

Langtoft Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9 January 2018
at Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Andy Halfhide (Chairman), Andy Hallam, Debbie Hallam, Roy Jackson, Colin Larkman, Yvonne McCulloch, Derek Risk, Mike Thompson and Lewis Trickey.

In Attendance: Julian Tatam (Clerk), District Councillors Kelham Cooke & Rosemary Trollope – Bellew, County Councillor Barry Dobson and 5 members of the public.

83/17-18 Open Forum

The meeting began with the open forum at 7.00pm

Matters raised by members of the public included the following:

- Access to the Playing Fields via Manor Close. *High vehicles are having difficulty in obtaining access to the car park to service the Bowls Club, Pre School and Playing Fields, due to the locked high level barrier. The playing fields are the property of SKDC and Amenities at SKDC Grantham office should be the contact point for access. Cllr Trickey agreed to arrange to provide the combination for the lock to the Bowls Club and Pre School.*
- Former footpath from King Street to Market Deeping. *Access to a public footpath which ran from the industrial estate on King Street through to Towngate was closed when the gravel was extracted and the route now crosses the lakes. A diversion was discussed but has not been completed. County Councillor Dobson agreed to look into it.*
- 'Pull Ins' on New Road. *The state of New Road at the Gibbs Close junction was raised. It had been reported to SKDC planning enforcement in autumn 2017. We will chase for an update and action. Cllrs Cooke and Dobson have offered to assist.*
- Traffic at The Crossroads. *A question was raised as to progress on this issue. Through Cllr Dobson we are planning a meeting of Senior LCC officers to look at the issue along the length of the A15 between Bourne and Market Deeping. The Parish Council are to collect data on traffic speeds and volumes through the crossroads at different times of the day to help to demonstrate the need.*

The Open Forum closed at 7.25 pm.

84/17-18 Chairman's welcome and remarks

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

85/17-18 Apologies for absence

Cllr Branch; illness

86/17-18 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Thompson declared that he had an interest item 6 on the agenda, the Co-Option of a Councillor, as the candidate is an immediate neighbour

87/17-18 To approve the minutes of the previous meetings

The approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2017 was proposed by Cllr Risk, seconded by Cllr A Hallam and a majority agreement (those not present at the meeting abstaining).

88/17-18 Report from County and District Councillors and Police

District Councillor Cooke reported that:

Clearing the path to the cemetery has been completed under The Big Clean project, and the spare waste bin relocated at East End Park. SKDC have also taken on emptying the waste bins at East End Park while we await a replacement gardener cleaner.

Regarding the SEA for the playing fields, a reduction in the order of 50% is anticipated for the next three years, commencing from the 2018/19 financial year. It is to be funded by running down the SEA reserve.

The revised planning application to be submitted by the Football Club for the renewal of consents for floodlights etc is still awaited. He understands that the shipping containers are likely to be removed rather than repaired.

Discussions are continuing with the Pre School regarding repair works to the pavilion.

County Councillor Dobson reported that:

The draft National Infrastructure Assessment had just been published which includes transport and broadband. He will be making representations via LCC for improvements in South Lincs.

He is chasing up a meeting for relevant interested parties to discuss the A15 traffic issues.

PCSO Michelle Laughton forwarded a report that she has been monitoring the parking issues at the end of junction of Aquila Way and Stowe Road and issued a letter to a vehicle owner. A garage on Westfield Way was broken into overnight on 3-4th December with two road bikes stolen. There were also three thefts from cars on the same evening in that area.

89/17-18 Casual Vacancy

The application from a prospective councillor was discussed by the Council.

The proposal that David Hannen be Co-Opted as a Councillor was proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr A Hallam and passed with a majority, with Cllr Thompson abstaining.

90/17-18 Clerks Report

The Clerks report had already been provided to the councillors, including a log of communications.

Key points:

We have had a response from LRSP with negative comments on the potential to use induction loops in East and West End to control the Puffin crossing signals and doubts about the ability to install full traffic lights due to a lack of space on the pavements. We will continue to pursue the topic, including collecting our own traffic data

91/17-18 Working groups

Due to the Christmas season, none of the groups had met since the last meeting.

