

## **Langtoft Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16 October 2018 at Langtoft Village Hall**

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

**In Attendance:** Julian Tatam (Clerk), County Councillor Barry Dobson, District Councillor Kelham Cooke, and 5 members of the public.

#### **41/18-19 Open Forum**

The meeting began with the open forum at 7.05pm

Matters raised by members of the public included the following:

- A15 Crossroads: what progress on further meeting and comment that filter lanes are dangerous when pedestrian lights are red. *There is to be a meeting including LCC highways and two local MPs during October – will pick it up then.*
- Puddles at the A15 crossroads: *has been logged and will be highlighted at next site visit.*
- Potholes outside village hall: could have been included in the recent resurfacing. *Residents are advised to report on the LCC website 'FixMyStreet'.*
- Parking on grass verges in Truesdale Gardens and West End. *This land belongs to LCC and the issue will be raised with Highways by C Cllr Dobson.*
- East End Pond: update requested. *Item on agenda for discussion later in the meeting.*

The Open Forum closed at 7.35 pm.

#### **42/18-19 Chairman's welcome and remarks**

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

#### **43/18-19 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Trickey: holiday. Cllr Brown: another meeting

#### **44/18-19 Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **45/18-19 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were not approved as the discussion on East End Pond was not recorded. They will be revised and considered again at the next council meeting.

#### **46/18-19 Report from County and District Councillors and Police**

County Councillor Dobson reported that:

Keith Ireland has been appointed as LCC CEO. He is dynamic and has a good track record.

LCC are promoting higher level apprenticeships within the County as an alternative to attending university.

There is to be a further meeting on road issues later in October, to include Highways and MPs.

LCC are looking into the impact of Brexit on agriculture in the County.

District Councillor Cooke reported that:

A meeting of all stakeholders involved in the playing fields and pavilion has taken place, with a view to replacing the buildings. No new leases will be agreed until current issues resolved.

Environment SK (a company owned by SKDC) will take over grass-mowing contracts next April. It will also be responsible for the 'Big Clean'.

A £2m grant has been obtained from Lincs LEP for a new skills training centre in Grantham. SKDC are joining with Burghley Estate to develop a 30 acre site (including the former Cummins site), primarily for commercial premises.

There are still funds available for small local projects.

There was no police representative present though the Chairman read out their written report: Since the last meeting there has been one burglary on King Street, one report of hare coursing and issues with youths after a house party on Bourne Road. Although there have not been many reported incidents in Langtoft there have been a number of reported burglaries in the Greatford and Witham areas so we are advising people to ensure houses and any outbuildings are secure. The PCSOs will continue to carry out patrols during the day and in the evenings to show a presence and keep an eye out for any suspicious activity.

A rising issue we are having in all areas is a range of scam phone calls; the main one being reported currently is that a phone call is received saying that the person has a lawsuit filed against them or they have a warrant out for their arrest and they are given a phone number to call immediately. If the recipient then does ring this number they are charged a large sum of money through their phone bill. Most people who have reported this have realised it is a scam but some have felt intimidated enough to call the number back and lost a lot of money.

#### **47/18-19 Clerks Report**

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

The external audit has been received with no issues raised.

On-line banking; the policy is to have 2 signatories to approve all payments. There was a lapse in Aug/Sept as new signatories were added to the accounts and a small number of payments were accepted by the bank with just one signatory. This was addressed and corrected as soon as the Clerk became aware.

Grass cutting has now been resumed.

Quotations are being obtained for the grass-cutting contracts for 2019, to include taking over the areas from LCC and SKDC.

The Council has received a claim for subsidence damage to a neighbour, allegedly caused by trees in East End Park. This was challenged by the Council, citing the low-level farming for impacting the water table and that contention was supported by our insurer's loss adjuster. We are considering some pruning of trees to avoid any potential future problem.

#### **48/18-19 Working groups**

##### **Finance and General Purposes:**

The report was circulated to the Councillors. Key points:

The External Audit had been returned from the Auditor with no adverse comments, in fact contrary to previous years, the comments are positive....

Under section 3 the Auditor remarks "We certify that we have completed our review of sections 1&2 of the annual governance and accountability return, and discharge our responsibilities under the local audit and accountability act 2014, for the year ending 31st March 2018" .. A clean bill of health.

