

Langtoft Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 27 March 2018
at Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Andy Halfhide (Chairman), Brian Branch, Andy Hallam, Debbie Hallam, Roy Jackson, 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, PCSOs Michelle Laughton & Rowena Everitt and 6 members of the public.

121/17-18 Open Forum

The meeting began with the open forum at 7.00pm

Matters raised by members of the public included the following:

- Speeding: Should we provide volunteers to operate mobile speed cameras? *The Chairman expressed unwillingness to be involved due to abuse from the public. The scheme was opposed by the Lincolnshire Police Chief Constable, partly due to the likely abuse and the speedwatch warning signs were offered in Lincolnshire instead. The new Chief Constable would like to introduce it with suitably trained members of the public to be accompanied by a PCSO. We will await further information.*
- Traffic at the Crossroads: *Concern raised about cars exiting West End turning right onto the A15 not looking for traffic turning right into East End from the A15, especially when the traffic lights have turned red. It is a reflection of the frustration about the difficulty in joining the A15 resulting in dangerous driving. PCSO suggested that the registration number is reported via 101. County Cllr Barry Dobson confirmed that there is to be a site meeting in May with seniors members of LCC plus the Police and Crime Commissioner with representatives from the Parish Councils of Northorpe, Thurlby, Baston and Langtoft to look at the traffic issues on the A15*
- Council meetings excluding the press and public – why and what was discussed? *These are purely to discuss confidential staff matters. The output of the meeting is published.*
- Use of Back Lane between Hyde Gardens and the A15. *This is still being used as a rat run, especially at school leaving time, despite being only for access. The road is very potholed as result. The Parish Council is in discussion with LCC about a barrier to stop through motor traffic.*
- Planning application for 35 Houses at Stowe Road – has it been approved? *It has not yet gone to planning. The new electricity sub-station on the site is to reinforce the network and support the existing planning consent for 6 houses.*
- New PCSO. *PCSO Michelle Laughton introduced her new colleague Rowena Everitt who is undergoing a period of training. Thereafter she will work on opposite shifts to Ms Laughton.*

The Open Forum closed at 7.30 pm.

122/17-18 Chairman's welcome and remarks

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

123/17-18 Apologies for absence

Cllr Hannen – work commitments. No news from Cllr Larkman

124/17-18 Declarations of Interest

None

125/17-18 To approve the minutes of the previous meetings

The approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2018 was proposed by Cllr Trickey, seconded by Cllr Risk and a majority agreement (those not present at that meeting abstaining).

The approval of the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 14th March 2018 was proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Jackson and agreed unanimously.

126/17-18 Report from County and District Councillors and Police

District Councillor Trollope-Bellew reported that:

She thanked the Council for the invitation to the recent Pocket Park meeting and wished the village well with the project.

Each Ward Councillor has been granted £1000 to support projects for local groups with effect from 1 April. Applications welcome.

District Councillor Cooke reported that:

The SKDC budget has now been set, with a £5 increase on band D properties. The Langtoft SEA has been reduced by just under 50%, hopefully to be held for the next three years.

SKDC have helped other villages to develop new village halls and he believes there is potential on the playing fields.

They are looking for a site for a new leisure centre for Market Deeping. The Bourne Leisure Centre is becoming very tired and will be in need of replacement in due course.

The refuse bin collections were suspended during the recent snow due to safety concerns, the staff being deployed to snow clearing in the local towns.

SKDC has a share (with two other Districts) of a £1m East of England grant to develop a tourist route.

County Councillor Dobson reported that:

The Chief Exec of LCC has resigned after 12 years of service and his deputy has taken over in the short term.

The passing places at New Road are being looked into.

LCC is suggesting that parish and town councils might adopt street lights. Conversion to LEDs with smarter controls is also being considered.

127/17-18 Clerks Report

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

Key points:

Work had included re-arranging the public meeting on Pocket Park, representing the council at a South Lincolnshire Fenland Partnership meeting and a Western Power Distribution meeting.

Attended a useful training course on VAT for parish councils.

Arranged the interview process for the replacement gardener cleaner and the subsequent meeting to confirm the appointment.

Negotiated a cost reduction on the zipwire safety surface and confirmed the order. The work is due to commence on 28 March, ready for the Easter school holidays.

Research on the new General Data Protection Regulations and bringing forward recommendations to this meeting.

128/17-18 Working groups

Finance and General Purposes:

No report as the group has been unable to meet.

Events:

A motion to change the exclusive right of burial in a plot from 20 years to 100 years was proposed by Cllr D Hallam, seconded by Cllr Trickey and passed unanimously.

A recommendation that the Council consider purchasing a new bench to replace the worn-out bench situated close to the former telephone box was discussed. It would be used to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One. Cllr D Hallam agreed to check the archive regarding the ownership of the existing bench (possibly the Royal British Legion). A motion to spend a maximum of £500 for a replacement bench with an appropriate name plate was proposed by Cllr Trickey, seconded by Cllr McCulloch. The motion was passed, 7 for and 2 (Cllrs Halfhide and Jackson) against.

