

Langtoft Parish Council
Minutes of meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 April 2017
at Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Andy Halfhide, Andy Hallam, Debbie Hallam, , Colin Larkman, Yvonne McCulloch, Derek Risk (Vice-chairman), Mike Thompson, Lewis Trickey.

In Attendance: Heather Gilling (Clerk), district councillor Kelham Cooke (part of the meeting) and five members of the public.

Before the business began Cllr Thompson updated members regarding Cllr Roy Jackson who was in hospital. Members signed a card to send to him.

In the absence of the chairman, the meeting was chaired by the vice-chairman.

126/16-17 Open Forum

The open forum began at 7.05pm

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

- The hedge next to the path between the public house and cemetery, although has been cut, material has been left on the path. *We will request that it is cleared.*
- The cemetery gates have been hung the wrong way round. *We will inquire but do not consider any action is required.*
- Litter problem between the Rides and bungalow. *It is a County Council responsibility, although we are planning another litter pick soon.*
- Sewer smell in Peterborough Road is still as bad. *Anglian Water advised this was an overflow.*
- Have we contacted neighbouring parishes regarding possible amalgamation of grass-cutting. *No approaches made yet as we believe SKDC will be continuing for this year.*
- What progress has been made on the SEA. *We are continuing to try to follow this up.*
- Why didn't the internal auditor pick up on monies not collected from Grapevine. *We did not at that time have confirmed orders. That has now been rectified.*
- Grass verges are not cut as often as previously. *The current arrangement is a metre-wide safety cut.*
- Tree branches have fallen into Bull Pond. Who is responsible for removing them. *There is confusion over ownership of the piece of land.*

The Open Forum closed at 7.35 pm.

127/16-17 Chairman's welcome and remarks

The Vice-chairman welcomed all those present.

128/16-17 Apologies

Cllrs Brian Branch (Chairman), Roy Jackson.

129/16-17 Members interests

There were no declarations of interest.

130/16-17 Minutes

Notes of meetings of 29 November 2016, 10 January 2017 and 21 February 2017 were approved as minutes.

131/16-17 Reports from County and District Councillors and Police

District Councillor Cooke arrived from another meeting at 9pm and reported on the following SKDC matters matters:

- A £4 increase in the precept had been approved for the coming financial year

- Leadership and cabinet changes meant that he would become deputy leader of the council
- SKDC was organising a 'big spring clean' in several areas
- Liaison officers were being assigned to support parish councils
- SKDC's community fund was still available and could offer match funding for appropriate projects up to £10,000

132/16-17 Finance

Cllr Risk had circulated a copy of the accounts for the year. The balance at the end of the year was £16,188, slightly higher than at the beginning of the year. This was due to a smaller spend than expected on gritting. In view of the late submission of the audit return last year there would be an intermediate audit this year. Financial transactions had been placed on the website.

In view of Cllr Jackson's current indisposition, it was agreed that Cllr Thompson would be responsible for carrying out checks on bank reconciliations.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Risk for his current work in assuming the duties of Responsible Financial Officer.

133/16-17 Clerk's report

The clerk reported on the following matters:

- A request to members as to how they wished the details of tree preservation orders to be presented as these were contained in separate documents. **Action: the information should be collated into one document together with a map in a format suitable for publication in Grapevine.**
- Notification had been received from the CPRE regarding the Best Kept Village Competition, an event which Langtoft had previously entered. Following a discussion it was felt if the village was to enter the competition advance publicity should be given in Grapevine, and deadlines for entry would not permit this for the current year. **Action: To consider entering the Best Kept Village Competition next year.**
- A resident of Stowe Road, whose property is next to Black Bull Green had requested permission to install a gate in the fence of Black Bull Green. After discussion it was considered the property was sufficiently close to the two entrances to Black Bull Green. **Action: the request be refused.**

134/16-17 Planning applications

Two applications were reported, which had previously been circulated to members:

- Internal alterations to cellar, kitchen, and installation of extraction canopy, Waggon and Horses public house, Langtoft
- Construction of artificial lake, The Walls, Peterborough Road, Langtoft.

Additionally Cllr Risk reported that three more applications were on the website:

- Alterations to form two-storey dwelling, 22 East End, Langtoft
- Single storey residential building, rear of 63 Stowe Road, Langtoft.
- Demolition of front porch, alterations to windows, rendering of dwelling and erection of extensions, Church Farm, 8 East End, Langtoft.

Members were invited to send any comments to the clerk in order that they may be passed on to SKDC.

Decision notices had been issued in respect of the following:

- Demolition of front boundary wall, rebuilding of stone pillars, installation of gates and demolition of garage and car port, Dove Cottage, 42 East End, Langtoft. (Approved)
- Variation to approved plans, plots 6 and 7, land next to 25-26 Cloven Ends, Langtoft, (Approved).

135/16-17 Review of ongoing action points

Members reviewed the action list. Most pressing were to follow up progress on meeting appropriate officers in respect of the Special Expense Area, and to contact the new Divisional Highways Manager to re-iterate the issues regarding highways and traffic matters in the village, and possibly seek a meeting..

136/16-17 Review and authorisation of orders for repair and maintenance work

The following matters were considered:

Grass cutting contract – a revised quote for the coming season had been obtained. **Resolved: to accept the quote. The Clerk to contact the contractor to set up an arrangement for being notified when each cut had taken place.**

Bus shelter cleaning contract – Inquiries had been made with local companies regarding the cleaning of the two bus shelters, and prices obtained. **Resolved: The Clerk contact the company**

East End Fence replacement

Two quotations had been received. Reading the specification that had been given to the proposed contractors it was considered more robust stakes were required and that the form of treatment should be specified more clearly. A further quotation should be obtained. **Resolved: the Clerk contact the companies accordingly**

Tree works – East End Park

One quotation has been received. A second company contacted has asked if we can arrange a site meeting as he has further questions to ask regarding the nature of the work to be carried out, given the history of work already carried out in the area. **Resolved: The Clerk arrange a meeting with the second company, and seek to obtain a further quote.**

137/16-17 Working groups

The events and cemeteries group had met and discussed the possibility of creating more Christmas lights at the crossroads, in addition to those on the Christmas tree. They had also talked about the 'meet the councillors' event in July which would include a display of photos of the village, and an invitation for visitors to suggest ideas for the Parish Council's Christmas card.

(At 9.30pm standing orders were suspended in order to complete the rest of the agenda).

138/16-17 Exclusion of the press and public

It was resolved to exclude the press and public in order to allow discussion on a matter involving staff and communications.

139/16-17 Staffing and communications

Confidential staff matters were discussed and a course of action was agreed.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 16 May 2017 at Langtoft Village Hall at 7 pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 23 May at Langtoft Village Hall at 7pm.