

Langtoft Parish Council
Minutes of meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 21 February 2017
at Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Brian Branch (Chairman), Andy Halfhide, Andy Hallam, Debbie Hallam, Roy Jackson, Colin Larkman, Yvonne McCulloch, Derek Risk (Vice-chairman), Lewis Trickey.

In Attendance: Heather Gilling (Clerk), district councillors Rosemary Woolley, and Kelham Cooke and six members of the public – including County Councillor Dilks who represents Deeping St James division..

112/16-17 Open Forum

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

- The condition of the pull ins on New Road. *These are not yet finished.*
- New cemetery gates look good, but box for watering cans etc has broken hinges. *We will look at that.*
- Clerk's notes not on the website within the required time. *We will address that.*
- Freedom of information request submitted because internal audit reports were not posted as part of the minutes. *This will be replied to.*
- What progress has been made regarding the SEA in particular the issue that much of the cost is associated with water testing. *This will be raised with SKDC*
- Future of grass cutting arrangements. *May be beneficial to speak with neighbouring parishes of Deeping St James and Market Deeping who are making their own arrangements.*
- Concern over hare coursing in the area. Chief constable to attend a meeting. *Chairman offered to attend.* (This item was raised by an attendee who introduced himself as County Councillor Philip Dilks. He explained that the boundaries of his current division of Deeping St James and that he would be standing for the new Deepings East division, which incorporated Langtoft.)
- Concern over the switching off of lights at midnight. *LCC is prepared to look at individual cases.*

The Open Forum closed at 7.32 pm.

113/16-17 Chairman's welcome and remarks

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

114/16-17 Apologies

Cllr Jackson tendered apologies on behalf of Cllr Thompson who had been delayed on a train journey. Apologies were also presented on behalf of County Councillor Robinson, and District Councillor Cooke.

115/16-17 Members interests

There were no declarations of interest.

116/16-17 Minutes

As the agenda had not itemised approval of the notes of the meeting of 29 November 2016 it was considered this matter should be adjourned to the 4 April 2017 meeting. Queries were raised on the notes of the 10 January 2017 meeting and it was considered that amendments needed to be made and these should also be brought to the 4 April 2017 meeting.

117/16-17 Reports from County and District Councillors and Police

District Councillor Woolley reported on the following three matters:

- Deepings Tennis club had received a contribution from the Community Fund for its new fence on the Manor Playing Field courts. Money was still available from this fund.
- SKDC was taking part in a spring clean litter pick. (At this point it was mentioned the Chairman had spent time picking up litter from Stowe Road and thanks were expressed to him.)
- The community tax level was still to be decided.

Disappointment was expressed that the police were not represented at the meeting as there were issues that members would like to have questioned, including responsibility to clear up following a recent accident on the A15, and parking too close to the junction of West End with Reedman Close. **Resolved: clerk to contact our local PCSO.**

118/16-17 Finance

Cllr Risk led on this item, having previously circulated the accounts. With some payments still to be made it was anticipated the year would end at roughly the same position as the beginning of the year. Latest transactions were publicised on the website. He requested members' approval to formalise the arrangement for him to be temporary Responsible Financial Officer at least until the end of the final year.

Resolved: Cllr Risk continue to assume duties of Responsible Financial officer until at least the end of the financial year.

Resolved: Cllr Jackson to check bank reconciliations.

119/16-17 Disciplinary procedures

A document prepared by Lincolnshire Association of Parish Councils had previously been circulated. Copies had also been given to the council's two employees to give them an opportunity to comment. No observations had been received.

Resolved: This document be adopted.

120/16-17 Update to standing orders and financial regulations

Cllr Risk had previously circulated suggested updates to both the council's financial regulations and standing orders, in particular a change to raise the sum for tenders to be advertised in local newspapers from £1,000 to £5,000. In approving this it was: **Resolved to change the wording from 'local newspapers' to 'local publications' to allow for tenders to be advertised in the locally distributed free publications. Otherwise the changes to be adopted.**

A discussion took place regarding changes proposed to the standing orders in respect of allowing members to access external sites on the internet during meetings. Several members considered this was a distraction, but a view was also expressed that the internet offered a means of checking information and access should be permitted. **Resolved to explore Lincolnshire Association of Parish Councils' guidance and report back to the next meeting.**

121/16-17 Clerk's report

The clerk reported on the following matters:

- Receipt of a Freedom of Information request asking for a copy of the internal auditor's report for 2015 and 2016.
- A suggestion to review cemetery charges which are low in comparison to neighbouring areas. **Resolved: A more detailed discussion is held at the next meeting.**
- Arrangements in hand for a 'meet the council' event to be held on a Saturday as close as possible to the annual parish meeting in May.
- The 'Life in Langtoft' Facebook page was carrying messages about what residents like about living in the village, as well as thanks for the rubbish clear up, and concerns about traffic issues.

Councillor risk also reported on matters that had been brought to his attention, including traffic matters, which it was **Resolved: to raise as part of the general inquiries to be made to the new area highways manager.**

122/16-17 Planning applications

Two decision notices had been received:

- permission granted for an extension at 3 Manor close
- permission granted for an extension at Manor barn, Manor Way

123/16-17 Review of ongoing action points

There were still a number of outstanding matters which the Clerk was asked to chase up.

124/16-17 Working groups

Events and cemetery:

The date for the annual parish walk had been set for 14 June 2017. Suggestions were to be invited for the Christmas card. Gates and new posts were in place at the cemetery. A copy of the cemetery rules had been placed on the new notice board. Copy of charges was still awaited.

Resolved: This to be held in abeyance until new charges had been determined.

A date for the 'meet the parish council' event was to be confirmed. Suggestions for a theme included local organisations in the village and history of Langtoft.

Finance and General Purposes:

This group had met to discuss the proposed changes to the financial regulations and standing orders.

125/16-17 Exclusion of the press and public

There were no matters under this heading.

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

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 4 April 2017 at Langtoft Village Hall at 7 pm.

These minutes were approved at Council Meeting on 4 April 2017