

Langtoft Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 28 November 2017 at Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Andy Halfhide (Chairman), Andy Hallam, Debbie Hallam, Roy Jackson, Colin Larkman, Derek Risk and Mike Thompson.

In Attendance: Julian Tatam (Clerk), District Councillors Kelham Cooke & Rosemary Trollope – Bellew, County Councillor Barry Dobson, PCSO Michelle Laughton and 5 members of the public.

67/17-18 Open Forum

The meeting began with the open forum at 7.00pm

Matters raised by members of the public included the following:

- The Puffin (pedestrian) Crossing on the A15. *A member of the public had been alarmed by a car driving through a red light at the crossing this evening while heading north. The PCSO stated that such incidents of dangerous driving should be reported by telephoning 101, preferably with the registration number, or a description of the vehicle and the time which would enable the vehicle to be identified via the ANPR cameras in the village.*
- Parking in West End. *A member of the public was concerned about the difficulties caused by thoughtless parking in West End, close to the shop and through to the village hall. This is exacerbated when 'walk to school days' results in parents parking in West End and walking from there. Visitors to the village hall are to be encouraged to park considerately.*
- Parking on the verge by the Aquila Way junction. *While the fence which was restricting visibility while exiting from Aquila Way has been removed, a van is now regularly parking on the verge, again restricting visibility. The PCSO agreed to look into it.*
- Parking opposite Aquila Way. *As at recent previous meetings, the issue of cars parking at the junction creating an accident risk was raised again. The PCSO is aware of the issue and will monitor. She also stated that it should be reported by members of the public by ringing 101 with the car registrations. It is noted that this is illegal at night as within 10m of a junction.*

The Open Forum closed at 7.30 pm.

Suspension of Standing Orders

There was a motion to suspend standing orders to take the enable the reports from County and District Councillors and Police before the formal meeting, as this is the accepted convention. Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr D Hallam and passed unanimously

68/17-18 Report from County and District Councillors and Police

District Councillor Cooke reported that:

Regarding the playing fields SEA, a meeting had been held with the Chairman of Langtoft Football Club to discuss their use of the playing fields. After examining their financial records, a fee has been agreed for the use of the football pitches through to the end of the financial year. A planning application has been submitted for the renewal of consents for floodlights etc but this needs some revision before being formally considered.

Dist Cllr Cooke was reminded that the steel containers are still in place and that one is in a dangerous condition through extensive rust. He was informed that the combination lock had been transferred to the height barrier at the playing fields and that the emergency services need to be informed of the combination.

Clearing the path to the cemetery is still on his action list following The Big Clean project, as is removing the spare waste bin at the A15 crossroads.

He was asked to consider moving the spare bin to East End Park to replace a bin which is currently emptied by Langtoft Parish Council.

Details of SKDC landholdings in the village have just been sent to the Parish Clerk. It was stated that this shows that the pond situated on The Rides belongs to SKDC.

District Councillor Trollope – Bellew reported that:

She had joined the Royal British Legion in visiting the Commonwealth War Graves in the district earlier in November which included a grave at Langtoft. She recommended that we contact the RBL for help in obtaining signage for the war grave in the parish cemetery.

County Councillor Dobson reported that:

He attended a Lincs Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) day at Grantham which emphasised the dangers of excessive speed; a powerful message. He believes that this is a good time to press ahead with the highways issues on the A15, potentially with a 40 mph speed limit from Bourne to Market Deeping, controlled by average speed cameras. LRSP and Cllr Richard Davies (Executive Member for Highways) could be invited to a meeting in the village. Dist Cllr Trollope – Bellew suggested a joint meeting to include representatives from Baston and Thurlby as we all have similar issues.

A list of new minerals sites has been published and a copy was handed to the Clerk. It includes a site adjacent and to the south Pocket Park and one on the junction of King Street and Greatford Road. Part of Pocket Park is included in a 'site specific safeguarding area' – we await confirmation of the implications of this.

A large reservoir is to be built further north in the county to support economic development.

As part of their plans to develop tourism, LCC are looking to make better use of restored gravel pits in the County, to include linking footpaths and cyclepaths.

There is ongoing discussion with BT about the provision of fibre broadband to get provision up to the target of 97% of properties to be connected. New developments of over 25 houses will get fibre up to the property (as opposed to the local cabinet and copper wire thereafter).

PCSO Michelle Laughton reported:

She asked that traffic and other incidents are reported via 101 so that they are properly logged.

The PCSO team is still understrength (one covers The Deepings, one for Stamford and two for Bourne) but two more are being appointed in January.

The responsibility for issuing parking ticket has been moved to Parking Services in Grantham and she is awaiting clarification of when she can issue tickets for obstruction. She plans to target dangerous parking at schools once this it has been clarified that these tickets are enforceable.

69/17-18 Chairman's welcome and remarks

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

70/17-18 Apologies for absence

Cllr McCulloch; attending another meeting

Cllr Trickey; recuperating from an operation

No apologies had been received from Cllr Branch

71/17-18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

72/17-18 To approve the minutes of the previous meetings

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

The approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2017 was proposed by Cllr Risk, seconded by Cllr Jackson and agreed unanimously.

