

Langtoft Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8 September 2015 at

Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Brian Branch (chairman), Trish Garratt, Andy Hallam (for part of the meeting), Debbie Hallam, Roy Jackson, Colin Larkman, Yvonne McCulloch, Derek Risk (vice-chairman), Mike Thompson.

In attendance: Heather Gilling (Clerk), District Councillor Kelham Cooke (for part of the meeting), PCSO Michelle Laughton (for part of the meeting), and 11 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 7pm.

48/15 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those present and explained the format for the meeting would be different in that the first part would deal with minutes of an extraordinary meeting held on 21 August 2015 and the reading of a statement in respect of that meeting. The meeting would then revert to the regular format of an open forum followed by the main business.

49/15 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Andy Halfhide.

50/15 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

51/15 Minutes of extraordinary meeting on 21 August 2015

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting on 21 August 2015 were approved as a true and correct record.

52/15 Statement

In respect of the extraordinary meeting held on 21 August 2015 the Chairman read the following statement:

Langtoft Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting on 21 August 2015 after it had come to light that a debt of £394.54 was outstanding, by an ex-employee, who had ordered goods, from a company on an account that was in the name of the Parish Council. The goods were ordered for the personal and private use of the individual, not the Parish Council.

Since this matter came to the Parish Council's attention, on 4 August 2015, the Clerk has been working with the company to whom the money is owed, and a firm of solicitors acting on the company's behalf, to try to seek an early resolution to the matter. These efforts have included writing to the individual concerned to urge payment of the outstanding debt.

At its meeting on 21 August the Parish Council considered as much assistance as possible had been given to both the companies and resolved that the Clerk should write to each company seeking confirmation that the Parish Council was now absolved from any further involvement.

The Parish Council wishes to stress the following points:

- The person who owes the debt no longer has any connection with the Parish Council
- The Parish Council has again reviewed its financial accounts and is not aware of any direct financial loss to public funds as a result of this event.
- The Parish Council is carrying out an audit of its procedures in respect of purchasing goods and services on its behalf to avoid such occurrences in the future.

Further to the above statement the Chairman read a letter from the firm of solicitors, confirming that the Parish Council was now absolved from any further involvement in the matter.

The Clerk stated that she had received a telephone call from the company also offering the same confirmation.

53/15 Open Forum

The Open forum began at 7.10 pm. Questions asked and matters raised included the following:

- A number of questions were asked and comments made regarding the recent non-operation of the speed cameras in the village. Two members of the public offered to help with managing the devices.

The Chairman replied that the matter was due to be discussed on the main agenda and that the points made would be taken into account.

- An increase in heavy traffic using East End which may have contributed to damage to the sewerage system.

The Chairman replied that a recently approved planning application in respect of Baston No.2 quarry placed restrictions on operational matters, including hours of working and the route vehicles had to take (avoiding the village) which the Parish Council would do its best to ensure were met. The Clerk would be writing to Hanson's regarding vehicle movements through the village.

- Rephasing of traffic lights at the crossing on the A15.

The Chairman replied that the Clerk had been advised this was not possible

- The village hall committee had not received its contribution towards the defibrillator promised through the County Councillors' Community fund scheme.

The Chairman replied that this would be followed up.

- Post to cemetery gate needs replacing.

The Chairman replied that this would be done.

54/15 Resumption of formal agenda

The Open Forum was closed at 7.40 pm. The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their contributions and re-opened the formal part of the meeting.

55/15 Minutes of meeting on 28 July 2015

The minutes of the meeting on 28 July 2015 were approved as a true and correct matter.

56/15 Confidential matters

The Chairman explained this agenda item had been included with the intention of it being a standing item so that members of the public could be clear if there were any confidential matters on the agenda that needed to be taken with the press and public excluded.

After a brief discussion it was considered this item would be better placed at the end of the agenda.

57/15 Co-option of councillor

The Chairman reported that no applications had been received.

After a short discussion it was **agreed** the Chairman would mention the outstanding vacancy in his column in the next Grapevine, and that the Clerk would contact a parishioner who had made an inquiry about the vacancy.

58/15 Reports from County and District Councillors and Police

District Councillor Cooke reported on correspondence he and District Councillor Woolley had received in respect of possible enforcement action to be taken by SKDC in respect of a residential caravan and associated outbuildings at New Road. He was still awaiting feedback from a matter regarding the condition of the boundary wall of the council houses at West End. SKDC dog fouling notices had been distributed with the latest Grapevine which it was hoped would raise awareness and reduce instances of dog fouling around the village.

59/15 Speed signs

A discussion took place, picking up points that had been raised during the Open Forum, regarding the operation of the speed signs. Members appreciated the offers of help members of the public had made, but it was considered insurance and health and safety issues needed to be investigated before any such offers were progressed.

It was **agreed** the Clerk should contact the Clerks of Uffington and Corby Glen, whose villages appeared to have similar schemes.

It was also **agreed** to contact the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership to ask if the van with the mobile speed cameras could visit the village.

60/15 Planning matters

The Chairman reported receipt of the decision notice, granting permission, in respect of application number S11/0123/CM for the extension of Baston No. 2 Quarry, Langtoft Outgang Road, Langtoft, for Hanson Quarry Products Europe Ltd.

