

Langtoft Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2011 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Jim Winstone (Chairman), Bob Cramp, Velma Denniston, Andy Halfhide, Andy Hallam, Debbie Hallam, Roy Jackson, Amanda Johnson, Mike Thompson.

In Attendance: Derek Risk (Clerk), Jim Haw (Internal Auditor). There were 11 members of the public present.

Public Forum

The meeting commenced at 7pm with the open forum and items raised were:

- A resident expressed concern at the planning application for the smallholding in New Road and issues that could arise over access, visual appearance and parking. It was noted that the Council had raised concerns about these issues in its representations to the SKDC planning authority in response to the planning application.
- A query was raised on progress of a previous complaint about additions to tablets in the memorial garden. After due consideration the Council had recently upheld this complaint and those responsible for the maintenance of the three memorials involved would be contacted.
- A resident expressed concern that the Council had agreed to spend £2,770 on remedial work on damaged memorials in the cemetery. Another resident complimented the Council on the efforts made to maintain the cemetery in good order and noted that the overall appearance was a credit to the village.
- A complaint was raised about the un-tidy state of the area around the lakes in Stowe Road where food was being deposited for the goats. This had already been raised recently with the Council and would be followed up.
- It was noted that the planning application by the football club had been deferred by the SKDC Development Control Committee for the angle of the floodlight hoods to be changed reduce the impact on adjacent residential properties. This was due to be done before the application is reconsidered at the 1st March meeting. The proposed meeting between residents and the football club would be publicised when arranged.
- A query was raised as to whether the Council was planning any village events to mark the forthcoming royal wedding. Timescales were too short for any significant events and the Council's efforts were being directed towards village events to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.
- Three residents spoke in response to the Council's request for comments on the pruning of the trees in the verges between 49 & 71 West End. The Council would be

deciding on a recommendation to go to LCC Highways under the agenda item following later in the main meeting.

- There was a request for information about the 47 East End site. It was noted that the planning application to restore the listed buildings and develop the site was expected to be considered by the SKDC Development Control Committee on 29 March.

The open forum closed after 30 minutes at 7.30 pm.

Main Agenda

153/10 Chairman's Remarks The Chairman thanked the members of the public present for their contributions and noted that he was pleased to see more attending what was the penultimate meeting of the current Council.

154/10 Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr McCulloch. It was agreed that acceptable reasons for absence had been given.

155/10 Declarations of interest. There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

156/10 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (11 January 2011)

The approval of the previous minutes was proposed by Cllr Denniston, seconded by Cllr D Hallam and agreed unanimously.

157/10 Clerk's Report

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

- That the internet training course in the village hall started on 27 January and was continuing on a weekly basis until Easter. The course run by Computers4U seems to have been well received by the 7 residents who were attending.
- LCC had installed vehicle restrictions signs in Back Lane at the A15 and Hyde Gardens entrances because it was a restricted byway. They had advised that they would now assess the need for maintenance work, but any repairs would have to be prioritised because of the ongoing budget constraints.
- The Amenities Group had agreed the grass cutting specification for the parks and tenders would now be invited from several suppliers for the annual contract to March 2012. The adjudication of received quotations would be carried out at the next Council meeting.
- Brian Thompson the LCC Divisional Highways Manager had agreed to attend the next Council meeting to discuss highways issues. Members would advise the Clerk of any issues they wished to raise.

- The necessary documentation for the consecration of the un-used part of the cemetery has been sent to the Registrar for the Lincoln Diocese. At least part of the cemetery was consecrated in May 1924 and the archived papers are being retrieved to identify if any further action was required.
- The repairs to the 6 damaged memorials in the cemetery had been completed and invoice paid.
- Associated Surfaces and Materials Ltd had confirmed that they intend to start the work to renew the safety surfaces around the play equipment in East End Park on 21 March. Notices would be put up to give advance warning of the necessary closure of a section of the park while the work is carried out.
- The Clerk was identifying the process for dog control orders under the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005 and was currently seeking advice from the SKDC Street Scene unit.
- The Council had received an email from a Thurlby resident about speed restrictions along the A15 from Market Deeping to Bourne. The Clerk had replied indicating that it was for their local Parish Council to take the lead on any action and the Council confirmed its support for that response.
- The local co-ordinator for the 2011 Census had asked to meet with the Clerk on 25 February to discuss support from the Parish Council for the forthcoming census. One request was to provide a volunteer to run two short drop-in sessions to help villagers complete the census forms. It was agreed that the Council would support this and run sessions on the 21st & 31st March using the committee room in the village hall.
- The Clerk was asked to schedule Council Meeting dates after the May AGM for the 2011/12 year, starting with 5 July and then on a six weekly cycle.
- The Council noted the receipts and payments since the last meeting and agreed the renewal of the Council's membership of LALC for the forthcoming year. The year end cash reserves were now expected to be just over £10,000 which is still consistent with the assumptions made in setting the 2011/12 precept and budget.

158/10 F&GP Group Report

The Council accepted the F&GP Group Report and noted that the recommendations were covered under subsequent separate agenda items.

