

Langtoft Parish Council

Clerk's Notes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2 April 2013 at Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Brian Branch (Chairman), Trish Garratt, Colin Larkman, Roy Jackson, Yvonne McCulloch, Debbie Hallam, Elizabeth Allen, Andy Hallam and Mike Thompson
In Attendance: Steina Bishop (Clerk), Rosemary Woolley (District Councillor), Kelham Cooke (District Councillor). There were 5 members of the Public.

19/13 Open Forum

Member of the public commented on the dog fouling signs which were placed at the Cemetery. The Clerk explained that the reason for this was someone had placed a bag of dog faeces on the railings to the cemetery and environmental health had placed the signs there. These have since been removed by an unknown person.

It was suggested that the Christmas at the Crossroads had been non-eventful by a member of the parish and thought that a gazebo should be placed at the crossroads or nearby for refreshments instead of using the Waggon & Horses. Cllr McCulloch confirmed the numbers from the previous 2 years and explained the safety issues surrounding a gazebo. However the suggestion will be looked at nearer the time for the forthcoming Christmas event.

A member of the Parish commented that the Parish Council had not decorated the tree in the church for the Christmas Tree Festival. Cllr McCulloch & Cllr D Hallam confirmed that the tree had been decorated but had been decorated late.

2 Members in the open forum asked if dogs would be banned on the pavilion field as they had been approached by another member of the parish who had stated this. Parish Council members had not suggested nor agreed to this. The Chairman confirmed that as this was a South Kesteven District Council field, the proposal would come direct from them.

Concerns were raised by a member of the parish relating to pot holes on Stowe Road and the man hole cover at the Crossroads was raised. The Clerk was asked to contact highways to invite them for a village walkabout.

Council members were asked as to why the gritting had not taken place the weekend of the heavy snowfall. The Chairman confirmed that as per the Lincs County Council website, Lincolnshire were not scheduled to grit so therefore Langtoft PC did not feel the need to also grit. The procedure on gritting will be placed on the agenda in October.

Open forum closed at 7.19pm

20/13 Chairman's Remarks

The chairman thanked all members of the open forum for their comments.

21/13 Update from Lincolnshire Police

This report was read by the Clerk as PCSO Laughton was unable to attend the meeting and PCSO Clarke is currently working in Stamford.

No house Burglaries in Langtoft, there has been two in Uffington. There have been no traffic accidents on Stowe Road.

The summer house on New Road was broken into, the heater, micro, pots and pans, sofa cushions were taken and reported 19/02.

Two males went into the shop with counterfeit notes on 19/02. this had happened in Bourne as well that week.

Theft of a lorry battery on Wheatfield, Langtoft battery had been removed by owner from vehicle then taken from their property.

One to note The Neighbourhood Policing Team Sgts put a regular update in the Stamford Mercury and often there photos of our criminals to identify.

Councillors would like the Clerk to highlight to PCSO Laughton the volume of traffic and speed through the village at all times of the day, in particular peak times and to advise the amount of cars that are parked on the pavement in West End. **Clerk to Action**

22/13 Report from Bob Cramp (Road & Fun Run Organiser)

Mr Cramp confirmed that there would be no road and fun run this year due to cost restraints and staffing issues with Lincolnshire Police. Council members confirmed that they would endeavour to assist the organisers of this event, wherever possible in the future.

23/13 Reports from District Councillors Kelham Cooke & Rosemary Woolley

Cllr Cooke confirmed that the elections will be taking place in the May and the current consultation on the number of Councillors will end on 8th April. Currently there are 58 Cllrs covering the Lincolnshire area, which is made up into varying wards and will be reduced to 55.

There was a £5 increase on Band D properties in the new financial year.

Cllr Woolley suggested inviting Alan Hardwick, Crime & Police Commissioner to the Annual Parish Meeting. **Action: Clerk to add Mr Hardwick to events list of invites.**

24/13 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Halfhide & Cllr Risk

25/13 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest had been received by the Clerk.

26/13 To approve the minutes (19.02.13)

The minutes from the meeting held on 19th February were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed Cllr Garrett Seconded Cllr McCulloch and agreed by all members. Cllrs Thompson and Allen abstained from voting as they were absent at the last meeting.