The Internal Auditor has resigned as she is moving away. The Clerk is seeking some candidates.

The balances as are per the finance report (49/18-19 below)

Further cost saving initiatives are being considered.

The 2019 - 20 budget will be considered at the next full Council meeting and groups should submit their bids by 18<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Events & Cemetery:**

The Memorial Bench is to be dedicated on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Three wreaths should be ordered for 11 November.

The parish have been offered a Christmas tree by a resident. The Clerk is to follow this up.

Christmas Crossroads to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, to be followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Waggon and Horses.

Christmas cards are being ordered as in previous years.

#### **Amenities:**

The group expressed thanks to Murdoch McCulloch and Alfie Stevenson for painting the benches in the cemetery and West End. Also thanks to Alan Jeffs, Liz Jarman and Julian Tatam for their work on tidying Black Bull Pond.

Quotations are being obtained for tree reduction at East End Park and for clearing the pond.

Quotations are being obtained from LMR and others for road gritting for the 2018 19 winter, including for a reduced area given the pressure on the Council's budget.

#### **Penfield Nature Reserve (Pocket Park):**

There have been two further meetings of the management group.

The condition of fences and paths plus access for machinery and the rabbit damage need to be resolved before the ownership is transferred.

Proposals for the initial signage had been circulated to the Council, were discussed and received support as the anticipated cost is well within the budget.

#### **49/18-19 Finance**

**Year to date accounts.** The accounts to 11 October had been circulated to all councillors, including all transactions to date.

The balances at that date totalled £28,471.38cr, following receipt of the second half of the precept.

The transactions to 30 September will be loaded onto the Council's website.

Expenditure to date of £13,045 is behind the 6 monthly run rate of £15,800 but there have not yet been any payments for grass-cutting, gritting and pocket park.

The annual budget still projects a deficit of £8000, halving the year end reserves to £8000.

#### **50/18-19 Correspondence:**

##### **Langtoft Festival 2019:**

Liz Jarman outlined her plans for the festival which is to take place on 13 July 2019 at the playing fields. She requested a letter of support to be part of her application for funding from SKDC.

A proposal that the Council provide a letter of support was proposed by Cllr D Hallam, seconded by Cllr A Hallam and agreed unanimously.

##### **SKDC Planning Policy Consultation:**

A consultation document has been received and reviewed. The proposals are considered satisfactory with the exception of notifications on tree preservation order. The Clerk was instructed to respond that parishes should be consulted in this matter, rather than just informed of the result.

### **LCC Winter self help and mutual aid scheme**

The Council has received an invitation to join this scheme, under which we would be provided with two tons of salt for treatment of paths and roads etc. After a full discussion it was decided that we would not join the scheme as we do not have storage for the salt or manpower to spread it. We will press for our salt bins to be filled by LCC.

### **51/18-19 Council Administration**

Proposal to form a separate group to review cemetery procedures.

The Clerk, Cllrs Brogan, D Hallam, A Hallam, and Branch volunteered to join this group. Cllr Trickey will be invited to join this group on his return from holiday.

Proposal to form a separate Grapevine advisory group.

The Chairman, Cllr D Hallam, Jeannette Pearson (Editor) and the Clerk will form a group to advise on Grapevine policy.

Proposal to amend the Council's representative on the Hyde and Mossop Charity. A proposal that Cllr Brogan replaces Cllr Trickey on the Hyde and Mossop charity was proposed by Cllr Halfhide, seconded by Cllr Jackson and agreed unanimously

### **52/18-19 Other Matters**

Pond in East End Park:

The condition of the pond was discussed again. Quotations to clear the vegetation are being obtained. Due to the likely presence of newts, a further environmental study is required and work can only take place during November and December.

Storage of Gardener's equipment:

At present the gardener stores the lawnmower at his home but this requires it being lifted into a vehicle to be transported to and from the cemetery. This is arduous as it weighs 37kg and a store at the cemetery would be a potential solution.

However as that could be unsightly and may be subject to theft the Clerk was asked to investigate a lighter replacement lawnmower or ramps to move the mower into a vehicle.

### **53/18-19 Dates of future meetings**

Next Full Council meeting: Tuesday 27 November 2018 at Langtoft Village Hall at 7.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.37 pm.