The Chairman encouraged the groups to meet about two weeks after a full Council Meeting to allow matters to be investigated in time to bring them to the next full Council Meeting.

Events:

Christmas at The Crossroads took place on Thursday 7 December and was considered to be another success.

Amenities:

The Chairman raised the issue of the need for a storage facility for Council equipment rather than relying upon the goodwill of councillors and staff.

Action - Chairman to obtain costing for a secure container or similar for rent or purchase.

The call-out process for the gritting contractor was discussed. The contractors send an email to the Clerk, Chairman and Vice-Chairman on the morning before a proposed gritting when their weather criteria has been met. This is then to be reviewed by reference to the road conditions forecast provided by Weather Online. We will veto the gritting unless the forecast is for at least -2 C and ice on the roads.

We have had four 'grittings' to date though one has been disputed as we had sent a veto email and the contractor has agreed to issue a credit note. Therefore a cost of £930 has been incurred to date.

92/17 -18 Finance

Year to date accounts. The accounts to 31 December had been circulated to all councillors.

The current balances total £24,749.13

The budget indicated a balance of £4,536 as at 30 March but given some underspends and delay of capital items the Clerk expects that the closing balance will be in the order of £14,500.

2018 19 Precept

The budget for 2018 19 was discussed and agreed. It projects an excess of expenditure over income of about £9000 including £2000 on Pocket Park. It was agreed that this would primarily be met from the cash balances with a modest increase in the precept to cover the increased cost of gritting.

A proposal that we increase the precept by £1000 was proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Trickey and agreed on a majority.

Remembrance Day Wreathes ; a proposal that we donate £90 (based on £30 a wreath) was proposed by Cllr Trickey and seconded by Cllr Risk and agreed unanimously.

93/17-18 Gardener Cleaner

There was a discussion on the process to replace the recently retired Gardener.

The Clerk is to place advertisements in The Deepings Advertiser, Village Advertiser, Grapevine, Parish Website and on our Noticeboards. Cllr Trickey offered to place it on 'Life in Langtoft'

The current job description was circulated and the Clerk requested any proposed alterations to be sent to him by Friday 19 January.

94/17-18 Review of Ongoing Action Points

The action points were circulated and discussed briefly.

The list is considerably shorter than of late and in future will be monitored by the Clerk with updates to be added into the Clerk's report.

95/17-18 Pocket Park

We understand that LCC are close to signing off the restoration conditions for Pocket Park, in which case the site will shortly be offered to the Council.

The committee room has been booked for 23 January for an Amenities Group meeting with the sole purpose of discussing the project. All Councillors are invited to attend.

The Clerk undertook to collate an estimate of costs for conveyancing, insurance, mowing and fencing, prior to that meeting.

96/17-18 Correspondence

The wording of a response to the request from LCC for a 'wish list' of road improvements was discussed. For Langtoft this will cover the need for full traffic lights at the A15 crossroads.

As a supplementary we support the need for a crossing for the mainline railway at Tallington as additional traffic passes through Langtoft to avoid the delays at the crossing.

97/17-18 Review and Authorisation of orders for repair and maintenance

Quotations to repair and replace the safety surface under the Zipwire at East End Park were discussed. It was concluded that further information is required before a decision can be made.

The Clerk is to obtain further details on the of the warranties and likely longevity of the different surfaces.

98/17-18 Resolution to exclude the press and public to deal with matters of a confidential nature and Suspension of Standing Orders

There was a motion to exclude the press and public and to suspend standing orders to add a further 10 minutes to the meeting to allow the remaining agenda items to be considered.

Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr A Hallam and agreed unanimously

99/17-18 Staff Matters

There was a discussion about the Clerks contract and his performance.

A motion to reduce the probationary period to 6 months (from 12 months) was proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Trickey and passed unanimously.

100/17-18 Dates of future meetings

Next Council meeting: 20 February 2018.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.