

Langtoft Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17 October 2017
at Langtoft Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Julian Tatam (Clerk), District Councillors Kelham Cooke & Rosemary Woolley, County Councillor Barry Dobson and 16 members of the public.

49/17-18 Open Forum

The meeting began with the open forum at 7.00pm

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

- The planning application for commercial property adjacent to Morrisons in Stamford. *A member of Bourne Labour Party requested the council's support for an all-party campaign to change the planning consent in Stamford from commercial to residential. The consequent increased housing supply would potentially remove the need for development in local village such as the proposed 35 houses on Stowe Road. The chairman thanked him for his comment but ruled that this was not a subject for Langtoft Parish Council, being a matter for Stamford.*
- Trees at East End Park. *A resident of Barn Owl Close asked about progress in getting the overhanging trees pruned, a matter which has been ongoing for some time. There is an agenda item this meeting to consider quotations and the council expected to instruct a contractor for the work to be undertaken in the next couple of months.*
- Pocket Park. *A comment was made suggesting that the steep slope from the new car park down to the ponds was a hazard and that it should be fenced off. The meeting was reminded that Pocket Park is private property owned by Hanson UK Ltd and there is no public access. If and when the ownership is transferred to the council, a risk assessment will be undertaken and appropriate action taken.*
- Traffic at the A15 crossroads. *There were a number of contributions expressing concern and about the difficult and at times dangerous access to the A15, particularly from East End. A number of solutions were proposed by the public including a 20 mph peak time speed limit, re-programming the pedestrian crossing lights to stop the A15 traffic to enable vehicles to leave East and West End, using volunteers to operate the pedestrian crossing lights at peak times, full traffic lights and ideally a bypass of the whole A15 from Bourne to Market Deeping. The Chairman asserted that the Parish Council are fully behind improvements to the junction to alleviate these issues. Our proposal to re-program pedestrian crossing lights had been rejected by Lincolnshire County Council Highways Department. He encouraged members of the public to write to Rowan Smith at that department. He suggested that we need more data on traffic volumes at peak times and will seek to use our speed monitors to collect this. County Cllr Dobson commented that the traffic issues are along the length of the A15 from Bourne to Deeping and that the Elsea Park development at Bourne will total 3000 houses once complete, contributing additional traffic but also substantial contributions from the developers under section 106 agreements. He recommended that we get Lincolnshire Safety Partnership to visit the site.*
- New Road / Meadow Lane passing places. *A member of the public stated that more passing places were requested. The condition of New Road and the existing passing places was raised with SKDC last month and we await a response.*
- Parking opposite Aquila Way. *As at last month's meeting, the issue of cars parking at the junction creating an accident risk was raised again. The Chairman confirmed that this has*

been raised as a priority with the Police Neighbourhood Panel Meeting in September and the PCSO was alerted. It is noted that this is illegal at night as within 10m of a junction.

- The Big Clean. A comment was received that the road sweeper was ineffective in Hyde Gardens and the weeds in the gutter remain. District Cllr Cooke undertook to get the team to return to attend to this.
- Notice Board at East End Park. The notice board has not been re-instated after the fence was replaced. Cllr Branch undertook to replace it imminently.

There was a motion to suspend standing orders to enable the open forum to run for a further 10 minutes. Proposed Cllr Larkman, seconded Cllr Risk and passed unanimously

The Open Forum closed at 7.40 pm.

50/17-18 Chairman's welcome and remarks

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

51/17-18 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies and all councillors were present.

52/17-18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest though Cllr Thompson did state that he lived relatively close to the proposed development of 35 properties (agenda item 62 17-18), though was not directly impacted by it.

53/17-18 To approve the minutes of the previous meetings

The approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2017 was proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr D Hallam and agreed with two abstentions from the councillors who were not present at that meeting. The new Clerk was thanked for the clear and timely production of the minutes

54/17-18 Consideration of Casual Vacancy

This did not progress as the required paperwork had not yet been received from the prospective candidate.

55/17-18 Clerks Report

The Clerks report had already been provided to the councillors.

There was a discussion about the rats in the cemetery which is still a problem. The issue had been reported to the farmer if the adjacent land who had offered to take-action. It had been raised with SKDC Environmental Health but they declined to take action as it was not perceived to be a health risk. We understand that there is an outlet from the adjacent Anglia Water sewage pump which empties into the ditch at peak times and could be contributing to the problem.

