

DRAFT

Minutes of Langdon Annual Parish Meeting Monday 15 April 2019 7.30 p.m. East Langdon Parish Hall

Present: Cllr C Shaw (chairman), Cllr J Dyer, Cllr A Minns, Cllr B Price-Stephens, Cllr S Craft, Cllr J Watson, Cllr D Jarvis, The Clerk, and sixteen members of the public

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2018 were approved as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr A Minns

Seconded: Cllr J Dyer

2. Matters arising

Defibrillator Checked and monitored by Cllr D Jarvis. Who will continue to look after although not standing for new council.

Playing Field Colin Smith donation box. Raised about £200 in donations

Cricket Club East Langdon Cricket Club will celebrate its centenary in 2019.

3. Reports from village Organisations

Chairman's Report

Looking back through the minutes of the last 12 months, it proved quite a task to provide a summary of the year's business in this brief report so I have chosen to highlight some of the main topics that come up at the monthly public meetings and in the background between meetings. Of particular note is the amount of email correspondence being received by parish councils not only from the district council and KCC but a range of other agencies, services and Kent organisations. The launch of new initiatives, consultations, surveys and changes in Government legislation all need reading and sifting before their relevance to our parish is decided. Where possible we like to send a representative to seminars and meetings on topics such as Policing, Local Planning, Kent Highways and the local branch of Kent Association of Parish Councils where we can meet with our neighbouring parish councillors. Councillor Tony Minns is well-known at many of these gatherings for his courteous yet pertinent questions!

At the monthly parish council meetings, you may be forgiven for thinking that Pot-holes, Planning and Street Lights are the main topics of discussion, and yes, they do come up regularly and sometimes involve long-running discussions. Take planning for example; the parish council, which as a statutory consultee, receives notice of any planning applications in the parish. We aim to discuss them at a public meeting and always send in a response to Dover District Council planning. This past year there were 17 applications, mainly for house extensions. Nothing too controversial or on the scale of last year's 10 dwellings development at Long Hill Lane, Westside, East Langdon. However, we await the publishing of the draft Local Plan by DDC in the summer which will lay out proposals for housing development, economic growth, community facilities, roads and other infrastructure changes until 2038. How Langdon might be affected remains to be seen and we will need to respond.

The parish council is the lowest level of local government authority, closest to the community, and representing and making decisions on behalf of the residents.

Being publicly accountable, the proceedings of council meetings, minutes and finances are published by website, noticeboards and parish newsletter. Each year a budget is set, identifying the expected expenses, projects and initiatives. The necessary income is raised by a precept demand on the Dover District Council and for this financial year the total resource required is set at £16,868, compared to £13,900 last year. The precept is £14,780, the shortfall being taken from council reserves. This precept represents a small increase of £1.53 (2.5%) on last year's band "D" parish council tax contribution. More details are in the council's minutes.

Parish Councils have a range of powers to provide, support or encourage facilities and activities for the benefit of the community. Often described as "Well-Being", our parish council works with local organisations (the church community, village halls, playing field committee, and other volunteer groups) to develop projects and create a sense of community. Some examples are the funding of the annual playing field maintenance costs, churchyards maintenance, village hall improvements, Carols on the Green and Commonwealth Day with Langdon Primary School. The major project soon to be completed in May is the Memorial for the Centenary of the ending of WW1, a joint project with St Augustine's Church and funded by donations from St Augustine's, KCC community funds, the Cleary Foundation and parish council reserves. Occasionally we receive private donations for a project such as Daffodils on the Village Green, an anonymous gift of £500 from the late Jean Ashenhurst.

Before I finish my report, I would like to highlight our disappointment and frustration in creating a reliable dialogue with our local policing and community warden services. Apart from broad-brush crime reports and Neighbourhood Watch statistics we have no contact although we are assured patrols do pass through our parish. Langdon is a low crime area but visibility and reassurance improves the sense of safety and Well-Being. Perhaps the recent email from The Dover Community Safety Unit will strive to improve the relationship.

Finally, on a positive note, this Langdon Parish Council is coming to the end of its 4-year term and the seven councillors will step down from office next month. Five of the current parish councillors are seeking re-election, together with a new resident. With less than 7 nominations, there will be no need for a parish election. This leaves one vacancy which can be filled by co-option after the new council is signed in.

This just leaves me the opportunity of thanking our councillors and clerk for serving the community during the past year, and a special thanks to Darren Jarvis who is not seeking re-election.

Thanks also go to our Dover North KCC member (Steve Manion) and Dover District councillors (Keith Morris and Peter Jull) who have provided information and support on various matters.

Last but not least our thanks to the members of the public who attend the council meetings, the volunteers who cut the village greens, run the coffee mornings, maintain the phone box libraries, pick up litter and generally share our values in making Langdon a great place to live.

Chris Shaw
April 2019

East Langdon Parish Hall

The parish hall is in a better situation following a number of improvements during the past year. As mentioned in last year's annual report, a £2300 grant offer from KCC Community Funding had just been offered to replace the internal ceiling and improve the roof insulation. Thanks to additional funding from the parish council and a drop-in replacement tile costs, we were also able to replace all the overhead lighting with more efficient LED units.