73/17-18 Clerks Report

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

Key points:

The problem of rats in the cemetery has diminished, following the laying of bait by the farmer during October. We will continue to monitor.

We await a response from LRSP regarding the use of our traffic monitors on the A15 and the potential cost of induction loops in East and West End to control the Puffin crossing signals. Also await a response regarding to access Section 106 funds for traffic improvement.

The tree work at East End Park and Bull Green Park has been undertaken. Cllr A. Hallam agreed to inspect the work to confirm that it has been completed satisfactorily.

The Clerk was asked to continue to provide the communication log with his report.

74/17-18 Speeding / Traffic Calming

There was a further discussion about this issue and potential solutions.

It was agreed that the speed signs be installed on the A15 to collect data on traffic movements and speeds (but not display the speed), to support our campaign for full traffic lights.

There are some issues with the battery life on the speed signs and these will need to be corrected before they are deployed again.

We will then collect further data from East and West End and the approach to the school to inform our discussions on appropriate traffic calming methods, which could include chicanes.

The council are keen to follow up the suggestion of a joint meeting on this subject, preferably with the benefit of the speed sign data.

Action - Clerk to approach Lincs Police for ANPR data on vehicle movements on the A15, potentially using a Freedom of Information request

Action - Clerk to contact Dist Cllr Trollope Bellew about arranging a joint meeting

Action - Clerk to chase LRSP regarding the request for advice on the cost of induction loops.

Action - Chairman to inspect speed signs and obtain new batteries. Investigate improved battery charging procedures.

75/17-18 Pocket Park

There has been further work at the site with some fencing being installed by the car park.

The amenities group met with John Oliver from Lincolnshire Wildlife trust last week and discussed ideas for future management.

A further discussion of the many issues to consider then took place and it was decided that we should consider forming a management committee to include members of the public.

It was proposed that we hold a public meeting, preferably on 17 February to discuss the project and invite expressions of interest in joining such a committee:- proposed Cllr A Hallam, seconded Cllr Jackson and approved unanimously.

Given the size of this topic, an extraordinary meeting of the Council will be scheduled after the 9 January meeting, to plan for the open public meeting. Given that we are not able to hold an open meeting on the site, recent photographs of the site would be useful

Action - Clerk to obtain dates of when the Village Hall is available and report back

Action - Chairman to approach local drone operators for aerial photographs

76/17-18 Working groups

Events:

Christmas at The Crossroads is to be on Thursday 7 December and will follow a similar format to earlier years.

The Christmas tree has arrived and will be put up on 5 December in preparation. Cllr Branch is to be asked to officiate with turning on the lights.

Amenities:

The reports on the playing field inspections were discussed. There is some remedial work required.

Action - Clerk to request details of regulations referred to in the reports

Action - Clerk to obtain quotations on replacing the safety surface beneath the zip wire and for it to be re-tensioned

Following the withdrawal of the gritting contractor at short notice, Cllr Jackson is obtaining a quotation to cover this winter.

Action - Clerk to advise on procedure as to how we should authorise this.

Finance and General Purposes:

Has not met but will meet to consider 2018 19 budget prior to the 9 January meeting.

77/17 -18 Finance

Year to date accounts. The accounts to 15 November had been circulated to all councillors and there were no significant variances from budget.

The current balances total £28,770.89 following the receipt of the precept from SKDC, but is projected to reduce to £5584 by 30 March if expenditure remains as budgeted, as there is some significant expenditure planned over the next few months. However it is expected that some capital items will be deferred and the closing balance will be in the order of £11,500.

2018 19 Planning Process

The precept has to be agreed at the January 2018 meeting so the planning process needs to progress.

The events group and amenities group each requested similar budgets for 2018 19.

The Clerk presented some draft budget figures which suggested that the current precept should be adequate for 2018 19, allowing £5200 of Pocket Park expenditure in the next 16 months. To be considered by the Finance and General Purposes committee.

Suspension of Standing Orders

There was a motion to suspend standing orders to add a further 10 minutes to the meeting to allow the remaining agenda items to be considered.

Proposed Cllr A Hallam, seconded Cllr Jackson and agreed unanimously

78/17-18 Cemetery Grave reservation

Our latest Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial book requires us to state the period in years for which the reservation is granted.

Our cemetery regulations indicate that this should be 20 years but during the discussion it was felt that this was too short and that we should consider a longer period.

Action - Clerk to consult with LALC regarding the accepted normal reservation period.

79/17-18 Review of Ongoing Action Points

Deferred to next meeting.

It was noted that the noticeboard has been replaced at East End park, the fence post added to the stile and the Tidy Bear Litter Bin placed in Bull Green Park.

80/17-18 Correspondence

Deepings Voluntary Car Scheme – further to the request for a donation, we have been told that 7 Langtoft residents have used this service for 57 journeys since January 2017.

On the basis that this is a valuable service for a number of villagers, it was resolved that we provide a donation of £100 – proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Thompson and passed unanimously.

Action- Clerk to arrange payment of £100.

81/17-18 Planning Applications

None received since the last meeting

82/17-18 Dates of future meetings

Next Council meeting: 9 January 2018.

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