **HEALTH AND SAFETY** It was suggested that any usage of the defibrillator should be recorded. Cllr Shaw will contact First Responders.

7. **OPERATION STACK** Mr Anthony Hyde submitted a comprehensive report on a meeting at DDC on 28 September (copy attached at Annexe A). A response to KALC's request for information was submitted based on the outcome of the meeting (Annexe B). Reference was also made to a letter sent to the Secretary of State for Transport by County Cllr Manion on behalf of KCC.
8. **CHURCH LANE WEST LANGDON** Following discussion it was proposed and agreed that a revised plan for the repair of damage and installation of six timber bollards with reflectors together with a contribution of £713 towards the cost be accepted.

**Proposed: Cllr J Dyer**  
**Seconded: Cllr A Minns**  
**Carried unanimously**

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

DDC – The Environmental Protection Officer has advised that the sign indicating that the Children's Play Area is a dog free zone is available for a contribution of £5.

KCC –

- i) A consultation on the future of four care homes in Kent, one of which is in Sandwich, will be circulated for members to comment individually.
- ii) Cllr Shaw will consider a consultation on Street Lighting and report to the next meeting.
- iii) Cllrs Shaw and Minns will prepare a response to a Highways and Transportation Survey.
- iv) Members considered the three options put forward in the Draft Budget consultation and agreed that an increase in Council Tax of up to 1.99% was the preferred choice; a higher increase with the attendant expense of a referendum is not cost effective.

KALC –

- i) A change of title for Mr Terry Martin from County Secretary to Chief Executive was noted.
- ii) Cllrs Dyer and Minns will consider a consultation into proposed changes to powers held by police staff and volunteers.
- iii) The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 21 November.
- iv) Parish News has been received and circulated. It contained an interesting article introducing a partnership between KFRS and hairdressers to help tackle growing social issues around health and lifestyle.

NALC –

- i) Cllr Shaw will prepare a response Improvement Strategy Survey (Local Councils)
- ii) Councils are invited to Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth on 14 March 2016. It was agreed that costs will be investigated and discussed at the next meeting.

ACRK- The Annual meeting will be held on 10 November 2015 at Barham Village Hall.

KCPFA – The Annual Meeting will be held on 30 October 2015.

CPRE – Kent Voice contained an interesting article on the recent display of the Faversham Magna Carta. (*Given to Cllr Minns*)

PLANTSCAPE – The availability of solar powered Christmas Trees was considered but dismissed as being too costly and inappropriate for East Langdon.

FIRST RESCUE TRAINING – The possibility is being explored of arranging a training session with other small parishes to share the cost of £450. It was noted that personnel within the community could offer training free of charge.

## 10. FINANCE

### Approval of payments

#### Chq no.

925	PKF Littlejohn LLP – external audit	£360
-----	-------------------------------------	------

#### Receipts

Bank interest	£ 1.39
---------------	--------

**Proposed: Cllr A Minns**

**Seconded: Cllr J Dyer**

## 11. PLANNING

### **DECISIONS BY DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

#### **DOV/13/01106**

**Proposal:** Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar arrays to generate electricity for export to the national grid together with transformer stations; internal access track; landscaping; fencing; access gate and associated ancillary infrastructure (Amended scheme - Reduction in site area from 22.7 hectares to 10 hectares)

**Location:** Old Engine Shed Field, Sutton Court Farm, (Land between Pineham & East Langdon

**Permission refused**

#### **DOV/15/00837**

**Proposal:** Variation of condition 10 of planning permission DOV/14/01133 (Construction of 9.47 hectare pv solar farm for the production of electricity comprising solar panels set on fixed frames with associated infrastructure, landscaping and temporary access from Dover Road) to clarify permission is for an operational period of 25 years

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

**Permission granted**

#### **DOV/15/00878**

**Proposal:** Reserved matters application pursuant to outline permission DOV/10/01010 relating to the appearance, layout and landscaping of 94no. dwellings together with garages and parking including all highway related details, sub phase 1A, phase 1, (Light Hill) Whitfield Urban Expansion

**Location:** Phase 1 & 1A, Whitfield Urban Extension (land South East of), Archers Court Road, Whitfield

**Permission granted**

**12. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES**

Lengthman The lengthman reported that potholes have now been marked for repair. A number of signposts in the parish are leaning over and in need of attention.

Playing Field Committee Cllr Shaw reported a continuing programme of maintenance including the removal of a mound of earth over the zip wire mounting.

Village Hall Committee Cllr Shaw reported that an action plan has been drawn up.

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Christmas party The village hall has been booked for Saturday 12 December. It was agreed that young mothers will be encouraged to take on the organisation of a party this year and it was noted that funds are available for hiring an entertainer if required.

**14. NEXT MEETING** Monday 16 November 7.30pm at East Langdon.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

## ANNEXE A

### **Report of the Meeting held at Dover District Council offices on September 28<sup>th</sup> 2015 to receive a briefing on Operation Stack and the Manston Option**

---

#### Speakers

Representatives from DDC, Thanet District Council, Kent Police, Highways England and Dover Harbour Board. (KCC had been invited but did not attend).

#### Invitees

Representatives from all the Town and Parish Councils likely to be affected by the Manston Option.

#### General Comments

Kent Police, Highways England and Dover Harbour Board representatives all spoke well, were realistic about the issues and fully answered questions.

#### Operation Stack

Can only be instigated if the Police and Highways England declare the situation is a Civil Emergency (i.e safety of people).