The Chairman drew attention to conditions attached to the permission, which included routing vehicles away from the village, restrictions on working hours to 7 am – 5 pm Mondays to Fridays and 7 am – 12 noon on Saturdays, and upgrading of the wheel-cleaning facility to prevent deposits on the public highway.

It was felt these conditions offered a sound argument to contact Hanson with regard to the on-going complaints of vehicle movements.

Agreed: These points be incorporated into correspondence by the Clerk to:

- a) to Hanson with regard to recent complaints regarding vehicle movements (including the assertion that heavy vehicles may be contributing to damage to the sewers) and
- b) to Lincolnshire County Council Highways to again ask for a 7.5 tonne weight limit through the village. (East End and West End.)

Decision notice: the Clerk reported that an application for demolition of PVC conservatory and replacement with stone/block orangery at 3, the ride, Langtoft, (no: S15/1700/HSR) had been approved.

61/15 Clerk's report

The Clerk presented her report and drew members' attention to the following matters:

- a) Correspondence from a land agent on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council regarding the intention to construct a footpath and fence between the proposed Pocket Park and the village, in which the Parish Council was being asked whether it wished to take responsibility for the path and fence and if so what specifications would it wish to see.

- b) Correspondence from an agent acting on behalf of new owners of 47 East End regarding the need to temporarily close the existing footpath alongside this property and create a diverted route.

In both instances the correspondents had asked to meet the Parish Council in order to discuss these matters in more detail.

After discussion it was considered on a) that while the Parish Council welcomed a footpath it was not minded to take over responsibility for it, but would like further information, and b) the proposed diversion looked acceptable in principle, but would like further information.

Agreed: the Clerk should set up meetings with the parties concerned in regard to both of these matters.

The Clerk also reported that she had not heard back from Mr Barry Woodthorpe in respect of the zip wire at East End Park, but would make further contact.

Agreed: the Clerk should make further contact with Mr Woodthorpe.

Purchase of new laptop. As this had not been progressed since the last meeting the Clerk asked how to proceed.

Agreed: the Clerk purchase a laptop – up to the maximum £500 authorised at the last meeting – and seek reimbursement.

The contents of the remainder of the Clerk's report were noted.

62/15 Financial report

The Clerk had previously circulated a report detailing recent transactions.

Cllr Risk reported that he was still awaiting the outcome of the external audit and offered to contact Grant Thornton for an update.

Agreed: Cllr Risk contact Grant Thornton.

Arising from consideration of the financial report Cllr Jackson asked what arrangements were in place for the gritting contract for the coming winter.

Agreed: This should be an agenda item for the 20 October 2015 meeting.

Cllr McCulloch reported that the Village Hall Committee had not yet received the £500 from the County Councillors' Fund for community projects (for the defibrillator) and asked if the Clerk could progress this.

Agreed: Clerk to progress this.

63/15 Updates from working groups.

Amenities:

The need for replacement posts for the cemetery gates was discussed. The Chairman offered to obtain quotes and put the matter in hand.

Agreed: the Chairman progress these matters.

Cllr McCulloch reported that the hedge, belonging to Anglian Water, alongside the A15 near the cemetery needed cutting.

Agreed: the Clerk contact Anglian Water to ask for this to be done.

East End Park: Cllr Jackson reminded Members that an inspection of the play equipment at East End park had not been carried out for the current year and asked if the Clerk could arrange this.

Agreed: the Clerk progress this matter.

Emptying of waste bins at East End Park: Cllr Risk asked whether it would be possible to arrange for South Kesteven District council to empty the waste bins at East End Park while they were emptying their own bins at the crossroads. It was also considered that two SKDC waste bins at the crossroads was unnecessary and asked whether one could be relocated at Black Bull Green.

Agreed: the Clerk contact SKDC to ask if these measures were possible.

Dog waste bins: Cllr Thompson noted that the contract for emptying the dog waste bins had yet to be implemented and asked if the Clerk could progress this matter in order that the bins could be installed.

Agreed: the Clerk to progress the matter.

Cllr D Hallam reported that the pond at The Rides was in need of maintenance and asked if there was any help the Parish Council could offer in resolving the matter.

Agreed: the Clerk to contact SKDC planning department as this was part of the planning requirement for the development.

Events:

Cllr McCulloch reported on the following forthcoming events and activities:

Christmas cards: Langtoft School designing the card. A budget of £50-£60 had been set aside.

Harvest Festival (4 October 2015): A budget of £25-£30 had been allocated for the flowers required for the Parish Council's arrangement.

Remembrance Day wreath (8 November 2015): A budget of £25-30 had been allocated for a wreath to be laid on behalf of the Parish Council.

Agreed: The Clerk order the wreath from the Royal British Legion. Cllr A Hallam to lay the wreath at the Remembrance Day service, supported by any other Parish Councillors who wished to attend.

Christmas@ the Crossroads (7 December 2015): Budget of £60-70 estimated towards refreshments and donation to the church. The Chairman offered to obtain a tree.

Agreed: Chairman source a tree.

Christmas tree festival in church: Budget allocated of £6-8 to pay for the Parish Council's tree.

64/15 Date of next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 20 October 2015 at 7pm at Langtoft Village Hall, and then: Tuesday 1 December 2015.

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

Signed:.....(Chairman)

Date:.....