27/13 Highways Issues

Cllr Garrett confirmed the issues which had been raised during open forum were of concern to the whole parish and the suggestion of Highways attending a walkabout would be beneficial to all residents.

Cllr Larkman raised concerns over the traffic light issue at the crossroads and commented on the petition that was taking place in the Village Shop.

Cllr Garrett asked if Langtoft would be able to get the police to assess speeding in the village with the use of a speed camera at peak times. The level of traffic had decreased slightly but there was still a lot of concern regarding speeding. **Action: Clerk to raise with PCSO Laughton and report**

28/13 Clerks Report

The Clerk confirmed that the sewerage works had been completed on New Road and was still awaiting notification of the road closure regarding the installation of the lay-bys.

The Clerk confirmed that the Best Kept Village competition was running for 2013. Council members agreed that Langtoft should be entered again this year. **Proposed Cllr Jackson, Seconded Cllr Garrett and agreed by all.** Information relating to this was forwarded to the Events Group.

29/13 Finance Report

The Clerk read the finance report and confirmed that the closing reserves were £10,379

The F&GP Group proposed that the salaries for the Clerk and Gardener be paid direct via Standing Order. **Proposed Cllr D Hallam, Seconded Cllr Garrett and agreed by all members.**

Members of the Finance Group thanked Peter Robinson for authorising a payment through the Big Society Fund, this money will be put towards costs for "Pocket Park"

The chairman confirmed that he was in receipt of the audit report and read to all council members proposals made by the internal auditor.

Petty cash to cease – there was a discussion regarding petty cash and it was agreed by all members to forward this item to the next finance group meeting. **Proposed Cllr Jackson, Seconded Cllr Garrett and agreed by all members.**

To purchase a date stamp – Clerk will action

Payments for the Grapevine need to be chased and a system put in place for when advertisers place their adverts.

All of the points raised were confirmed and voted on by members and except the petty cash statement, the members agreed. **Proposed Cllr Thompson, Seconded Cllr A Hallam and agreed by all members.**

30/13 Correspondence

The Clerk read the list of correspondence.

31/13 Planning Applications

There were 4 applications and the views of council were as follows

S13/0779 – Single storey extension and erection of chimney. **No representations made.**

S13/0217 – Replacement dwelling. **The council felt that the proposed plan is not in character of the existing dwellings and the size overpowers the neighbouring renovated farm buildings. There is also no vehicle access shown on the plans.**

S13/0663 – Extension above the existing garage and single storey side/rear extension. **No representations made.**

S13/0621 – Side entrance porch and lean-to to cover over rear patio area. **No representations made.**

Council members asked if the planning applications can still be sent to each Councillor, upon receipt to the Clerk, which would enable more time to review the applications and able to give a clearer view at full council. **Action: Clerk to email individual councillors when new planning applications have been received.**

32/13 Events Group Report

Cllr McCulloch read the report from the Events Group.

The events that are being arranged for 2013 start with the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st May, details will be sent out via posters and individual invites to local businesses, County and District Councillors and local organisations within the village.

The Parish Walk will be on the 12th June – details of this will be displayed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Christmas Cards – following the comments made by the Clerk at the last council meeting, Events would like Christmas Cards being added to the September agenda.

The Royal British Legion bench near the telephone box on West End needs some maintenance work. Councillors agreed to contact Mr Black of the British Legion to advise that they are ok to continue with this maintenance and remove the bench on a temporary basis.

Chairman requested that Standing Orders be suspended by 10 minutes to cover the remaining items on the agenda. **Proposed Cllr A Hallam, Seconded Cllr Thompson and agreed by all members.**

Amenities Group

Cllr Jackson read the report from the Amenities Group and confirmed that he has now taken over as the lead for this group.

A work party is to be arranged for works needing to be carried out on Black Bull Green. Amenities representatives agreed to start work the 1st week in May.

A work party has also been arranged for the 27th April to clean up the Cemetery.

33/13 “Pocket Park”

Cllr Jackson confirmed that he had received a response from Lincs County Council regarding the proposals for Pocket Park.

Cllr Jackson also confirmed that he will set up an appointment with Brian Thompson from Lincolnshire County Council.

9.35pm Cllr Allen gave her apologies and left the meeting.

34/13 Date of next meeting

Full Council Meeting 14th May 2013 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.40pm