

Langtoft Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 September 2018 at Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Andy Halfhide (Chairman), Brian Branch, Angela Brogan, Andy Hallam, Debbie Hallam, Roy Jackson, Yvonne McCulloch, and Lewis Trickey.

In Attendance: Derek Patience (Acting Clerk), County Councillor Barry Dobson, District Councillors Rosemary Trollope – Bellew & Kelham Cooke, and 10 members of the public.

Prior to the meeting Councillors interviewed two applicants for the vacant position on the Council, Brian Brown & Liz Jarman

26/18-19 Open Forum

The meeting began with the open forum at 7.05pm

Matters raised by members of the public included the following:

- Back Lane: ongoing issues over which LPC has no control, including cones and garage misuse. *Item on agenda for discussion later in the meeting.*
- Cross Roads: update requested. *Report on recent meeting with Highways on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting*
- Langtoft Festival 2019: Liz Jarman reported the formation of a working committee to get this off the ground, and asked for PC representation on this. *Chairman will seek volunteer to join committee.*
- Dogs: filled poop bags being left hanging from litter bin brackets in Hyde Gardens are becoming a problem – do we have a dog warden? *DC Kelham Cooke reported that the SKDC dog wardens have large areas to cover and try to visit each location as regularly as possible. They have restricted powers, and need to actually catch offenders failing to pick up. He also agreed to provide additional black litter bins for Hyde Gardens and Black Bull Green to replace the dog bins.*
- Langtoft FC: have done some painting to the pavilion. Sponsorship for defibrillator has been found, to include required heated cabinet. Given on condition that FC holds CPR courses for residents. *Chairman offered thanks to club for its efforts in this direction.*

The Open Forum closed at 7.35 pm.

27/18-19 Chairman's welcome and remarks

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

28/18-19 Apologies for absence

Cllr Thompson: holiday. Cllr Larkman: no news

29/18-19 Declarations of Interest

Cllr McCulloch: Back Lane

30/18-19 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

The approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd. July 2018 was proposed by Cllr Trickey, seconded by Cllr Jackson and agreed unanimously.

31/18-19 Report from County and District Councillors and Police

The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting with Highways and other agencies had been held on 2nd. August with the general remit of safety on the A15. There had been opportunities for each community to discuss its local issues, and included lively debate on the Cross Roads. The possibility of average speed cameras being installed brought favourable comments, and LCC is to carry out a survey as to whether there is physically sufficient room to install traffic lights. There had been no Highways representative at the meeting, however.

County Councillor Dobson reported that another meeting had already been arranged, at which hopefully Highways will be present, and he will be actively pursuing this matter forward.

District Councillor Cooke reported that:

A meeting of all stakeholders has been arranged for 18th. September to discuss the playing fields fully. The Football Club wishes to take a lease on part of the field, and it is hoped that the meeting will look at fund-raising possibilities for a new community centre for use by all parties. Grants are available; it needs investigating.

There was no Police report in the absence of a police representative though they submitted the following written report:

Considering we have had the school holidays there have been few incidents reported. During July and August there have been four incidents of suspicious circumstances reported, but no evidence to suggest that there has been any wrongdoing. There has been one incident of criminal damage, where a garden fence was damaged overnight.

In other areas there has been an increase in reports of possible scam phone calls. The latest scam is people being called and told that a civil action is being taken against them or that they have committed a crime and giving a number to ring. It is likely that ringing this number will create a large phone bill so anyone who receives a call like this should not respond but report it to Action Fraud.

32/18-19 Clerks Report

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

Grass cutting had been suspended during recent dry weather. Chairman commented that this would produce a saving over the year. Cutting has now been resumed.

Bull Pond needs clearing now that the trees have been cut back.

33/18-19 Dogs

Discussed earlier in the meeting under Open Forum.

34/18-19 Working groups

Finance and General Purposes:

The group has not met since the last meeting – the audit report is still awaited, and a meeting will be arranged as soon as it is received.

Events & Cemetery:

The Memorial Bench is to be inaugurated on 11th November. A working party is needed to remove old bench and install the new one by the end of October. The Chairman suggested that the old bench could be kept for eventual installation in Pocket Park. Cllr A Hallam agreed to store it in his

garage. All benches in the cemetery have been painted. Christmas Crossroads to be held on 6th December.

