

MINUTES OF LANGDON PARISH COUNCIL
East Langdon Village Hall
15 February 2016

Present: Cllr C Shaw (Chairman), Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, Cllr J Watson, The Clerk, County Cllr S Manion, District Cllr K Morris and 3 members of the public

1. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** Non-pecuniary interest was expressed by Cllrs Shaw and Minns in agenda item 9b, grants to local organisations.
2. **APOLOGIES** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Craft (holiday), Cllr B Price-Stephens (family matters) and District Cllr P Watkins,
3. **MINUTES** The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2016 were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr A Minns
Seconded: Cllr J Watson

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Street Lighting in Martin Mill A map of street lights showing 33 in working order, 5 not working and 1 removed will be submitted to DDC

FB Pocket Orchestra Jazz Evening Cllr Shaw reported on a successful and enjoyable evening at which 77 people were present and a profit raised of £240 for village hall funds.

Gritting of Archers Court Road Mr Steve Rivers has advised that the section of road beyond Cranleigh Drive is not part of the primary salting route and cannot be added to the schedule. It was noted that a traffic survey has recently been carried out and County Cllr Manion offered to investigate the findings.

Room at Martin Mill Station A response is awaited from South Eastern Rail on the current status of the proposed project.

Speaker for Annual Parish Meeting Cllr Shaw reported on his discussions with the Gurkha regiment; a decision is yet to be received. It was suggested that a speaker on the proposals for Leisure and Recreation in the Dover area would be an interesting alternative.

Land at Roman Road The mobile home has been reported to the Enforcement Officer and the matter will be investigated.

Community Resilience and Emergency Planning At the Annual Town and Parish Councils Meeting the advice was that there is no statutory duty for a Parish to have an emergency plan but all parishes are encouraged to hold a database of their local skills, facilities and communications. The advice was to put in place appropriate measures to the location that could be called upon and not to try and operate a comprehensive programme that was beyond the ability of the Parish. A contact list will be drawn up and signs will be added to each notice board indicating the siting of the defibrillator.

5. **REPORTS**

County Cllr Manion reported on recent budgetary decisions which included a slight increase in the cost of the Young Person's Travel Card that continues to be heavily subsidised and an increase in the provision of mobile library services where a need has been demonstrated. The KCC element of Council Tax will include an increase of 1.99% plus 2% for social service costs together with a further 1.99% increase for the fire service.

District Cllr Morris reported an increase of 1.99% in DDCs council tax together with an increase of £5 in the police precept (=3.4%). Discussions with the Chief Constable about the recent riots in Dover concluded that lessons had been learned but both demonstrations had applied for permission and were within the criteria. Councils are actively discussing devolution which could lead to parish councils being offered greater powers.

KALC Committee Meeting Cllr Shaw reported on the meeting held on 27 January at which the Chief Constable spoke about the challenges facing the force and the work that is being undertaken. It was noted that PCSOs are understaffed with 24/31 officers in post. Cllr Minns reported that concerns were raised about the 101 service and the non-attendance of PCSOs at parish council meetings following a decision that their presence did not assist with the gathering of intelligence.

Annual Town and Parish Councils Meeting Mr Hyde reported on the meeting held on 18 January at which there were presentations on Keep Me Posted, a new communication system for Local Authorities, Emergency Planning and an update on District Regeneration. The report is attached at annexe A.

6. **HEALTH AND SAFETY** The lack of street light in the area of the station and on Hollands Hill continues to constitute a health and safety issue.

7. **FLY A FLAG FOR THE COMMONWEALTH** Cllr Minns will liaise with the school regarding the reading of the declaration and a message from the Commonwealth Secretary-General. The clerk will circulate details to the Press.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

DDC – An informal consultation will explore options for the provision of a district-wide “Snow Warden” scheme in time for next winter. Following discussion it was agreed that any such scheme would not be applicable to Langdon and an appropriate response to treacherous conditions will be contained in the emergency plan.

KCC – Information has been received relating to phase 2 of the MetalMatters campaign.

KALC –

i) Notice has been received of the consultation on the proposals for a Lower Thames Crossing. Cllr Minns advised that he hopes to attend an Information Event.

ii) The newsletter has been received and circulated.

KPFA The newsletter has been received.

WHITFIELD PARISH COUNCIL The council is inviting discussions on the possibility of sharing arrangements for the maintenance of grass verges and other open areas around the parish. During discussion it was agreed that Langdon is not considering taking on such responsibilities; any devolved works with their attendant employment issues need to be managed and the parish council does not have the resources to do this.

SOUTHERN WATER An update has been received on charging and billing indicating an expectation that bills will be reduced by eight percent between 2015 and 2020 before adjustments are made for inflation.

9. FINANCE

Approval of payments

Chq no.

938 Anthony Hyde – printing of Jazz Evening fliers £30.00

Receipts

Bank interest £ 1.08

Proposed: Cllr J Watson

Seconded: Cllr A Minns

Grants A grant of £250 was awarded to Langdon Playing Field Association towards the placing of permanent sign boards at the play areas.

A request from Langdon Primary School PTFA was deferred to the next meeting pending discussions with the head teacher and chairperson of the PTFA.

