

Langtoft Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 2016 at

Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Brian Branch (chairman), Andy Hallam, Debbie Hallam, Colin Larkman, Yvonne McCulloch, and Derek Risk (vice-chairman), plus Lewis Trickey as from item 117/16.

In attendance: Heather Gilling (clerk), District Councillor Rosemary Woolley, PCSO Michelle Laughton and nine members of the public. The meeting opened at 7pm with the Open Forum.

111/16 Open Forum

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

- What action was taken regarding litter on the playing fields reported to the October 2015 parish council meeting. Nothing had happened. *The matter had been reported to SKDC and would be followed up again.*
- An internal audit has still not been carried out. *This is an agenda item.*
- Thank you for regularising the speed signs. These are now working well.
- Pocket Park. Footpath to the park. *This will be followed up as part of a general request to move the project forward.*
- Special Expense Area. Should an approach be made to SKDC to recalculate. *This will be looked at.*
- Replacement of fencing around tennis courts on the playing fields. A representative of Deepings Tennis Club spoke about plans to replace the fencing around the courts on the playing fields and asked what help might be available towards meeting the cost. *This is an agenda item. District Councillor Woolley advised that the project may be eligible for help through SKDC's Community Fund.*
- A local resident spoke about his proposal to build a home for his family on the site of an existing property and that a planning application would be submitted in due course. *The parish council would have the opportunity to comment on the planning application when it was received.*
- Three young people spoke about their idea of providing a skatepark in Langtoft, suggesting a possible location might be on the playing fields. *They were invited to share the information they had with District Councillor Woolley and to write an article for Grapevine magazine.*
- Incorrect date publicised for January parish council meeting. *This was an error for which we apologise.*
- Items submitted for Grapevine are not always published. *We publish as much as we are able. Please re-submit if there is something we have missed.*
- Christmas at the Crossroads seemed more of a church event this year *The event at the crossroads was followed by refreshments served in the church. We were pleased to work with the church and present this occasion as a joint event.*

This Open Forum overran by 10 minutes and concluded at 7.40 pm.

112/16 Chairman's welcome and remarks

The chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

113/16 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mike Thompson.

114/16 members' Interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

115/16 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2015 were approved as a true and correct record, with the correction of three typographical errors.

116/16 Reports from County and District Councillors and Police

PCSO Laughton reported that the intruders who had perpetrated the recent break-in at John Griffiths Garage had been apprehended and there had also been progress in the investigation of the theft from the village shop in that the thief had been recognised. There had also been reports of other suspicious activities.

District Councillor Woolley (who offered apologies on behalf of District councillor Cooke) reported that the community charge would be rising by 3.6 per cent. This was to help mitigate cuts in SKDC's government grant. The County Council had also managed to secure more funding towards matters like gritting and children's centres, however rural counties were being hit more hard than urban communities. District councillor Woolley also reported that neighbouring villages had been successful in obtaining grants from the SKDC Community Fund and re-iterated that the work on replacing the tennis court fencing may be eligible for support. The Parish council may also wish to consider making an application for a project.

117/16 Co-option of new councillor

Members unanimously resolved to co-opt Lewis Trickey as a parish councillor, and invited him to join the meeting, following his signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Trickey to the Parish Council and hoped he would find the work interesting and fulfilling.

Cllr Debbie Hallam reported that there was a possible further candidate, who had been invited to get in touch if they wished to be considered.

118/16 Finance

Copies of the bank account ledger had been circulated prior to the meeting showing the latest transactions. Copies of the full year budget had also been previously been circulated. This showed expected income for the year of £25,540 and expected expenditure of £29,610.

Members confirmed the budget allocations.

Bank balances stood at £6,970.65 (Unity Trust tailored account) £10,065.87 (Unity Trust tailored deposit account) and £338.72 (HSBC account.)

It was noted that because of the mild winter, so far, there had been no need to undertake gritting of the village roads so this could free a sum of money to be spent on another project, perhaps upgrading part of the fencing around Black Bull Green.

The vice-chairman reported that internal audit had not been carried out and asked for members' approval that because it was close to the year end, the internal audit should be delayed until then.

This was agreed.

Further consideration was given to the request for help towards the cost of replacing the fencing around the tennis courts, and Members noted the suggestion from District Councillor Woolley that the project may be eligible for help under SKDC's community fund offered a possible way forward.

119/16 Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that highways matters raised with the area highways engineer had prompted an offer to meet members of the Parish Council for a discussion and 'walkabout' of problem areas on 19 April.

It was agreed to accept this offer.

Other matters reported by the Clerk included:

- Changes in the law on workplace pensions
- A request from two residents to buy back pre-purchased burial plots
- Coverage in the local press regarding the current parish councillor vacancies.

200/16 Planning applications

An application for new signage at the Waggon and Horses was considered. This appeared to be a retrospective application as the signs were already in place. Members felt the signs were appropriate for the building and no objections were offered.

201/16 Parks

The Clerk reported that the consultant dealing with the matter of a footpath between the village and Pocket Park was no longer working for Lincolnshire County Council, however the file had been passed to a new colleague.

Concern was expressed that there had been no progress regarding the handover of Pocket Park and the Clerk was asked to chase the matter up with Lincolnshire County Council. It was felt that any correspondence should be copied to Hanson's whose District Manager had indicated several months ago that the park was almost ready for handover in order that he is 'kept in the loop'.

Resolved: The Clerk contact Lincolnshire County Council with the aim of a representative meeting the Parish Council for an update regarding Pocket Park.

The Clerk was asked to follow up other matters relating to parks:

- a) the proposed handover of the zip-wire installed at East End Park
- b) arranging an inspection of the play equipment at East End Park
- c) obtaining quotes for the installation of galvanised fencing for the part of Black Bull Green that currently has a chain link fence in poor condition

202/16 Working groups

The events and amenities group reported on its meeting held on 9 February offering the following matters which required decisions:

Changing the Christmas@Crossroads event to coincide with the Church Christmas Tree festival and make a donation to the church for refreshments.

Moving the annual parish meeting to a Saturday morning with an informal 'coffee and cake' format in the hope it would attract more people to attend. Local groups and organisations to be invited to take part.

Approval of budget for refreshments to follow the annual parish walk which this year will be on 15 June.

Resolved: To discuss Christmas@Crossroads again at the next meeting following a conversation with the Waggon and Horses which was interested in sponsoring the christmas tree.

Resolved: To hold the annual parish meeting on the morning of 21 May 2016 in the form of an informal 'drop in'.

Resolved: A budget of up to £80 for refreshments following the annual parish walk.

The events group reported that it was looking at using photographs of Pocket Park for this year's Christmas card and that it had considered installing a noticeboard with a storage bin in the cemetery. Also an SKDC black bin had been requested for the cemetery.

203/16 Queen's 90th birthday

Members discussed whether a community event should be organised to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday. Various suggestions were considered, but all required someone to organise and it was felt that time was limited to put on anything substantial. Everyone was invited to think about something that needed minimal organisation and report their ideas to the next meeting. However if anyone in the community had an idea the Parish Council would be willing to support it.

In the meantime it was resolved to participate in a 'Clean for the Queen' litter pick during the weekend of 4-6 March in which communities were being invited to carry out a litter pick of their communities in advance of the Queen's 90th birthday.

Resolved: Members of the Parish Council would carry out a litter pick from 9 am on Saturday 5 March. Anyone wishing to join them would be welcome.

204/16 Exclusion of the press and public

There were no matters that required to be discussed with the press and public excluded.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

205/16 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 April at 7pm.

Signed:.....(Chairman)

Date:.....