

Langtoft Parish Council
Minutes of meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 24 May 2016
at Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Brian Branch (Chairman), Derek Risk (Vice-Chairman), Andy Hallam, Debbie Hallam, Colin Larkman, Yvonne McCulloch.

In Attendance: Heather Gilling (Clerk) and two members of the public. PCSO Michelle Laughton and colleague, attended for the first part of the Open Forum but were called away to deal with an incident at 7.10 pm.

10/16-17 Open Forum

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

- Minutes of the last meeting were not produced in accordance with the Localism Act timescale. *This was a one-off situation and arose because of IT problems.*
- Have previous questions regarding the Special Expense Area been followed up. *District Councillor Cooke is looking at this matter. Also the clerk has a list of contacts at SKDC and will be following this up with them.*
- Is the clothing bank on the car park still being used. *We can make inquiries.*
- The standard of grass cutting is not as good as it was. *It is likely that the service will be reduced still further next year – possibly to just the one-metre strip on the grass verges. We are awaiting further information.*
- There are a number of potholes in local roads with the roundabout between Langtoft and Market Deeping in a particularly bad state. *These matters were raised with the area Highways Manager during his recent visit to the village.*
- Parking of a car on the pavement outside the cottage next to the garage obscures the view of motorists emerging from West End. *This will be raised with the local PCSO.*
- Parking on the grass verge outside the council houses in West End is damaging the newly planted surface. Can there be some planting to prevent vehicles using the grass to park on. *We will refer this to our District Councillors.*
- Cars are parking in Hyde Gardens – too close to the junction. Several have garages – can we encourage them to use them. *We will ask the police to monitor the situation.*
- Traffic is using the restricted area of Back Lane as a short cut. *Suggest taking registration numbers and referring to police.*
- The hawthorn trees beside the rowans in West End are growing into the larger trees. *We will refer the matter to the district council.*
- Good to see the notice board up at the crossroads. What a shame it was the subject of an embarrassing conversation exchange at the last meeting. *Agreed.*
- Is there an update on Pocket Park. *We are continuing to talk with all parties concerned.*
- Can details of payments made by the parish council be included in the minutes. *The clerk will look at this.*

The open forum closed at 7.30 pm

11/16-17 Chairman's welcome and remarks

The chairman welcomed all those present.

12/16-17 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mike Thompson and Lewis Trickey.

13/16-17 Members interests

There were no declarations of interest.

14/16-17 Minutes

The notes of the meeting on 5 April were accepted as minutes, subject to changes to the reference of the open forum item regarding the noticeboard at the crossroads as it was considered the note did not reflect the member of the public's full question regarding the length of time it had taken to reinstate the noticeboard and clarify its ownership.

Notes from the annual parish meeting and annual meeting of the parish council held on 21 May were received for information.

15/16-17 Reports from County and District Councillors and Police

There were none.

16/16-17 Finance

Candace Brent had been asked to carry out an internal audit prior to the external audit for which an extension was being requested to 30 June.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee should be called in mid-June in order to deal with audit and related matters.

The clerk reported that she had been notified by the company which carries out grass-cutting and gritting for the parish council that two invoices dating to the beginning of 2015 had not been paid and was investigating the matter and talking with the company.

The half year precept of £10,619 had been received.

The balance in the current account was £14,788.70 and in the deposit account £10,068.

The council's bank had recently introduced a £6 a month charge. Members were asked whether they wished to investigate other options. However it was considered the convenience offered by the on-line banking facility outweighed the cost and it was **resolved to continue with the existing bank.**

17/16-17 Clerk's report

The clerk's report contained the following matters:

- Correspondence from a resident of Barn Owl Close in respect of trees owned by the parish council alongside the path between East End Park and four properties in Barn Owl Close. The letter requests maintenance work to be carried out on the trees which overhang the properties causing unacceptable leaf fall in autumn and other matters affecting the properties. **Resolved: the clerk contact a tree surgery company in order that appropriate work may be carried out.**
- Following up outstanding invoices with the company which provides grass-cutting and gritting services for the council.
- Still awaiting receipt of certification in respect of the zip wire at East End playing field.
- Temporary diversion of footpath beside 47 East End likely to happen soon.
- Telephone conversations and e-mail exchanges with SKDC regarding the SEA and other matters in respect of the playing fields. Contact details have been provided for the various

officers who deal with the different elements in order that recent inquiries may be followed up.

- Having been advised that LCC may reduce or withdraw entirely grass-cutting arrangements with effect from next April have established that SKDC which cuts some areas of the village on behalf of LCC are in discussion with the county council as to future arrangements.

18/16-17 Planning applications

An application to raise the roof of the garage at 47 West End had been received. There were no objections.

An application for eight dwellings at Cloven Ends was due to go to SKDC's Management Control meeting for minor amendments to two properties.

Three approvals had been granted:

- signage Waggon and Horses
- felling horse chestnut tree, behind 19 Deer Park Road
- extension 30 Truesdale Gardens

19/16-17 Parks

The chairman had noted the poor condition of the fencing along the frontage of East End Park and asked the clerk to contact companies to obtain quotes. Three companies had been contacted and so far one quote had been received.

Nothing further to report regarding Pocket Park footpath.

The inspection of play equipment at East End Park will be carried out at the same time as Black Bull Green.

20/16-17 Working groups

There were no reports from working groups

21/16-17 Highways matters

The village meeting with the Area Highways Manager had been attended by Cllrs Branch, Risk, Larkman and the clerk. Our concerns regarding heavy traffic using the village roads, the suggestion of a weight limit, and moving the speed restrictions to a point beyond the allotments were all put to him but we were advised these would not be possible as the appropriate criteria were not met.

He agreed the following actions:

- to put the county's planning section in touch with the clerk in respect of the Pocket Park footpath.
- the repair of several potholes opposite 23 East End and the access to 35 East End
- Repair several potholes in the hatching on the crossroads on the A 15 and clear a blocked gully.
- Repair a pothole at the junction of Dickens Close.
- Clear the 'grips' on Stowe Road to enable surface water to drain more effectively.

The clerk was requested to contact the Area Highways Manager to ask whether the grass verge either side of the footpath running alongside could be cut back as it was restricting the width of the path causing difficulty for mourners walking between the church and cemetery.

22/16-17 Exclusion of the press and public

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Tuesday 28 June 2016 at Langtoft Village Hall at 7pm.

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