159/10 Tree Pruning in West End

The Chairman thanked those that had responded to the request in the Grapevine for views on the future of the mature trees between 49 & 71 West End that were growing through the power lines. The small number of responses, received by the Clerk and from those also present in the public forum, were equally split between pruning them versus removing them in favour of the saplings.

The Council noted these responses and also that it could only recommend a course of action as LCC Highways/ EON had authority to take whatever action they considered appropriate.

There was however a common view amongst the Councillors that the mature trees added to the character of the village and should be preserved if possible. The samplings planted under the mature trees were not an adequate replacement and should be moved elsewhere in the village.

The meeting RESOLVED:

“To advise LCC Highways that the Council’s view was that the mature trees in West End should be retained and pruned appropriately. Also the adjacent saplings should be removed and re-planted in the boundary hedge of Black Bull Green alongside the Stowe Road frontage.”

This was proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Denniston and agreed unanimously.

160/10 Amenities Group Report

The Council accepted the Amenities Group Report and noted:

- As first reported at the last meeting the Amenities Group had been reviewing options to grit the roads in the village, not currently covered by LCC Highways, when there was significant snowfall or icy conditions. Their recommendation was covered under subsequent separate agenda item
- The generous offer of three grit bins made by Mr Alan Black would be accepted. The locations would be determined when they were available. The Clerk would write accepting the free offer.
- The quality of the repair work to the memorials in the cemetery was excellent.
- A work party was planned to relocate two of the planters opposite the shop in West End to Black Bull Green

161/10 Gritting Review

The Council noted that the Amenities Group had identified three possible options which included the Council buying and operating its own equipment, contracting for the service or a hybrid of the first two options. Having considered the practical implications and received the quotation it was clear that contracting for the service was the best option.

The quotation made provision for a contractor to visit the village as and when required and grit all village roads not currently done by LCC highways. There was also provision in the

quote to carry out snow clearance when required. The actual usage would be dependent on the weather but a budget of up to £3,000 was considered to be appropriate.

After discussion it was noted that clarification was required on the area covered, appropriate risk assessments, third party liability and the alert system for the on-call arrangements, but subject to these being resolved the proposal was accepted by the Council.

The Council also accepted the F&GP Group recommendation that the gritting contract should be funded by making virements in the 2011/12 budget of £2,000 from the Play Equipment budget and £1,000 from the Pond Feasibility budget.

The meeting RESOLVED:

“To accept the quote from LMR Services and complete the negotiations to contract for an on call gritting and snow clearing service.”

This was proposed by Cllr Thompson and seconded by Cllr A Hallam and agreed unanimously.

The meeting also RESOLVED:

“To create a 2011/12 budget of £3,000 for Gritting and Snow Clearing by making virements of £2,000 from the Play Equipment budget and £1,000 from the Pond Feasibility budget.”

This was proposed by Cllr A Hallam and seconded by Cllr Jackson and agreed unanimously.

The meeting expressed its appreciation to Cllrs. Halfhide & Jackson for all their work in identifying the options and preparing the proposal.

162/10 Cemetery Group Report

The Council accepted the Cemetery Group Report and noted:

- That the review of the Rules & Regulations was continuing with the aim of making them more specific to the village cemetery and easier to understand. When complete they would be submitted to the Council for approval.
- The review had also identified that there were three tablets in the Memorial Garden where surrounds had been added without Council permission and were not allowed within the Cemetery Rules. Those responsible for the maintenance of these memorials would be contacted.

163/10 Events Group Report

The Council accepted the Events Group Report and noted:

- That many ideas had been put forward for the Queens Diamond Jubilee and it was felt that more resources would be needed with a committee involving residents and organisations from the village. It was agreed that an article would be placed in the next edition of the Grapevine to seek responses.

164/10 Planning Group Report

The Council accepted the Planning Report and noted that there had been only one new planning application and three planning decisions received since the last Council meeting.

165/10 Baston No.2 Quarry Extension – Planning Application

The Council had considered this planning application in detail last summer based on the Environmental Scoping Document and had made representations at that time. It was agreed that these representations were still relevant to the final planning application and should be submitted again. Since that time Hansons had voluntarily agreed to route their own lorries via Cross Road instead of using East End. Whilst this had made some reduction in the number of lorries using East End (and West End) there were still too many third party owned lorries leaving the Baston Quarry and using the east-west roads through the village. It was agreed that the Council should submit additional representations to require Hansons to find a way of having effective control over the routes used by all lorries leaving the site, and to assist Hansons, for LCC to apply HGV weight restrictions to the east-west route through the village. Clerk to action.

166/10 Annual Parish Meeting

The Council decided that the currently only available date in the village hall in the later half of May, the Friday 27 May, was not a good day for the Annual Parish Meeting and asked the Clerk to investigate other options.

(Clerk's note: Since the Council meeting, Tuesday 17 May has been selected as the date for the Annual Parish Meeting. The Council AGM has been moved to 10 May and will be held in the School Hall)

The meeting ended at 9.25pm

Date of next meeting, 5 April 2011 in the Village Hall

Derek Risk

Clerk to Langtoft Parish Council.