Financial Regulations NALC have advised that sections 1.6, 6.4 and 11 of the Model Financial Regulations have been updated. It was agreed that the amendments, having been previously circulated, be accepted and the council's Financial Regulations updated.

Proposed: Cllr J Dyer

Seconded: Cllr A Minns

9. PLANNING

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DOV16/00038

Proposal: Erection of a first floor rear extension

Location: Ingestre House, The Street, East Langdon, CT15 5JF

The council has no objections

CASE OFFICER'S REPORT

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended): Section 191

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)

(England) Order 2010

Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness (existing) for the continued use of building as a single residential dwelling

Location: Site at the former Piggery, Waterworks Hill, Martin, CT15 5H

A report from the case officer outlining the relevant sections of planning law relating to the granting of a Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development was presented to the meeting. During discussion it was agreed that the owner would appear to have taken advantage of the location with its high hedges to conceal the building. The erection of a high fence around the dwelling would seem to be a further attempt at concealment.

BUILDING CONTROL MATTERS A report has been received from Mr Martin Leggatt, Head of Assets & Building Control in response to issues raised at the previous meeting. Mr Leggatt confirmed that the building control team has been monitoring works at Kendon and that members can request information on any work for which there is no planning application. Mr Leggatt also advised that regulations are such that there is no mechanism for consultation with other parties and the administrative costs involved in

notifying councils of an application would be prohibitive and have limited beneficial outcome.

10. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Lengthman Potholes that have been reported are now marked ready for repair. Line markings around East Langdon village green are unclear and have resulted in some motorists driving the wrong way around the area.

Playing Field The “adult” swings have been taken out of use as the posts have rotted. Playdale are disputing the claim, despite a fifteen year guarantee, and have only offered to supply one replacement post.

Village Hall The roadside hedge requires cutting back as it is obscuring the carpark lights.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Burnt out car A burnt out car on Waterworks Hill has now become a dumping ground for tyres and is a potential danger. PCSO Skirrow will be asked to investigate.

12. NEXT MEETING Monday 21 March 2016 7.30pm at East Langdon.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNEXE A

Notes of Annual Town and Parish Councils meeting held at Dover District Council offices, Whitfield on January 18th 2016

Anthony Hyde represented Langdon Parish Council

There were presentations on 3 subjects:-

Keep Me Posted
Emergency Planning
District Regeneration Update

Traffic incidents at Faversham delayed my participation and I missed the first part of the “Keep Me Posted” presentation.

1. Keep Me Posted

A central government sponsored communication system for Local Authorities which DDC subscribed to and set up on December 7th 2015.

The log in details are on the DDC home page and individual councillors and others are encouraged to subscribe (no cost).

Basically a data base of all the activities that DDC are engaged in and the receiver can choose what element(s) they want to subscribe to.

DDC will have to ensure that all information is kept up-to-date. It is a one-way communication only.

Questions raised by Councillors concerned that electronic access would be the only vehicle to spread information BUT DDC reassured the meeting this was not and would not be the case. (Time will tell!!!)

2. Emergency Planning

A presentation by people from the KCC Resilience Team and DDC on all forms of Emergency Planning.

Major risk areas for DDC are The Port, The Tunnel and Flooding.

A major emergency is defined as an event/situation that threatens the operation of services and risks damage to human welfare, the environment or security of people/property.

The Law – Civil Contingencies Act 2004 is the guiding law.

The Kent Resilience Forum is a Category 1 Responder and co-ordinates National Organisations (Utility Companies, NHS, Network Rail, Highways England, Public Health England etc) and Local Organisations (The Emergency Services, Local Authorities, etc).

The Voluntary Sector is vital to Emergency Planning.

DDC is also a Category 1 Responder which means it has:-

- A fully functioning emergency centre
- Appropriately trained staff
- 24/7 emergency activation officer, incident liaison officer and a duty director.

There is no statutory duty for a Parish to have an emergency plan BUT all parishes are encouraged to hold a database of their local skills, facilities and communications. The advice was to put in place appropriate measures to the location that could be called upon and NOT to try and operate a comprehensive programme that was beyond the ability of the Parish.

3. District Regeneration Update

DDC's head of Regeneration, Tim Ingleton, gave a very upbeat report.

Job Growth -

Discovery Park now has 125 Tenants with 2400 jobs inc. 700 retained Pfizer jobs.

Multi Channel UK has relocated to Tilmanstone from China with a £12.5 million investment and the creation of 70 jobs.

The St James Development in Dover which is now imminent following the clearance of Burlington House and The County Hotel is expected to create up to 600 jobs.

The very major investment of £120 million into the Port of Dover should create a further 600 jobs.

The on-going development at Betteshanger is creating educational jobs as well as business opportunities.

The recent £9 million investment on the White Cliffs Retail Park (KFC etc) has brought new jobs.

Transport Infrastructure -

New parking for Dover Rail Station, improved roundabout and junction at the Western Heights (A20), Rapid Bus Transport to link Whitfield with Dover Town Centre are all planned.

Branding Dover -

International Reputation
Enterprise Coast
Gateway to Europe
Connectivity – Port of Dover and High Speed Trains.