The other pleasing change was that following an appeal for more people to join the hall management committee, we were able to welcome 3 new members. The membership had dropped from 5 to 3 when long-serving members Ron and Jane Wakefield moved away and so stepped down from the committee. This left a committee of 3 which is just quorate but a risky situation for future management. Financially the hall is in a good position to plan for the next round of improvements: re-decorating the kitchen and toilets plus a larger project to renovate the hall floor. There are several reasons for the healthy financial position;

Switching the electricity contract and direct debit has kept the annual bill to £1480, £400 less than in 2016;

Additional Keep Fit and Step Aerobics classes;

An increase in fund-raising (Quiz evenings, Jazz Evening and donations from the Coffee club and Book sales at the phone box library and inside the hall) amounting to £565.

Basic Hall Income and Expenditure has improved over the previous year, lettings are up from £5400 to £5690, and Outgoings down from £4120 to £3800, leaving a balance of £1360 at the end of 2018; and risen to £2000 at the end of March.

Recently there have been requests to hire the hall for more keep fit classes and a weekly letting timetable was published to map out the hall usage. We are also looking to book more entertainment events from the Applause Rural Touring programme, following last month's popular Langdon Jazz Evening.

Finally, on behalf of the hall committee I would like to thank everyone who gives their time and support to the parish hall: the volunteers, the parish council, and those who make use of the facilities. Village halls are at the heart of rural community life – providing a hub for social activities, classes and services such as post offices. But are there ways the hall can serve our community? Let's hear your ideas!

Chris Shaw

Hall secretary April 2019

West Langdon Village Hall

Not much to report this year. The hall has derived its income from our Harvest Supper, Table Tennis and a band that comes to practice; along with donations for the use of tables, chairs and crockery.

Harvest supper numbers have dwindled over recent years but we were still able to raise £93 from a raffle, which was made up from hall funds to £100 and donated to The Alzheimer's Society.

Our book shop continues to do well and looks smart after its coat of paint. It raised £90.50.

Dover District council continues to grant us 100% rate relief, thankfully.

Thanks, as usual to the folks who maintain our village green at their own expense. However, it must be recorded that large vehicles are using the cart track across the green and causing damage.

East Langdon Playing Field

- *“Great play equipment for all ages. Nice big field to throw the ball for the dog. Plenty of parking” Fantastic playing fields with lovely equipment. Fun for all the family!*
- *Really good park. Kids love it, and the child in me lol. Only gave a four because football pitch has gone. You can still play it there just no goals.*
- *Needs updating but a peaceful place to have a fun family day.*
- *Brilliant park with lots to do for the whole family no public conveniences though so bring a bottle ha-ha.*
- *Good sized area open to all people good for the whole family. Would be better if a path for wheelchair access everywhere was made.*

If we were to look at some of the reviews, several would require considerable funding. The suggested provision of public toilets on site and wheelchair access throughout would be very expensive to install and would be a continuing liability to maintain. In fairness, it could be that not all visitors appreciate the modest funding arrangements in place.

Nevertheless, those reviews placed on the internet by visitors reflect the popularity of the playing field and the play facilities. Local families regularly meet at the field and we know of Dover residents who prefer to come out to Langdon because the area is safer, quieter and less busy than the town play areas. However, it has been noted that local schools have been making use of the playing field facilities. While all are most welcome, it might be appropriate to invite those funded organisations to make a donation.

The field association has no regular income and the major annual costs are covered by the parish council, these being the Insurance premium, annual safety inspection and the grass cutting contracts. Without this continued support, it would be extremely difficult to maintain such a high-quality recreational area, even though one comment 8 months ago had suggested that the playing field needs updating! No update suggestion was provided. We also receive an annual donation of £250 from Keat's Farm Caravan Park at Martin Mill which helps maintain the Children's play area.

Other fundraising efforts included realisation of £520 from the Summer 2018 Dog Show Hire and Refreshments as sold by LPFA Committee. Our appreciation to the BBQ cooks who's worked very hard in the sweltering heat. Other various on-field fund raising events contributed a further £140.

The Field Donation box has produced some £96 in revenue. We will continue to encourage visitors to show their appreciation via the donation box.

The volunteer Playing Field Committee is responsible for the management of the Langdon Playing Field and some improvement works were carried out last year including 4 extra trees being planted. Their responsibilities include safety maintenance of the play equipment and safety surfaces. Equipment repairs were recently carried to the Hip Hop bearings.

As part of the risk assessment measures, committee members carry out weekly inspections of the equipment and surrounding areas. The reports are used to identify potential issues and feed into a maintenance programme.

Litter and late-night parking continue to be issues. The gates are occasionally locked overnight to discourage overnight parking.

In closing, the committee wish to thank the parish council for the on-going financial support and interest in maintaining this important recreational space. Currently our committee comprises six volunteers and we would welcome more people to step forward to work with us. Please get in touch!

