

Parish Council of Langton Matravers

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in the Village Hall on Thursday 9th February 2017 at 7 pm.

Present: Cllr W Knight in the Chair, Cllrs P Christie, M Turner, R Sheppard, C Drayson, R Lucas, P White, P Loudoun.

There were 5 members of the public present.

The meeting was audio-recorded.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Lovell.

2. Declarations of Interest / Grant of Dispensations. None.

3. National Trust Report. Mr Kershaw agreed to **loan gloves and tools** for LMPC's Planting/Clearance day on Feb. 11th. **Fencing Contractors** have been at work in coastal areas, and there have been more **repairs to access infrastructure**. The **Woodland Days** are over for the winter, with a fence going up around the newly-coppiced area at the end of Feb. There are serious **problems with water damage on parts of the Priests' Way**, especially at the Acton section and between the dewpond and South Barn, and Mr Kershaw is getting quotes for repairs: meanwhile he will do temporary work to stabilise the track as far as possible. Following a query initially raised by Worth Parish Council about responsibility for clearing bushes on the access road to Burngate Stone Carving Centre, he promised to clarify this; **ACTION: Jon Kershaw**. On announcing his engagement, Mr Kershaw was formally congratulated by the whole Council.

4. Public Discussion Period. The meeting was adjourned for this agenda item.

a) Dr Chris Spilling thanked Mr Kershaw for digging holes ready for tree-planting in the **orchard section at the Council's Natural Amenity site**, and also thanked Ian Scott and Hilary Jarvest for a pear and an apple tree which they have donated for the area. The supply of hedge plants has been held up by the cold weather.

The Meeting was reconvened.

5. Matters Arising from the Public Discussion.

a) Council's Natural Amenity Site. Formal thanks were extended to Mr Kershaw and the National Trust for support with this community project.

6. Planning Matters.

1. The Clerk had received a verbal objection to Item 1b) on the grounds of the proposed garage's size and its being 'out of keeping' with the area.

2. a) 6/2016/0771 Toms Field Camp Site and Shop, Toms Field Camping Site, Toms Field Road, Langton Matravers, BH19 3HN. Use of part of existing campsite, by motorised caravans and tents, throughout the year. **No Objection**.

b) 6/2016/0727 Mr Ricky Forte, East Drove (Peveril), Langton Matravers, BH19 3HF. Demolish existing garage and erect new garage and store, make alterations and extensions to existing dwelling.

Despite some concerns about the size of the new development, it was agreed: **No Objection**

3. Receive planning decisions affecting this parish since the last Parish Council Meeting:

a) 6/2016/0628 Mr Robert Ayres, Acton (Stone Haven), Langton Matravers, BH19 3JS. Roof alterations and extensions comprising: two pitched roof dormer windows in the southern roof slope, and erection of single storey rear extension.

Approved

4. Any other planning matters: a) By agreement with PDC, discussion of applications relating to Capitol House, LM (Loudoun) and Verney Farm (Bower) will be held over until the next meeting on 9th March.

b) Response to Steve Tapscott (PDC Planning Officer) re: development sites in Langton. Cllr Drayson outlined concerns in the matter, raised at Purbeck DAPTC in January. Some are not happy that Clerks are being asked for this information, as PDC's quest for development sites could work against Community Land Trusts trying to find sites for affordable housing. Cllr Christie thinks that any request of this type should only have a response agreed by the Council, so that the Clerk is not compromised. Cllr Knight pointed out that the Clerk has a responsibility to disclose information in the public domain under the

Freedom of Information Act. Cllrs Knight and Christie will attend a meeting with PDC on March 20th within the context of the Partial Review, and will not be suggesting any further sites. It was agreed that the Council's document of December 2013 in response to the Settlement Boundary Review, already submitted to PDC and including various possible sites for local needs housing, with comments from parishioners, be considered to be the Council's present view on the topic. ***ACTION: Clerk to advise Mr Tapscott accordingly.***

7. Minutes of the Meeting held 12th January 2017. These were agreed to be a correct record and signed.

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes. Item 6a), Windmill Knap: the Clerk had written to Katie Black, but received no response. ***ACTION: Clerk to write again.***

Item 7.4.(Planning) Cllrs expressed concern about the unsuitability of the little room next to the Council chamber as a place for Cllrs to go when 'leaving the chamber' to avoid conflicts of interest etc. ***ACTION: Clerk to contact District Solicitor to ask if in future it would be acceptable for Cllrs 'leaving the chamber' to sit at front or back of the Hall.***

9. The Clerk's Report for the period 6.1.-1.2.2017. A list of correspondence received and actions taken can be read on p.3 of the agenda. Report received.

Cllr Lucas left the meeting.

a) Item A15). Bridget Mayes – Cyclists' sign at top of village. This was temporary, and needs replacing. After discussion about text and format, it was agreed to refer the matter to the site meeting with Steve Mephram (DCC) (Item Db) to see what was possible. ***ACTION: Cllrs White, Loudoun, Christie.***

b) The Clerk had received a message from Mr M Greenleaves, a Governor at St George's School, to say that the fence along the S Boundary of their field will be replaced by DCC. ***ACTION: Clerk to thank St George's for organising new fencing.*** Cllr Loudoun said that he hoped that the safety improvements created by the new fencing will encourage the school to use the field more.

c) Item Bd) Post Office at Putlake? The Clerk had spoken to Steve Legg: they have 2 plan options for the new shop, and are waiting for the Scott Estate to respond as to which they prefer. They can then look at further plans for the site as a whole to move the scheme forward.