Amenities:

Grass cutting: quotes are being obtained for this to be undertaken by PC. DC Cooke confirmed that the District Council offer still stands, even though it is terminating its contract with Glendale next April and a new contractor found. The DC will continue to undertake grass cutting if required, and costs will not be significantly different from present.

Quotes are also being sought from LMR for winter road gritting.

The poor state of the pond at East End Park was discussed at length. The vegetation in the pond is overgrown and it was agreed that quotes are obtained to clear the pond, including from LMR and John Cleeve.

Pocket Park:

There has been an initial meeting of the management group. The group had recommended that the area should be renamed Pen Field Nature Reserve, to reflect that it is a nature reserve rather than a public park.

Name: Cllr Trickey proposed, seconded Cllr. Jackson, that the recommended name should be adopted. All in favour

Horses ban: Cllr Trickey proposed, Cllr Brogan seconded, that horses should be banned. All in favour.

Fishing Ban: It was suggested that this issue should be re-examined by the group in order to redefine the terms. It was felt that organised fishing groups, etc. should be banned, but casual fishing by residents could be allowed.

Cycling ban: Cllr Trickey proposed, Cllr. A Hallam seconded that cycling within the reserve should be banned. All in favour.

Notice Boards: Chairman proposed, Cllr Trickey seconded that the management group should be asked to have basic notice boards ready for installation as soon as the formalities have been completed.

35/18-19 Finance

Year to date accounts. The accounts to 25 August had been circulated to all councillors, including all transactions to date.

The balances at that date totalled £20,396.45 cr.

36/18-19 Pocket Park

Appointment of signatories for legal documentation: Cllr Trickey proposed, Cllr A Hallam seconded, that the Chairman and the Clerk, as Responsible Finance Officer, should sign the documentation on behalf of the Council.

Gates and Security: the Management Group will be dealing with this.

37/18-19 Correspondence:

Defibrillator request for funding: This had now been covered by sponsorship.

Back Lane – access for residents: The Chairman had visited two residents to set out the PC's position. Nothing further to add; it is in the hands of LCC Highways.

Langtoft Festival: The Chairman felt that a formal appointment of a representative to the working group was not necessary. Any councillor wishing to get involved could do so. He suggested that Liz Jarman should be invited to the next meeting to outline plans.

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

The Chairman read out a letter from a resident, raising a number of issues about the A15, and the Clerk is asked to take action on various points:

Item 2 'Open sewer' in dyke on A15 – chase up this problem with Anglian Water.

Item 3 – request that Highways to look at the issue of rabbit burrows undermining the path

Item 4 – ask Highways about providing litter bins on the laybys on A1.

Item 5 --thick white lines on footpaths – ask Highways for clarification on what these actually denote.

38/18-19 Communication

The Chairman reported that lack of response to the Clerk's emails to councillors was proving a difficulty.

Planning Responses: Councillors were urged to respond to all planning email requests, even if it was a "no comment".

General Communication: Councillors complained that many emails from the clerk were being classified as spam, and weren't always seen. The Chairman agreed that the 1&1 server was not ideal, and he was looking to take on a new provider. There would be no additional costs incurred.

Tithe Farm Mineral Extraction Planning application: There followed brief discussion on this revised application, which is not within the parish. Then Chairman suggested that the Clerk should contact Planning Dept to enquire whether the parish could comment on the revised application.

39/18-19 Resolution to exclude press and public to deal with matters of a confidential nature

This was adopted on proposal of Cllr A.Hallam, seconded Cllr Jackson. All in favour

Review of Pay Rates: the Clerk had submitted details of increases in NJC rates which took effect in April 2018. The Chairman proposed, second Cllr Trickey, all in favour, that employees pay should be increased in line with these.

Cllr A Hallam proposed, seconded Cllr Jackson Standing Orders should be suspended from this point. All in favour.

Councillors discussed the interviews carried out earlier in the evening and made their selection by show of hands. The Chairman will advise the successful applicant of their selection.

Dates of future meetings

Next Full Council meeting: Tuesday 16 October 2018 at Langtoft Village Hall at 7.00pm

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