

Langtoft Parish Council

Clerk's Notes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3 July 2012 at Langtoft Primary School

Present: Cllrs Brian Branch (Chairman), Debbie Hallam, Derek Risk, Andy Halfhide, Yvonne McCulloch', Trish Garratt, Mike Thompson, Andy Hallam, Colin Larkman, Roy Jackson and Elizabeth Allen.

In Attendance: Steina Bishop (Clerk), Rosemary Woolley (District Councillor), Kelham Cooke (District Councillor), Peter Robinson (County Councillor) and PCSO Michelle Laughton. There were no parishioners in the open forum.

16/12 Police Update

PCSO Laughton informed the meeting that there had been several instances of people acting suspiciously around the village and residents should be vigilant.

There have been reports of children using trees in Black Bull Green as goalposts, thus creating damage to the wire fencing. PCSO Laughton has spoken to the individuals and would like the Council to consider planting trees in that area. **Action: Amenities group to discuss at next group meeting and report back their findings to full council.**

PCSO Laughton would speak with PCSO Chris Clarke reference updated information on legalities of parking on verges and near junctions.

17/12 Open Forum

As there were no members in the open forum, The Chairman moved to the first item on the Agenda.

Main Agenda

18/12 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman thanked the County & District Councillor's for their attendance.

19/12 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

20/12 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

21/12 Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (15 May 2012)

There was an amendment to the previous clerk's notes. Approval of the previous minutes, to include this change was proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr D Risk and agreed unanimously.

22/12 Co-Option

Elizabeth Allen was co-opted onto the Parish Council. The Chairman then asked members of the council to introduce themselves. Proposed by Cllr Jackson, Seconded by Cllr Halfhide and agreed unanimously. Cllr Allen signed the declaration and then joined the Council.

23/12 Clerks Report on matters from previous meeting

The Clerk advised that there had been no updates on 47 East End.

Dog Fouling signs still needed to be placed within the village. Councillor's agreed to order 20 signs for placement throughout the village. **Action: Clerk to order dog fouling signs and have them placed appropriately.**

Cllr Jackson confirmed that he was in talks with Hanson regarding Pocket Park and he would arrange a meeting as soon as possible. It was also suggested that a meeting should be arranged with LCC to discuss their involvement in the handover process. It was also suggested that County Cllr Peter Robinson should be kept involved. **Action: Cllr Jackson to confirm meeting dates to Clerk and report findings at next Council Meeting.**

Cllr Garratt will be carrying out her Councillor's training in September and that Cllr Allen will attend a course at a later date.

Best Kept Village Competition – Posters have been displayed around the village.

Payments – The Clerk confirmed that there were a number of invoices that needed paying. These were for maintenance works and a payment to the Information Commissioners Office (data protection)

24/12 Finance & General Purpose

Invoices received late for the 2011/12 financial year had now been paid. The invoice for the Consecration fee was still awaited.

The balances in the account were as follows:

BMM A/C	£8948.93
Comm A/C	£5146.99

It was proposed by the Clerk to transfer a sum of £2000 from the BMM account to the Community Account. Proposed Cllr Garratt and Seconded Cllr Jackson. All Agreed. **Action: Clerk to raise necessary paperwork for the transfer of funds.**

The Clerk requested that the Chairman and The Vice Chairman be added to the authorised signatory list. All other signatories will remain unchanged. This was agreed by all Councillors.

The Finance and General Purpose Group confirmed the end of year accounts were complete and were ready to be forwarded to Clement Keys for the external audit.

The Group noted that there was no cover for gates and fencing relating to the Cemetery on the current insurance policy. Therefore the Clerk to check with AON as to how much it would cost to amend this portion of the policy. **Action: Clerk to contact AON regarding premiums and to report at next Finance & General Purpose Group meeting.**

The Clerk confirmed that the 2012/13 first quarter accounts had been sent to Victoria Hills, Account Manager in Stamford for the internal audit to be carried out. The Chairman explained to the Council that as there had been no Internal Auditor appointed and the need for the internal audit be carried out, he had approached Ms Hills. It was therefore proposed by full council to invite her along to the next council meeting.

There had been no written report given to The Chairman but he did confirm that the accounts were being managed correctly and accurately. He confirmed that where the Council made donations, regarding the Diamond Jubilee, that the Clerk should get a written receipt from the organisation that had received the funds. Ms Hills had also commented that the printing costs for the Grapevine were expensive.

The Clerk confirmed the grass cutting quote for this financial year was £2353.20 plus Vat. It was agreed that the existing contract would be continued for another year at the quoted cost. Proposed by Cllr Thompson, Seconded Cllr A Hallam and all agreed.

The Clerk confirmed the Gritting quote for this financial year was as follows:

£190 per call out
£ 50 per hour for snow clearing
£ 50 per hour for a teleporter
£170 per tonne of salt

The cost was agreed and proposed Cllr A Hallam Seconded Cllr Thompson and all agreed.

It was further agreed that for 2013/14 the Council would the tender for both the grass-cutting and gritting on a longer term basis. The Clerk would arrange the tendering in the autumn for consideration by the Council at the November meeting.

