

Langtoft Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 February 2012 at Langtoft Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Roy Jackson (Chairman), Andy Hallam, Debbie Hallam, Derek Risk, Andy Halfhide, Mike Thompson, Trish Garratt and Brian Branch.

In Attendance: Steina Bishop (Clerk), Rosemary Woolley (District Councillor), Kelham Cooke (District Councillor), Jim Haw (Internal Auditor) and 10 members of the public.

Public Forum

Items raised were:

- A member of the open forum thanked the Council for a job well done on the gritting contract over the cold spell. It was noted that a few complaints had been received but overall it was a success.
- Comments were raised regarding 47 East End – local residents are now getting very concerned regarding the state of both the property and the surrounding area of the property. It is believed that English Heritage is not focused on this property and would therefore request that the Parish Council report to English Heritage regarding a realistic approach to a new development.
- Cllr Kelham Cooke confirmed that there are 4 applications which have not yet been determined regarding 47 East End and that a single dwelling would be more suitable than 2 to 3 dwellings as previous applications have determined. There are members of the planning department that will be investigating these applications and Cllr Cooke will report back to Clerk.
- Dog fouling around the village especially at the Pavilion and Black Bull Green is an ever increasing problem. Cllr Cooke confirmed that he is talking with members of SKDC regarding both of these areas and an officer was expected to attend both areas on the date of this meeting.
- A member of the forum queried why there is no signage around the pavilion area regarding dog fouling and penalties incurred if offences are made. Cllr Cooke responded, stating that SKDC could find no suitable place to put signage. This will be chased again and reported at the next council meeting.

- There was a lot of concern regarding the increase in fees with the Grapevine, especially those relating to the Langtoft Village Hall, Church and Langtoft Players. Questions were raised as to why these in particular had been picked on. It was commented regarding the incompetence of the council that there is a shortage of funds regarding the Grapevine. It was discussed at length and Cllr R Jackson stated that none of the above organisations would necessarily be charged at any point but currently there are no guidelines regarding neither pricing nor placing of advertisements.
- Member of the forum stated that the Grapevine is not a parish council magazine and that it belongs to the village.
- Comment was raised regarding the cost of the 2 planters which were bought for the Consecration at a cost of £37.50 each and queried why the events group paid so much for them. Cllr Risk confirmed that they were needed for the cemetery and wanted to have something in bloom. The councillors did not feel that the cost was therefore unreasonable.
- It was commented that there had been no advertising regarding the meeting on 23 February, regarding the Diamond Jubilee. The clerk confirmed that it was on the website and had been sent through the school network. Apologised for not being displayed on any notice boards and would ensure that a reminder poster would be displayed after the meeting.
- A query was raised as to why the agendas of the Council Meetings were not currently being placed on the Village Hall notice board. This was duly noted and all future agendas would be forwarded to the person responsible for the notice board.

The open forum closed after 30 minutes at 7.30 pm.

Main Agenda

83/11 Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their contribution.

84/11 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr C Larkman and Cllr Y McCulloch

85/11 Declarations of interest. There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

86/11 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (10 January 2012)

There was an amendment to the previous meetings: 82/11 note 2 to read "The Church/LVHMC/Langtoft Players may receive free of charge an advertisement" Proposed Cllr A Halfhide Seconded A Hallam, all agreed.

87/11 Clerks Report

The Clerk presented the report, which was accepted by the Council and it was noted:

- Dog fouling is still an ongoing concern.
- There have been no planning applications since the previous meeting.
- Building Control had written to the owner of this property and since has ensured the security near the play park has now been secured but it is still unsightly and unsafe at the rear of the property.
- Since the last Council meeting, as well as the routine updates, new pages have been added for the Diamond Jubilee, church quiz night and, recently the Responders2Warmth funds, to assist with heating bills.

88/11 Finance & General Purpose Group Report

The Council accepted the Finance & General Purpose Group Report and noted:

- The meeting reviewed the report of expenditure to date. Although the accounts are in an extremely healthy state, there are outstanding/budgeted financials to be paid, these should be paid prior to end of this financial year and therefore not carried over.

Financial Statement accepted by all members.

- The budget set aside for this year's gritting contract has been spent. Finance & General Purpose group recommend setting aside a further £1000 as a precautionary measure. This was agreed at full council. Proposed Cllr a Hallam Seconded Cllr D Risk and majority voted.
- A letter had been received from the Hyde & Mossop Charity, requesting an annual donation. It was agreed to be presented at full council. Interest was declared by Cllr R Jackson.

After much discussion it was proposed that the following criteria be met before a decision is agreed; statement of account, the criteria of gift giving and how much they require on an annual basis. Therefore this item has been deferred until the next council meeting. Proposed Cllr M Thompson Seconded Cllr D Hallam agreed by majority vote.

A proposal was presented to donate a Diamond Jubilee gift to each child commemorating the Diamond Jubilee. It was agreed to defer until after the public meeting on 23rd February.

- Works at East End and BBG had been completed by each designated company. However, there were still some small tasks outstanding at BBG. Awaiting invoices.

- It was noted that the Grapevine Editor had resigned and that the Internal Auditor was retiring with effect from end of March 2012. Both parties will need to be replaced.

89/11 Amenities Group Report

The Council accepted the Amenities Group Report and noted:

Progress report on repairs to Play Parks

- Black Bull Green – Slide platform has been repaired. 2 tasks are outstanding from the contract - the replacement of missing bolts from the slide and repairing of the seesaw. RSS Playmakers have been contacted and have replied with another quote of £400+ to repair the seesaw. This is not acceptable and a letter from the clerk, stating that they haven't conformed to the initial contract, should be written. No monies should be paid until successful solution to the first contract.
- East End – Work starts at East End Park on Monday 13th February. Repair to the fence will be started when the weather improves. A question was raised on whether the materials had been paid for? The repair kit for the seesaw has been received and awaiting installation, which will be completed when we receive better weather conditions.
- Langtoft road gritting would appear to be a success with only a few minor complaints, these were resolved where possible. It was agreed that complaints would be better given in writing to the council. The £3000 gritting budget has now been used. A notice is to be displayed in the Grapevine and on all notice boards, with regards to the complaints procedure.
- The salt bins have been sited, each having 200kgs of salt/grit and a small shovel. They are sited at A15 crossroad, main gate of the school, Ash Close and Black Bull Green Park entrance. The position of the bins will be reviewed regularly.
- The issue of bins for dog fouling disposal was discussed at length. This would appear to be a bigger problem at Black Bull Park. Lincolnshire will not provide or empty bins containing dog fouling waste. At the present time, the normal bins are emptied by the gardener and the waste put in his own personal bin. The majority of that waste is bags full of dog fouling. This is not within his terms of reference. The waste bin in Black Bull Green Park is often overflowing and can only be classed as a severe health hazard, even more so when it is situated in the toddlers' play area. The question to the council is do they wish to pay for a skip to remove dog fouling waste. This could be £40 per month. The bin in the toddlers' area be removed preventing a potential health hazard.
- It is recommended that a letter be posted in the Grapevine informing the public of the issues and requesting dog owners to take their dogs' waste home.

- It was suggested that we explore the options, for a grant, for a new piece of play equipment in East End Park perhaps something for handicapped children. Cllr T Garratt agreed to take on this role.
- We had a short discussion on new projects for 2012/2013 but it was decided we should wait until the adoption of Pocket Park was clarified.

90/11 To resolve that the public be excluded from item 8

Proposed Cllr T Garratt Seconded Cllr A Hallam – all agreed.

91/11 Staffing

It was noted that the existing Grapevine Editor has resigned from her post. An advert is to be placed on all notice boards, on the website and in the next edition of the Grapevine. Thanks were given to the Editor for all her hard work.

It was also noted that the Internal Auditor will be retiring at the end of March and therefore a replacement is also required. Notices are to be placed on all notice boards, website and in the Grapevine.

It was proposed that a gift be given to both, for recognition for all the work that has been done on behalf of the council and a sum of money to be set aside from the S137 payments. Proposed Cllr A Hallam Seconded Cllr M Thompson Majority voted.

Date of next meeting: 3 April 2012 in the Village Hall

The meeting ended at 9.15pm

Steina Bishop
Clerk to Langtoft Parish Council.