

Langtoft Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 27 June 2017 at Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Andy Halfhide (Chairman), Debbie Hallam, Yvonne McCulloch, Lewis Trickey, Mike Thompson, Colin Larkman & Derek Risk (Notes)

In Attendance: District Councillors Kelham Cooke & Rosemary Woolley, County Councillor Barry Dobson and three members of the public.

12/17-18 Open Forum

The meeting began with the open forum at 7.05pm

Questions asked and matters raised by members of the public included the following:

- Progress on the SEA discussions. *A meeting with SKDC officials was being arranged . See also later agenda item.*
- Grapevine advert income in 2015/16. *The Council decision, after due consideration, not to pursue this issue further was recorded in the minutes of the meeting of 10 January 2017.*
- Publication of detailed internal audit reports. *These are discussed at Council meeting and previously have been made available on request but Council will consider best way of publishing these in future.*
- Playing Fields. *A view was expressed by one member of the open forum that the Council should accept the status quo of the current arrangements. The Council intended to pursue current issues with the playing fields and the SEA.*
- Private fencing close to corner of Aquila Way and Stowe Road: *The Chairman said that he had been advised that LCC were still pursuing the enforcement action.*
- Stowe Road land drain by Truesdale Gardens. *It was noted that the appearance of the banks after recent weed clearance had been much improved compared to previous occasions.*
- Street Lighting. *The different treatment of the night time hours for street lighting managed by SKDC & LCC was again raised. County Councillor Dobson explained that LCC had made significant cost savings from the policy but agreed to obtain more details of the alternatives considered.*

The Open Forum closed at 7.35 pm.

13/17-18 Chairman's welcome and remarks

The Chairman welcomed the new County Councillor Barry Dobson, the District Councillors and the members of the public present.

14/17-18 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Roy Jackson and Andy Hallam who was expected later.

15/17-18 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

16/17-18 To approve the minutes of the previous meetings

The approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2017 was proposed by Cllr Risk, seconded by Cllr D Hallam and agreed unanimously with one minor amendment.

The approval of the minutes of the annual meeting held on 23 May 2017 was proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr McCulloch and agreed unanimously with one correction to the item on the election of the chairman.

The record of the Annual Parish Meeting was noted with a correction to the recorded date

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

District Councillor Cooke advised that a new Chief Executive had been appointed and would be visiting locations around the district and would be encouraged to see the Langtoft Playing Fields. He also gave more details of the Big Clean programme which was to improve the general appearance of the streets and would include the replacement dilapidated SKDC owned street furniture like waste bins. He encouraged the Parish Council to report any items that needed replacing in Langtoft.

District Councillor Woolley reported that the new local plan would be published on the SKDC website on 3 July and that there would be exhibitions at Deeping on 12 July and Bourne on 20 July.

County Councillor Dobson said it was an honour to be elected for the Deepings East ward and gave details of his responsibilities on the county council. The clerk would circulate a copy of his briefing note and contact details to all councillors.

The Chairman asked Councillor Dobson if he could assist with getting a date for the road re-surfacing at the A15 crossroads which had been due this summer but now appears to have been delayed.

18/17-18. The council resolved to move the agenda item on the new clerk to the end of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Risk, seconded by Cllr Trickey and agreed unanimously.

19/17-18 Finance The accounts up to 26 June had been circulated to all councillors and there were no significant variances from budget. The annual return had been submitted to the external auditors at the beginning of June and the notice of public rights had been published on website on 11 June and runs till third week of July.

20/17-18 Review of Risk Register A discussion draft been circulated to all councillors and it was agreed that any further comments should be forwarded to Cllr Risk so that a final version could be approved at the 5 September meeting.

21/17-18 Meet the Councillors Event. It was confirmed that this would be on 22 July from 10am to 2pm As well as the history presentation other organisations that have agreed to attend include LAGA, the Bowls Club, Langtoft WI. A poster had been prepared for the notice boards and it was agreed that a flyer would be printed for a leaflet drop to all households in the village at a cost of £30 to come from the Events budget.

22/17-18 Playing Fields

Richards Wyles had agreed to attend a meeting with the Council and Councillor Cooke agreed to try to arrange it one evening in the week commencing 10 July. A site visit would be useful and a list of the main items for discussion would be prepared and sent to Richard Wyles before the meeting.

23/17-18 Review of Ongoing Action Points

It was agreed that Cllr Jackson would be asked to continue to follow-up progress on Pocket Park.

The Council had been advised that due cost reduction changes at LCC the annual highways walk round the village with councillors would cease. Each issue would now have to be raised separately through the LCC new highways issue control process. The council would look at how best to deal with this new arrangement.

24/17-18 Review and Authorisation of Orders for Repair and Maintenance. The order to re-instate the fence at East End Park had been placed and the work should be done in July. The specification for the pruning of the trees around the perimeter of the park needed amendment and would be updated for the work to be completed in the autumn.

25/17-18 Planning Applications. The Council had no comments to raise on the recent applications listed in the agenda and the acting clerk would be asked to reply to SKDC

26/17-18 Working Groups

Amenities & Highways - no meetings since last Council.

Cemetery & Events

Parish Walk was held on 14 June. All paths were accessible except for parts of the Long Walk (A15 to King Street). Also Back Lane is overgrown in parts not maintained by neighbouring residents. Possible actions would be considered.

Also participants raised issues on Permissive Paths and the legal height for Conifers adjacent to boundaries. Answers would be sought.

Councillors work party would be arranged for September to tidy decayed flowers on graves and check memorials.

The group was reviewing the cemetery records to ensure that the legal records and cemetery plan were correct and up to date.

Finance & General Purpose - no meetings since last Council but it was agreed that F&GP should be asked to review the pay rates of council employees and make recommendations to the 5 September meeting.

27/17-18 Exclusion of Press & Public

The council resolved to exclude the press & public to deal with an item of a confidential nature. Proposed by Cllr D Hallam , seconded by Cllr Larkman and agreed unanimously.

28/17-18 Progress on Appointment of New Clerk

An updated copy of the employment contract for the post of clerk had been circulated. The proposed amendments were agreed but with the addition of a paragraph to cover the use of the council owned office laptop and the council's rights of access to all council owned property and records.

The interview panel's notes of the meeting with Julian Tatam, the sole applicant, held on 26 June had been circulated to councillors just prior to the council meeting. The recommendation of the panel was accepted.

Resolved to offer the appointment of Clerk/RFO to Mr Julian Tatam under the terms of the new contract of employment, subject to a reference, and with a start date to be agreed with Mr Tatam. Proposed by Cllr D Hallam, seconded by Cllr Larkman and agreed unanimously.

The Chairman would contact Julian with the result and, if offer accepted, Cllr Risk would follow-up with the formal letter and contract of employment.

29/17-18 Dates of future meetings

Next Council meeting: 5 September 2017.

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