25/12 Planning

Decisions received – Second storey extension and replacement of garage 18 East End
Single storey rear extension 23 East End
Erection of 4 dwellings land adj 25 Cloven Ends and r/o 2 & 2a New Road

New Applications – Erection of two storey extension 53 Stowe Road
Two storey side extension 1 Mossop Drive

26/12 Correspondence

The Council noted correspondence that had been received since the last council meeting.

27/12 Reports from external representatives

Report by Cllr Peter Robinson (Lincolnshire County Council Member for Langtoft)

C. Cllr Robinson outlined the severe cuts in central government funding in the last year which had meant a reduction in Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) spending of around £27M and the loss of 1000 full time equivalent (FTE) posts. He explained that cuts of this order were planned to continue for the next 4 years. It was therefore inevitable that some council services would be lost or changed.

C. Cllr Robinson expressed his personal view that Langtoft was in a strong position to get through the period of austerity with less difficulty than many other communities across the county. Langtoft School was first class, and excellent local secondary education was available in Bourne, the Deepings and Peterborough. The bus service during the day between Bourne and Peterborough was fast and frequent. Langtoft residents had a good Health Centre in Market Deeping. The village shop and post office had survived the recent programme of cuts. The cycleway alongside the A15 to the south, and the improved crossing facilities in the centre of the village were welcome improvements. Some parts of the village were enjoying the benefits of high speed broadband.

In response to questions, Cllr Robinson accepted that the cycleway should be extended south to Towngate, and that measures were badly needed to control parking outside the village shop. There was a need for “Stop” signs at the Stowe junction with King Street. HGV vehicles continued to drive east/west through the village rather than using Cross Road and the bypass. He undertook to raise these matters with the Highways Department.

Comments from District Cllr R Woolley and District Cllr K Cooke

D. Cllr Woolley confirmed that the Electors Form deadline is 16th October.

D. Cllr Woolley advised that the new Police & Crime Commissioner will be appointed in November 2012 and will advise further information in due course.

D. Cllr Woolley advised the Council of a new banking structure that Melton Mowbray Building Society have set up **Action: Cllr Woolley to forward relevant information to the Clerk**

D. Cllr Woolley gave an explanation regarding the adoption of the new Codes of Conduct.

D. Cllr Cooke confirmed that he will contact the planning department regarding 47 East End.

28/12 Reports from Groups

Amenities Group

As there had been no specific items to cover since the last council meeting the group did not feel that there were any major items to discuss, and therefore no meeting was held.

There is however a need for a working party to continue repairs to both East End and Black Bull Green parks. Members of the Group will discuss dates and report to the council so that other members can join in.

The safety inspection report was welcomed and there were only a few recommendations that needed to be addressed.

Cllr Halfhide requested that immediate attention needs to be made to the fence at Black Bull Green as it may in the near future become a safety hazard.

Events Group

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting was well supported again this year by the village organisations and some interest had been shown in the Council display boards. The overall attendance had not increased over previous years. It is proposed that next years APM, personal invitations be sent out to encourage greater attendance.

It was noted that the Council had received a thank you letter from the Church Council for the £100 that was given for the flowers, a detailed list of how the monies had been spent had also been received. It was also noted that the Primary School had acknowledged the support for the “Crown” competition and for the medals that the children received.

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Walk should be planned for the 12th September starting at 6.30pm. Cllr McCulloch will confirm the Waggon & Horses that they would be able to provide sandwiches at the end of the walk. **Action: Cllr McCulloch to confirm at next Events Group if this is agreed.**

29/12 Code of Conduct

The meeting noted that due to the Localism Bill, Parish Councils will be adopting a new code of conduct which was supposed to be done by 1st July, although there is nothing in the statute that says it is the law to do so. Therefore after consideration by Council the meeting RESOLVED to adopt the SKDC Code of Conduct and accept any amendments thereafter. This would also include dispensations. This was proposed Cllr Garratt Seconded Cllr Risk and agreed by all members.

30/12 Wind Turbines

The meeting noted that SKDC have asked LUC, a company specialising in environmental planning to prepare a best practice guideline for anyone considering wind energy in the district. An informal consultation started in May with parish councils etc asking for initial comments and then a 6 week public consultation in the autumn. This will then be added to SKDC's Core Strategy. **Action: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Woolley ref the consultation later in the year and to forward relevant documentation to all Councillors'.** The deadline for any comments by Parish Councils is 31st August.

31/12 Grapevine

Some members of the Council felt that each individual Councillor should decide on the best practice of the Grapevine and report back to the Clerk, the Clerk would then report the findings at the next full Council meeting. Members also felt that more editorials would be useful and of interest to people within the village and suggested that a student may benefit from interviewing local organisations and reporting these to the Editor for publication. **Action: Clerk to contact Stamford College and The Deepings School for comment.**

Members would like to thank Martin Bishop for the production of his first Grapevine.

32/12 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 4th September at 7pm, Langtoft Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm