

Langtoft Parish Council
Minutes of meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 10 January 2017
at Langtoft Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Heather Gilling (Clerk), district councillors Rosemary Woolley, and Kelham Cooke and six members of the public.

96/16-17 Open Forum

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

- Trees in front of 1 Stow Road are covered in ivy and likely to die. Who owns them. *Efforts have been made in the past to try to establish ownership, but have been inconclusive.*
- What is happening regarding the hawthorns beneath the rowan trees in West End. A decision was taken to remove the smaller trees. *Need to look back in the records.*
- What is happening regarding the collection of Grapevine advertising and procedures to prevent a backlog occurring again. *Monies due for Grapevine are currently being collected and we will be looking at procedures for the future and confirmed that no further action would be taken on collection of monies from adverts during 2015-16 due to lack of original order documentation..*
- Back Lane is still being used by traffic. *Can only repeat that details of breaches should be reported to the police.*
- Salting of roads is being done too late at night. *We will speak with contractor but have to work within his time-frame.*
- Traffic on the A15 going over red lights at the traffic lights. *This is a police matter. Incidents should be reported to the police.*
- What happened regarding a case left on the bench at the crossroads. *This was investigated by the police.*

The Open Forum closed at 7.30pm.

97/16-17 Chairman's welcome and remarks

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

98/16-17 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

99/16-17 Members interests

There were no declarations of interest.

100/16-17 Minutes

Notes of the meeting on 18 October 2016 were approved as minutes.

101/16-17 Reports from County and District Councillors and Police

District Councillor Woolley reported on the current consultation regarding council tax, and mentioned that Deepings Library would be hosting a literary festival from 27-30 April. District Councillor Cooke reported that SKDC's community fund would have more money available for play equipment or similar projects if the parish council wished to apply.

102/16-17 Finance

Current financial position – details had been posted on the website.

There was a discussion regarding the financial regulations requirement and standing orders regarding the advertising for contracts tenders above a certain sum. It was felt the current level of £1,000 was too low. **Resolved: to include this as an agenda item at the next meeting.**

Precept - following a discussion it was agreed that even though there would be a smaller grant from SKDC next year, the precept should be held at £20,801. **Resolved: to request a precept of £20,801.** The detailed income and expenditure budget underlying the precept was also agreed.

103/16-17 Disciplinary procedures

Cllr Risk reported that he had prepared a draft disciplinary procedure. Copies would be sent to the council's employees with an invitation for any comments. **Resolved: formal adoption be approved at the next council meeting.**

104/16-17 Co-option of councillor

Members received an application from a former councillor, Mr Andy Halfhide for co-option to one of the remaining vacancies. **Resolved: Mr Halfhide be co-opted on to the council.**

As part of this discussion on this item, Cllr Risk suggested that standing orders be reviewed in order to clarify the position regarding the use of electronic devices during meetings.

105/16-17 Clerk's report

The clerk reported verbally on the following matters:

- Notification of temporary diversion of public footpath beside 47 East End.
- The clerk was in receipt of details of tree preservation orders.
- The clerk had received notification from HSBC because the account with them had not been used for some time the bank wished to close it. **Resolved: the clerk contact the bank to action this and transfer the account to the Unity Trust account.**

106/16-17 Planning applications

Notices of approval of the following applications had been received:

- for extensions at 4 Barleyfield and 6 Manor Close
- felling of trees at East Dean House; building of conservatory at 14 Barn Owl Close

107/16-17 Review of ongoing action points

The list of ongoing action points was considered. **Resolved: that this should be an agenda item for each meeting.**

108/16-17 Procedures for gritting

The chairman reported that he had assumed responsibility as the contact for gritting arrangements.

109/16-17 Pocket Park update

Members questioned whether Pocket Park was ready for take over. **Resolved: the clerk to contact Hanson's to request an update.**

110/16-17 Working groups

Amenities and Highways:

a number of matters were considered under this heading. These included:

- the chairman had been in touch with Highways to report on the various issues that had been raised at previous meetings. **Resolved: follow up correspondence be had to raise issues that were of concern to the village.**

- The refurbished cemetery gates would shortly be installed: **Resolved: a letter be sent to Robert Peasgood to thank him for the standard of work carried out.**
- The clerk to report dogs not under control at the manor Close playing fields
- Cleaning of bus shelters: It was noted this had not been carried out. Perhaps this could be carried out by a local company. **Resolved: clerk to contact the current contractor to find out why this had not been done.**

Events and Cemetery:

- The Christmas tree festival was a success. Thanks were expressed to the Waggon and Horses for their input. **Resolved: the clerk write to the landlord to say thank you for their input.**

Finance and General Purposes: there had been no meeting since the last council meeting.

111/16-17 Exclusion of press and public

There were no matters under this heading.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 21 February 2017 at Langtoft Village Hall at 7 pm.

These minutes were approved at Council Meeting on 4 April 2017