Action: Clerk to contact the farmer for a progress report. Also to contact Anglia Water regarding their outlet.

56/17-18 Report from County and District Councillors and Police

District Councillor Woolley reported that:

Progress was being made regarding reviewing the Playing Fields SEA and negotiations are underway with the football club tenant, including the use of the floodlights . Cllr Trickey alerted her that the dangerous storage container is still in place at the playing fields.

She advised the meeting that her surname is to change to Trollope-Bellew.

District Councillor Cooke reported that:

The height barrier at the playing fields had been installed and the combination lock would be transferred from the low barrier (the emergency services to be informed of the combination). The barrier on the pedestrian access would be adjusted to allow access for wheelchairs and double buggies.

The planning application at Stowe Road is to be considered by the Development Control Committee at SKDC and the public will have the opportunity to attend and speak at the meeting. Date to be provided.

The Big Clean programme has progressed well with over 100t of detritus being collected from across the District

Funding has been agreed for a new leisure centre in The Deepings.

The Stamford Georgian Weekend was judged to be a success, generating £1m of economic activity. It will be repeated in 2019

A 'Business Incubation Centre' is to be opened in Market Deeping as part of the SKDC economic development plan.

'Invest SK' is to be a new service to 'signpost' new businesses to the relevant services and agencies. Local Arts Centres are to be updated.

County Councillor Dobson reported that:

A second PCSO had been appointed for this area

There is a meeting with Rowan Smith of LCC Highways at the Thurlby Methodist Chapel at 5.30pm on 2 November and invited some councillors to attend. Names to be provided to Cllr Dobson. This might also help with the New Road / Meadow Lane passing place issue.

We need approval from Lincs Road Safety Partnership to erect our speed signs at the A15 crossroads (Action – Clerk to contact)

Full traffic lights at the crossroads would cost in the order of £200,000. Some funding may be available from Section 106 obligations (contact point Will Tse at LCC) or the Public Works Loan Board who provide loans for up to 30 years at a low interest rate.

57/17-18 Traffic Issue at the Crossroads

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

The ideal solution would seem to be full traffic lights

A secondary solution would be to use induction loops in the approaches in East and West End to trigger the pedestrian lights

Actions: Clerk - Approach Lincs Road Safety Partnership for advice on the cost of induction loops.

Clerk - Make representations to Will Tse about a contribution from Section 106 funds

Attend Highways meeting on 2 November - volunteers required

58/17 -18 Finance

External Audit to March 2017– this has been received and did not raise any concerns. It supported our policy of re-introducing six monthly internal audits

Internal Audit – the 6 month internal audit to 30 September has been undertaken. A few minor points were raised which will be taken on board.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Cllr Risk for undertaking the finance function and to Cllrs D Hallam, McCulloch, Trickey and Risk for managing the cemetery issues over the summer pending the replacement clerk being in a position to take over. Also thanked Candace Brent for acting as the internal auditor.

Year to date accounts. The accounts to 30 September had been circulated to all councillors and there were no significant variances from budget. The precept and the cleaning grant have been received
Langtoft Parish Council

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

from SKDC during October. Despite chasing, the invoices from LMR have still not been received and this is not satisfactory. We also require better notification of when the grasscutting is undertaken.
Action: Clerk to contact LMR that we must be informed each time the grass is cut. Also to request that we are informed each time the dog waste bins are emptied

Risk Register Review.

Cllr Risk presented a proposed Risk Register. This was accepted subject to a small amendment regarding life-saving equipment at East End Park. It will be reviewed at each AGM in future.
Proposed Cllr Risk, seconded Cllr Jackson and agreed unanimously
Thanks to Cllr Risk for his work on this.

2018 19 Planning Process

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

Action: Each group to consider their bids for funding, to be provided to the Finance and General Purposes Group in time for them to be brought forward to the next full council meeting.

59/17-18 Review of Ongoing Action Points

The action points were updated and discussed.

Key changes:

Rowan Smith to be chased regarding the flooding at the cross roads

The Chairman will add a post to the stile at East End Park to better secure the new fencing

The callout procedure for the winter road gritting to be discussed next meeting

The broken bin at the crossroads (the one closer to the pub) has not yet been removed. District Cllr Cooke agreed to get this organised.

The pond at East End Park is overgrown and the bushes need removing. We need to consider the impact on the potential newt population before taking action.