d) Item Be) Damaged S. Cemetery Gate. The Clerk is preparing an insurance claim, which will be submitted shortly.

e) Item C1) Agenda for Chairs' and Clerks' meeting, 13th March. It was agreed to ask for a) an update on the Partial Review of the Local Plan, and b) Comment on possible devolution of services. ***ACTION: Clerk to contact PDC.***

f) Item C2) Damaged Fingerpost at Leeson. It was agreed to get a quote from the AONB group to mend it. ***ACTION: Clerk.***

g) Item C3) Natural Amenity gate hinges. After discussion of possible options for new gates for the area, using costings provided by Dr Spilling, it was agreed to ask Dr Spilling, Jon Kershaw and Cllr Loudoun to bring a clear proposal to the next meeting for the Council's comment. ***ACTION: Dr Spilling, Jon Kershaw and Cllr Loudoun.***

h) Item C4) Plans for Parish Assembly (Weds. 26th April). ***RESOLVED: that the format be as in previous years, with the usual invitations issued, and that up to £100 be used for refreshments.*** ***ACTION: Cllr Drayson, Clerk, Cllrs to help with food.***

i) Love Langton Litter Picks, 3rd-6th March. ***RESOLVED: To support the picks with insurance and equipment as usual.***

j) Da) PDC Temporary Licenses Policy Consultation. It was agreed that the Council was broadly in favour of the policy: the matter was let rest on the table.

k) Db) DCC Highways Site meeting to discuss speed restrictions (+ cyclist sign). Cllrs White, Loudoun and Christie all agreed that they could be present. ***ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Steve Mephram to agree date.*** It was agreed later in the meeting to include the state of the edge of the road at Crack lane, as it continues to cause problems for drivers, despite some infilling by DCC.

The next final date for inclusion of correspondence-related agenda items received between meetings is 28th February 2017.

10. Chairman's Announcements.

a) Cllr Knight thanked Cllr Loudoun on behalf of the Council for all his work clearing tree branches along Crack Lane.

b) Unitary Authority Consultation. 3 Councils of the 9 had voted against merging, Christchurch, East Dorset and Purbeck. It has been suggested that Councils were put under undue pressure to vote in favour of the change on the grounds that those who did not would not have a role in any future organisation, and officers would not have jobs. However, the facts need to be established before taking any action in the matter. ***ACTION: Clerk to inform Cllrs if further information becomes available.***

c) The Chairman will be absent until mid-March: the Vice Chairman will preside at the next meeting.

11. County and District Councillor's Report. Cllr Lovell was not present.

12. Coombe Crossing Proposal. The latest version of the proposal, with the pedestrian crossing to the West of the junction, was considered. Cllrs emphasised that the proposal must include a 30mph limit at that point. Concerns were expressed about the layout of the junction for traffic: do the proposals allow for slowing traffic sufficiently as it enters the B3069 at the junction ? Will the new angle of egress mean that large vehicles and vans will effectively block the entrance (as they do now) when waiting to join the A351 ? This is likely to slow the traffic going up to Langton. ***ACTION: Clerk to pass comments to Kevin Humphreys (DCC) and invite him and colleague to make a formal presentation when proposals finalised.***

13. PDC Housing Forum Report. Cllr Christie said that it was useful to hear what other T&PCs were thinking about housing, but isn't sure what is being achieved. Cllr Drayson noted that there is pressure for change in Devon and Cornwall, especially relating to second homes, but PDC isn't following this up. We need to change government policy; the recent offer of funding from Govt. to DCs to mitigate problems for communities with second homes could form a starting point. The word 'affordable' is redundant, as 'affordable homes' aren't according to present criteria, and a new term needs to be used which expresses the reality. T&PCs need to work together with PDC to achieve these changes. It was agreed to ask that a second homes policy be included in the Chair/Clerks agenda meeting. ***ACTION: Clerk.***

14. Financial Matters: (1) Additions to Council funds since the last Council Meeting:

£ 810.00 Allotment rent payments 2017.

(2) Note the following Payments by cheque or cash to be made since last Meeting:

£ 60.00 Ian Bugler – Grounds Maintenance (January).

£ 707.74 Clerk's salary (January).

£ 18.67 HMRC – National Insurance payment (January).

£ 157.50 Elliot's Cleaning Co. Public Toilets + Bus Shelter (January).

£ 250.00 CILCA fee (already paid).

£ 98.00 LexisNexis (Cheque to Clerk) Charles Arnold-Baker- Local Govt Admin book.

£ 76.64 SSE Enterprise – mending footway light at Acton.

(3) Payment by Direct Debit:

£ 44.33 XLN Telecom for phone and broadband.

£ 22.40 NEST - PC contribution to Clerk's pension

4) Any other Financial Matters: Awards of grants to Community Groups under S137. After discussion it was ***RESOLVED: To grant £100 to the Dubber, and £100 to Purbeck Citizen's Advice.*** It was agreed to defer any grant to the Burngate Stone Carving Centre until the matter of responsibility for clearing bushes etc. along the access road had been clarified. The Village Hall request for funding for a new central heating boiler was also deferred until promised accounts were ready, and evidence of three quotations for the new boiler had been seen by the Council, to ensure best value. ***ACTION: Clerk to inform all applicants as relevant.***

15. Confirmation of the date of the next Council Meeting – 9th March 2017 at 7 pm.

16. Additional Items for the Agenda of the next Council Meeting: None.

Closed 8.58 pm.

Signed..... (Chairman) Date.....