Regarding the RAF war grave, Cllr Thompson has written to 206 Squadron asking that they fund the renovation of the wording. He will chase up for a response.

Plans are well in place for the next 'Meet the Councillors' day on 30 June

The bus shelter has not been cleaned in the past few months. Cllr D Hallam agreed to speak to the contractor.

Amenities:

No report

129/17 -18 Finance

Year to date accounts. The accounts to 20 March had been circulated to all councillors.

The current balances total £18,610.

Outstanding payments to be settled by 31 March total £2400 so a year end closing balance of £16,210 is anticipated.

While this is £22 better than the opening balance, it should be noted that £3220 (plus VAT) has been committed for the zipwire safety surface improvement with the work commencing on 28 March.

Audit of 2017-18 accounts

The Council turnover will be just under the £25,000 limit which triggers an automatic audit.

Given that the Clerk has changed in the past 12 months, the Council agreed that a voluntary external audit (known as a Limited Assurance Review) should be undertaken at a cost of £200. Proposed by Cllr A Hallam, Seconded Cllr Jackson and agreed unanimously

Monitoring of Invoices

The Council has recently been served with two old invoices relating to grass cutting. It agreed to pay one but the other was cancelled.

As a result, the Clerk will set up a system to monitor for the receipt and settlement of regular invoices and also for one off purchases.

Cemetery Fees

The cemetery fees have not been reviewed since 2008. They are lower than other fees in the locality with some councils charging considerably more.

The Clerk presented some data which indicated that there is a net cost in the order of £3000 a year for running the cemetery.

A motion that we increase the current fees by 100% with effect from 1 April was proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr Branch and passed unanimously. The Clerk to have some discretion regarding ongoing cases.

At present we do not charge for the interment of ashes in an occupied grave. This is out of line with other charges and local cemeteries. A motion that we charge £30 for the interment of ashes in an occupied grave (w.e.f. 1 April) was proposed by Cllr Trickey, seconded by Cllr A Hallam and passed unanimously.

Consider request for grant to village hall

The Council has received a request for a grant towards the £6000 cost of replacing the floor in the village hall. Following a discussion of the level of reserves of the Langtoft Village Hall Management Committee and its other fundraising activities, the Council agreed to defer the decision until later in the year. It will reconsider the request later in the year if LVHMC is short of funds and decides to re-approach the Council. It was noted that the 2018-19 Parish Council budget is projecting a deficit so there is limited funding available to support such requests.

130/17 -18 Correspondence:

Royal British Legion:

Request that we join the 'Silent Soldier Campaign' by purchasing a silhouette at a cost of £250. While the Council are supportive of the commemoration, it did not feel able to commit funds given the agreement to purchase a bench (agenda item 128/17-18). A motion to decline the request was proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Trickey and passed unanimously.

Access to the Council Website:

The Council has received a request to allow Langtoft Village Hall to have access to the site to manage a number of pages promoting the Hall. After a discussion it was decided that we decline the request as it is not possible to limit their access to certain parts of the site which raises potential data protection issues. The functionality of the website is also limited. The Council would be happy to place a link on the website to connect to a Village Hall website, should they decide to set up their own.

131/17-18 Pocket Park

There was a good attendance at the recent Pocket Park public meeting.

The Clerk will follow up those members of the public who expressed an interest in joining the committee of a working party.

We await the formal offer from Hanson Aggregates Ltd.

132/17-18 General Data Protection Regulations

These new regulations come into effect on 25 May 2018 and will impact upon all local authorities, irrespective of size.

There was a discussion of the requirements which include logging all personal data that is held and obtaining consents from the owners of that data as to how we can use it in future.

The Clerk will circulate a data questionnaire to be completed by Councillors and compile a log of the centrally held data on the Council laptop.

We will also be required to appoint a Data Protection Officer who cannot be a Councillor or employee of the Council.

133/17-18 Review and Authorisation of orders for repair and maintenance work:

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

Repair of Fallen Headstone in the cemetery.

There is a fallen headstone in the cemetery and the Council have been unable to trace any members of the family to ask for it to be repaired. A verbal quotation of about £220 has been obtained. A written quotation will be obtained.

A motion that the Council fund the headstone repair up to £250 was proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr A Hallam and agreed unanimously.

134/17-18 Bull Pond

The trees on the bank of Bull Pond have not been maintained for many years and are becoming dangerous. The Clerk was instructed to write to the owner, Abbey Homes Developments Ltd requesting that they take action.

135/17-18 Litter Pick

The afternoon of Saturday 21st April was chosen for a litter pick through the village, utilising the support of the football club. The Clerk to contact SKDC to organise borrowing the relevant equipment.

136/17-18 Dates of future meetings

Next Full Council meeting: 15 May 2018.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.