

Langtoft Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 15 May 2018
at Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Andy Halfhide (Chairman), Brian Branch, Andy Hallam, Debbie Hallam, Roy Jackson, Colin Larkman, Yvonne McCulloch and Mike Thompson.

In Attendance: Julian Tatam (Clerk), District Councillor Kelham Cooke, County Councillor Barry Dobson and 10 members of the public.

137/17-18 Open Forum

The meeting began with the open forum at 7.00pm

Matters raised by members of the public included the following:

- Bowls Club: Contrary to some statements on 'Life in Langtoft', the Bowls Club has not received financial assistance and has purchased its own buildings and equipment
- Grass Cutting: The quality of the Parish Council grasscutting was good but that performed by the SKDC's contractors was not up to standard. *Cllr Kelham Cooke shared maps of the areas owned and maintained by SKDC. The grass is cut based on its height as opposed to on a specific frequency. The annual cost is in the order of £8000 which would be available to the Parish Council if they would like to take over the responsibility.*
- Grass Verges: the state of grass verges is very unsatisfactory. *The verges are owned by Lincs County Council (LCC). The Parish Council has already been in touch with LCC on the matter. They have changed their policy and will only cut verges twice, scheduled for week commencing 28 May and between 20 August and 30 September. Cllr Dobson offered to show and discuss the verges to the Highways Portfolio owner in a forthcoming village site meeting.*
- Parking opposite Aquila Way junction: cars are still parking here at night. *Clerk to contact PCSO to ask what action has been taken*
- Excessive Litter at laybys on A15: *should be reported to SKDC by the parishioner. Clerk to contact Market Deeping Town Council to establish if they lie within Langtoft or Market Deeping boundaries*
- Traffic data on the A15: is it available yet? *The Chairman stated that we are still awaiting the consent of Lincs Road Safety Partnership to place our speed monitors on the A15 and had chased them today.*
- Request for some ornamental tree planting on a grass verge to improve the amenity and hinder car parking. *The verges are owned by LCC. Clerk to make suggestion to LCC.*

The Open Forum closed at 7.35 pm.

138/17-18 Chairman's welcome and remarks

The Chairman welcomed the County and District Councillors and the members of the public present.

139/17-18 Apologies for absence

Cllr Trickey – holiday

140/17-18 Declarations of Interest

None

141/17-18 To approve the minutes of the previous meetings

The approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2018 was proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr D Hallam and agreed unanimously.

142/17-18 Report from County and District Councillors and Police

County Councillor Dobson reported that:

LCC are struggling with potholes. He is challenging the responsible officers to ensure that South Lincs gets its fair share of the funding.

The proposed 'Highways visit' to the area scheduled for 11 May has had to be postponed and is being re-arranged.

More unmarked police cars are to monitor driving on the A15.

Waste management: there are continuing problems of contamination with the wrong materials being placed in the silver bins. LCC are consulting on their proposed Waste Strategy

Footpath 5 from King Street to Towngate: a revised route has been agreed

District Councillor Cooke reported that:

SKDC are reducing the number of senior managers from 32 to 20 which should save £400,000 a year.

Some back-office functions are to be shared with Rutland CC to save costs.

They built 27 council houses in 2017 and are working to increase this number for 2018.

3700 homes are on a food waste trial (not Langtoft), with the food waste to be processed in an anaerobic digester.

Dog fouling: the dog wardens are active in the District, imposing £100 fines.

Langtoft Pavilion and path: the repairs are being pursued.

He reminded the meeting that there are various sources of funding that would contribute to a new village hall on the playing fields.

PCSO

The PCSOs submitted a written report, as had to attend a Police Panel meeting in Market Deeping. They have had a third hand report that there was a lot of anti social behaviour in Langtoft over the weekend. This included some confrontations with adults and coins and roof tiles being thrown on the bowling green, tennis courts and football pitch. They have the names of some of the youths to follow up. Residents are urged to report such incidents on 101, particularly if there is damage.

Otherwise Langtoft has been quiet; front door handles have been tried in the night at various locations across the area. They have reports of a suspicious mattress seller and fish sellers cold calling across the area, if they are seen it should be reported by calling 101.

The Enquiry Office at Deeping Police Station is open, staffed by volunteers Monday – Friday 10am-12pm.