The “perfect storm” of this summer saw a peak of 7,200 lorries parked on the M20 and at one stage the authorities feared they could have 10,000 lorries which would have brought Kent’s road infrastructure to a halt. The police distributed 40,000 litres of water and 10,300 meals to stranded lorry drivers during this summer’s Operation Stack.

Stage 1 (J8 – 9) coast bound hold 2,100 lorries

Stage 2 (J8 – 11) coast bound holds 3,600 lorries

Stage 3 (J9 – 8) London bound. Only used 3 times (2 of these being this summer)

#### Dover Harbour Board

They say the Port contributes £100 billion to UK GDP.

The Port carries 60% of the freight that crosses (both ways) between UK and Europe via the Port and Eurotunnel. The Harbour Board have considerable concerns about Manston as a holding area for lorries because of its geographical position.

Following the lifting of Operation Stack on August 5<sup>th</sup>, P&O brought an additional ferry into service and the security around the Eurotunnel site at Coquelles has been significantly improved which has helped to reduce the challenges to the interruption of cross-channel services.

#### The Manston Option

This is solely to replace Stage 3 of Operation Stack.

It is a “Quick Fix” and a temporary measure brought in under a Special Development Order which expires on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Manston Airport can hold up to 4,000 lorries but Highways England will operate with less than that to allow for safe movement of traffic onto and off the airport.

The biggest challenge facing Kent Police and Highways England will be to inform and educate the transport industry and lorry drivers about how to use the Manston Option. This will be by signage, use of IT and human resources. All speakers agreed this would be a real issue. Current research of Operation Stack in use is that up to 30% of lorry drivers do not follow the existing signage!

#### Traffic Management Plan Folkestone to Dover (A20)

The current 40 mph restriction is not directly related to Operation Stack. The “trial” was set up because the high risk of adverse weather, lack of visibility ahead, queues into Dover and average recorded speed of ALL vehicles using this road exceeding 70 mph seriously increased the risk of accidents and disruption of traffic into Dover. The 40 mph restriction is considered to be the safe “stopping” distance. The trial ends in early January 2016.

#### Comments from the Floor

Why was it not compulsory for all lorry drivers to have commercial SatNavs?

Answer – Police cannot enforce. It is a matter of education.

Why are parked lorries not being moved off lay-byes, slip roads and streets into designated lorry parks?

Answer – Lack of Police and Highways Resources means that unless a highway is being obstructed no action is likely to be taken. Again it is a matter of education.

Have the Police and Highways England considered the impact and disruption around Discovery Park and Sandwich/Deal when moving lorries in convoy away from Manston and along the A256?

Answer – Yes and their modelling says although not perfect it is workable. Their risk assessment plan says that if the A256 becomes unusable they will redirect lorries back along the Thanet Way to Brenley Corner and send them down the A2 to Dover.

Several councilors including Mick Eddy, Trevor Bond and myself (on behalf of Chris) raised the serious issue of huge congestion being caused at the A258 junction with Jubilee Way and the A2 back to Whitfield Roundabout. The resultant knock-on effects for the whole area are substantial since the existing traffic use on these roads causes regular congestion and long tail-backs.

Answer – Kent Police and Highways England have not been able to model the effect that convoy of lorries coming from Manston would have but are aware that the Whitfield to Dover section is a major “pinch point”.

Who is leading the task to find a long term solution to Operation Stack? Why is a single site to create a major lorry holding area not being sought in an area close to Dover?

Answer – DDC and Thanet DC are substantially engaged with all the relevant agencies. This is a national problem but it will have to be a locally led campaign.

#### Going Forward

This is my OPINION ONLY. Given that Stage 3 (now MANSTON) has only ever been required once, before this summer, the easy option for all concerned is to go with the Manston Option and hope it is only required to be brought into play on rare occasions. The real issue is that Stages 1 and 2 cause massive local disruption and nobody appears to be tackling this. The real need is to provide a designated lorry park for up to say 6,000 lorries on a site between Ashford and Dover.

Anthony Hyde on behalf of Langdon Parish Council – 29.09.2015

### **ANNEXE B**

#### **LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL OPERATION STACK**

Following the meeting held at DDC on Monday 28 January, Langdon PC now has a clearer understanding of the issues and in particular the fact that Manston would only be used to replace Stage 3 of Operation Stack as a “Quick Fix” and a temporary measure brought in under a Special Development Order which expires on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2016. It is understood that Stage 3 has only ever been implemented on three occasions two of which were this summer. Therefore there seems little point in opposing the use of Manston but energy should be directed towards the provision of a permanent solution to Operation Stack stages 1 and 2 that cause massive local disruption which nobody appears to be tackling. The real need is to provide a designated lorry park for up to say 6,000 lorries on a site between Ashford and Dover.

In the event that Stage 3 Manston is needed, there is a serious issue of huge congestion being caused at the A258 junction with Jubilee Way and the A2 back to Whitfield Roundabout. The resultant knock-on effects for the whole area are substantial since the existing traffic on these roads causes regular congestion and long tail-backs. Local traffic would then make more use of the local network of lanes that are totally unsuited to large volumes of traffic. The chaos that ensues in Martin when traffic is diverted from the A258 following an incident is an indication of the buildup that can be expected on these narrow roads with few proper passing places. This summer there have been long delays on the A258 resulting from the tailbacks on Jubilee Way caused by the checking of individual lorries for Operation Stack tickets. The potential impact of large numbers of lorries joining from the A256 would compound this problem.