The hedge alongside the path to the cemetery is overgrown – Clerk to contact Anglia Water as they do not maintain the hedge alongside their property.

60/17-18 Correspondence

Invitation to participate in Holocaust Memorial Day – this was discussed briefly but with no great support to have a local activity related to this.

The Big Clean – Lincs Community and Voluntary Service would provide publicity if we wish to have a voluntary activity in the village for example a litter pick. Not considered necessary at present and the Gardener / Cleaner keeps on top of general litter.

Deepings Voluntary Car Scheme – we have been asked for a donation to this scheme as Lincolnshire County Council are looking to withdraw their funding in the near future. The council wish to know how many Langtoft residents use this service.

Action: Clerk to make contact to request this information and report back at the next meeting.

Trees in East End Park – we have been asked to trim the trees to the east of the path which runs through the park to Barn Owl Close. We will consider this when we instruct work on the pond but do not wish to delay the work about to be instructed by obtaining further quotes.

Fields in Trust Awards We have been asked to nominate and vote for the UKs Best Park. The Council do not wish to nominate either of our parks and it was left to individual councillors to vote at their own discretion

61/17-18 Review and Authorisation of orders for repair and maintenance work

Pruning of trees in East End Park. Three quotations have been received and were discussed. It was proposed that we accept the quotation from Elderwood Tree Services as that was judged to provide best value. Proposed Cllr A Hallam, Seconded Cllr Trickey and accepted unanimously
Action: Clerk to instruct Elderwood tree Services an inform the contractors of the outcome of the discussion.

62/17-18 Planning Applications

S17/1900 regarding 35 houses at Stowe Road.

There was a discussion on this subject. This is a brownfield site, part of which is included in the current housing allocation and the remainder forms part of the proposed SKDC local plan so it would be difficult for the council to oppose on this basis, should it decide to.

We do have the ability to oppose due to its impact on infrastructure and councillors were concerned about a further adverse impact on the previous discussed traffic issues.

Individual councillors are to send their thoughts to the clerk who will collate and submit them.

While we may not be successful in opposing the development on the basis of traffic, we should consider seeking a contribution under the 106 obligations to help fund highways improvements.

Action. Clerk to speak to the planning office for advice re the 106. Also to write to LCC Highways regarding the traffic issues. Councillors to submit their comments to the clerk by 19 October for collation.

There was a motion to suspend standing orders to allow a further 15 minutes of discussion.

Proposed Cllr Jackson, Seconded Thompson and passed unanimously.

63/17-18 Pocket Park

A meeting was held with John Oliver of Lincs Wildlife Trust to view the site (with the consent of Hanson UK Ltd) on 6 October. Details of this meeting were included in the Clerks report.

There are many issues to consider and a further meeting will be held with John Oliver to include Cllr Jackson and any other councillors who wish to attend with the aim of producing a report on future management and costs to discuss at an extraordinary meeting of the Council.

The motion to hold an extraordinary meeting proposed by Cllr D Hallam, seconded Cllr A Hallam was passed unanimously

64/17-18 Working Groups Reports

The Finance and General Purposes Group and Amenities and Highways Group have not met recently.

Events and Cemetery:

Remembrance Day – there was a discussion about how this should be celebrated. It was resolved that we would purchase three wreathes as was the practice several years ago, one for the War Memorial and one each for the WW1 and WW2 graves in the cemetery (Proposed Cllr Trickey seconded Cllr Jackson, majority decision to support).

Christmas at The Crossroads to follow a similar format to earlier years. Thursday 7 December from 6pm, light switch on 6.30 with carol singing, refreshments at The Waggon and Horses from 7pm.

The ‘Meet the Councillors’ event to take place on 30 June 2018. Consideration will be given to an Art Competition (to include Langtoft School) a photo exhibition on the topic of Life in Langtoft.

Langtoft Parish Council

Page 5 of 6

Chairman’s/initials/signature.....

65/17-18 Cemetery: Plaque for the war grave

There is a WWII war grave in the Langtoft Cemetery. The headstone is very worn and difficult to read. Cllr Trickey suggested that we should contact the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to see if they would put up a plaque and the Royal British Legion to see if they will fund re-engraving the headstone. This received general support and he agreed to progress this by contacting those organisations.

66/17-18 Dates of future meetings

Next Council meeting: 28 November 2017.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.