143/17-18 Clerks Report

The Clerk's report had already been provided to the councillors, including a log of communications. Key points:

The formal offer to purchase Pocket Park has now been received.

The new gardener started on 1 April and is making a good impact on the village

The zipwire safety surface has been installed and the cable re-tensioned

There was a successful Litter Pick on 21 April collecting 20 bags of rubbish and half a ton of glass.

The financial records are ready for approval and submission to the external auditor.

Managing the workload within the allocated hours has proved impossible so far this year, currently about 50 of 'excess hours' worked since 1 January.

Has taken over the website management from Derek Risk.

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Chairman's/initials/signature.....

Derek Risk has recently retired as a Councillor. The Clerk was asked to write to express the Council's gratitude for his valuable contribution over many years.

144/17-18 Pocket Park

The formal offer from Hanson Quarry Products Europe Ltd has been received.

Following the strong support in previous public meetings, a resolution to accept the offer, subject to contract, was proposed by proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr Branch and passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about the formation of a management group. The Clerk will follow up those members of the public who expressed an interest in joining such a group.

A resolution to form a management group of Councillors and villagers was proposed by Cllr A Hallam, seconded by Cllr D Hallam and passed unanimously.

An initial informal meeting will be held with prospective group members on Tuesday 5 June.

145/17-18 Internal Audit Report for 2017 18

The report was discussed and a resolution to accept it was proposed by Cllr A Hallam, seconded by Cllr Thompson and passed unanimously.

146/17-18 Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance Statement was considered and a resolution that it be accepted and signed by the Chairman was proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr A Hallam and passed unanimously. The statement was then duly signed.

147/17-18 Annual Accountability Return

The Accounting Statements for 2017/18 was considered and a resolution that it be accepted and signed by the Chairman was proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr McCulloch and passed unanimously. The statement was then duly signed.

148/17-18 Working groups

Written reports had been provided to the Council and were discussed.

Key points follow:-

Finance and General Purposes:

The report had been provided to the Council and was discussed.

The budget for 2018/19 projects a deficit of £8000, halving the reserves.

Several areas of expenditure are to be examined to look for savings and there is an intention to eliminate the deficit on the costs of The Grapevine

Events:

Plans for the 'Meet the Councillors' event of 30 June are progressing well.

The parish walk will take place on 6th June 6 30pm, starting at the village hall.

Amenities:

The winter gritting contract will be reviewed as that for 2017/18 was not considered good value for money

The benches in East End park will be refurbished as opposed to being replaced, to save costs

149/17 -18 Suspension of Standing Orders

A motion to suspend standing orders to extend the meeting by 15 minutes was proposed by Cllr A Hallam, seconded by Cllr Larkman and passed unanimously.

150/17 -18 Finance

Year to date accounts. The accounts to 10 May had been circulated to all councillors. The balances at that date totalled £23,304 following receipt of the half year precept.

Revision of the 2019/19 budget to acknowledge deferred expenditure from last financial year
Not progressed, will wait to see how the budget works through.

Consider moving Office 365 subscription to a direct debit.

The new Office 365 monthly subscription of £9.48 (£7.90 plus VAT) is being debited to the Clerk's personal credit card. The Chairman advised that it is within the Clerk's discretion to amend the method of payment so this did not progress to a resolution.

151/17 -18 Correspondence:

Lincolnshire Waste Strategy:

Councillors were encouraged to respond to this survey personally. A response from the Council is not requested

152/17-18 Consider arrangements to advertise for replacement Councillors

Following the resignation of Derek Risk and withdrawal of David Hannen there are two vacancies. The Clerk was asked to progress with the formal process of advertising the vacancies.

153/17-18 General Data Protection Regulations

These new regulations come into effect on 25 May 2018 and will impact upon all local authorities, irrespective of size. We are required to log all personal data held.

The Clerk has prepared a questionnaire on behalf of the Council and will circulate it, inviting Councillors to add their data. He will also provide further instructions.

There is no longer a requirement to appoint an external Data Protection Officer.

154/17-18 Dates of future meetings

Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting 22 May 2019 at the Langtoft Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Next Full Council meeting: 3 July 2018 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55 pm.