East Langdon School

Not available

East Langdon Church

During the past Twelve months, boosted by volunteers, the small Parochial Church Council has kept the church building, graveyard and surrounds in sound order and we are grateful to the Parish Council for helping this happen by giving a grant towards the cost of graveyard strimming. We have raised funds to help with the cost of insurance, energy and repairs. We have been able to make donations to local charities to the value of £650. We have welcomed Langdon School for their end of term services and enjoyed these occasions.

The Reembrance Service has allowed people to come together in remembering those who gave their lives and this was especially poignant in 2018 when we commemorated the hundredth anniversary of the Armistice of 1918. We are joining with Langdon Parish Council to erect a permanent memorial on the village green that is on target to be completed this summer. Carol's on the green around the illuminated Christmas tree continues to be popular and well supported with a great deal of help from residence of Church farm Mews.

We have welcomed three new members to PCC much to the relief of the existing three.

Finally, the allotment holders now total ten. The place abounded with fruit and veg last summer and we are looking forward to another successful year.

Anthony Hyde

Church Warden.

St Mary's West Langdon Church

In 2018 services continued to be held either here at St Marys West Langdon or at St Augustine's East Langdon on every Sunday of the year.

Combined services are held on Palm Sunday at St Marys and Easter Sunday at St Augustine's East Langdon.

Otherwise Holy Communion services were held on the 3rd Sunday in the month together with Good Friday and Christmas.

It was fortunate to have a wedding at the beginning of August.

The 4 Churches Service at the end of September was again in the form of songs of praise this year with the theme of Anniversaries.

Harvest Festival was in October, then in November short service was held to commemorate the centenary of WW1. A plaque naming the 4 young men from the village who died in active service was placed near the remembrance tree in the churchyard and poppy seed planted around it.

The weather was very unkind to us for our annual spring walk and tea but a good number braved the rain and enjoyed tea in the barn.

This year it will be in June so do please come on Saturday 9th June and enjoy a country walk 3 miles followed by tea at 4.30 hopefully in the garden at Maydensole.

Thanks to Joan and Heather for a very enjoyable Harvest Supper and quiz held in the village hall at the beginning of October and many welcome contributions were made towards the upkeep of the church.

We would like to thank Langdon Parish Council for the grant towards the cutting of the grass in the churchyard.

The Langdon Bowls Club

We are Monitoring attendance year by year. The summer period is always when we have the highest number of players. This year will be different, when are

members from away will join us we will play twice a week. Other times it is going to be Friday evenings only. Numbers are low and if someone has a night off, we cannot make a game.

We do this during the winter period anyway. Four of our group drives from Dover so we have to be very weather aware.

We will keep going as long as we can. People say they would to play and never turn up.

East Langdon Cricket Club

East Langdon Cricket Club started the season with some very sad news, losing one of their life time members-Colin Smith. Colin played a massive part in the Cricket Clubs history and success for the last 60 years and will be truly missed by all.

Langdon had a very successful season on and off the field seeing member's grow and encouraging younger players to develop their game. Langdon cricket club finished second in their league and gained promotion. Sunday cricket was a huge success and well supported with lots of Sunday fixtures.

Langdon hosted their Langdonberry 20/20 competition, which saw past and present players compete in a friendly completion. Despite the awful weather the event was very well supported by players, members and the local community.

The club have been extremely busy working on the ground and pavilion, unfortunately last year we had a number of incidence with dog foul on the pitch resulting in players clothing being soiled, we therefore request that local dog walkers are respectful of this private land and pick up all dog mess, keep to the edges of the ground and refrain from throwing sticks for dogs onto the ground as this had recently resulted in costly machinery damage.

2019 is a very important year for the club, as we are celebrating our 100th year.

We have arranged an all-day family event on the 13th July, in memory of Colin smith. The day will consist of BBQ, cream tea, bouncy castle and a live band in the evening with a gin & tonic bar and a selection of local ales

The club received a number of sponsorship and donations which is helping support this day and the club's longevity. The club however is always looking for new opportunities for grant's and sponsorship.

The annual Langdonberry 20/20 completion will be held on Sunday 25th August, this will be a very similar format to previous years. All local support is welcome to any of our functions or just if you fancy watching a game of cricket – or even playing!

This year's Chairman is Darren Morgan, Vice Chairman Wayne Smith.

4. Questions from the public

None.

5. Refreshments There was refreshments provided and most people enjoyed chatting and discussing the presentation.to follow.

6. Prehistoric Discoveries around Langdon –

A presentation about the local settlements and burial mounds to be found within our local area.

Guest Speaker: Keith Parfitt of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust,

Keith a local resident of East Langdon presented many interesting facts and history of our area using slides and maps. He pointed out that the area is rich in prehistoric history but most of this is not visible due to the intensive ploughing and farming that has taken place. He used a series of aerial maps to illustrate the change of typography which shows crop circles indicating ancient ditches and

burial mounds. which he explained is still present underground. Keith explained to the audience that they can use google aerial naps on the own computers to locate and investigate these ancient monuments. These facts the audience found fascinating and he received a very warm reception for his presentation.

Cllr A Minns proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker.

Many members of the public stayed after the talk to continue discussing the presentation.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Signed

Dated