

Parish Council of Langton Matravers

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Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Langton Matravers Village Hall on Thursday 9th September 2021 at 7 pm.

Present: Cllr W Knight in the Chair, Cllrs P Christie, P Loudoun, D Pearson, I Vaughan-Arbuckle, P White, M Kirby.

8 members of the public and Cllr Brooks were present; Cllr Brooks left after Item 13.

The meeting was recorded. The LMPC Covid-safe protocol was observed.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Bell, Harding, Tom Clarke (NT).
2. Declarations of interest / Grants of Dispensation. Cllrs Christie and Kirby declared an interest in Item 10.D.A.8 as allotment holders; Cllr Kirby declared an interest as a neighbour in Item 7.1.a), and Cllr Pearson as householder in Item 7.1.d). All left the room when these items were under discussion.
3. National Trust Report. Mr Clarke had sent a report which was read out by the Clerk. It had been a busy summer. They had found the **Activity providers' (Dancing Ledge) meeting** very helpful, and are looking at solutions to some of the issues raised. The **Spyway cow signs** have been very well-received by the public, and St George's School pupils had enjoyed working on them.
4. Dorset Councillor's Report. **Covid numbers** in Purbeck are down, though they are still high in the BCP Council area. The **DC Safety Advisory Group** are working with partners to ensure maximum safety for events. There is a **consultation on the Blue Badge system, and for car parking charges** more generally to try to make them consistent across the county. There will be a 3-tier system from Jan 2022. **Cattle grids** will be installed at Arne. The **new 20mph criteria** are ready to go to the Overview and Scrutiny Cttee in Oct-Nov, then to Cabinet. The legal work has been put in place to move the **van and caravan in Crack Lane**, and it should be removed 'early next week'. Cllr Brooks was thanked for her report.

The meeting was adjourned.

5. Public Participation. a) Collette Drayson noted the negative personal impact on her of the Council's Complaints Procedure, and asked that it be revised so this does not happen in future.
b) Sue Spilling speaking as an allotment holder, i) thanked Cllr Pearson for noting the clause in the National Trust's lease with LMPC relating to the **use of herbicides and pesticides**. She asked that all tenants be given a new tenancy agreement reflecting this. **June Frith** of the LMAA thanked the Council for addressing the issue, and offered the LMAA's support to tenants in managing any changes necessary.
ii) Ms Spilling asked Cllr Brooks how, given Dorset Council's use of glyphosate, this squares with **DC's Climate Emergency declaration** ?
c) Barrie Mayes thanked the Clerk for information given about the best way to hold an **informal private meeting between the CLT and LMPC** to discuss CLT plans. He noted that the landowner concerned had asked that such a meeting take place; at this meeting no decisions will be made, nor opinions sought. In due course, if the project moves forward, there will be a public meeting with the community to seek their support for the project.
d) Chris Spilling suggested that **meetings between reps.** of the LMAA, LMPC and NT might be beneficial.

The meeting was reconvened.

6. Matters arising from Public Participation. All items raised already elsewhere on the agenda.

7. Planning Matters. 1/2. Receive comments from the public on the following applications:

- a) 6/2021/0232 Manor View Steppes Langton Matravers Dorset BH19 3EU. Side and front single storey extension to main house and roof terrace & Garage conversion with rear balcony. **No Objection.**
- b) 6/2021/0297 Winterfell Durnford Drove Langton Matravers Dorset BH19 3HG. Erect a shed (retrospective). **Leave decision to Planning Officer.**

c) 6/2021/0326 4-5 Castle View Langton Matravers Dorset BH19 3HT. Remove existing conservatory; new high level window to side. **No Objection.**

d) 6/2021/0179 43-45 High Street Langton Matravers Swanage BH19 3HA. Single storey rear extension, infill extension at first floor to rear and associated alterations. **No Objection.**

3. Decisions by Dorset Council since last meeting: Not known.

4. Any other Planning Matters: a) the Clerk had been having problems accessing Langton Parish planning applications on the newly-designed DC Planning website. After input from DC, this is now possible, though Cllrs noted other problems with access to 'Outlook' on the site and inability to read other's comments on applications. The designers seem not to have understood the needs of end users. Cllr Brooks noted that the website is still in the process of re-design, and said that training will be offered when this is complete. **ACTION: Cllr Brooks to advise on training.**

b) Cllr V-A asked about the current status of the Crack Lane application: **ACTION Clerk to enquire and feed back**

13. Highways Report. a) **Revised 20mph policy.** A DC speed test had shown that the average speed over 7 days was 19.75mph, with an average of 2,690 vehicles through the village per day. Therefore LMPC are in a position to make a further bid for 20mph. Cllr Brooks advised that it might be better to wait until the new 20mph criteria are approved by DC before applying, perhaps in November. b) **Community Speed Watch** is going well, with 3 sessions already held, and another planned for wb. 13th September. 7 drivers have been sent warning letters. c) It has not been possible to find a local person to **switch the SID**, so LMPC will stay with DC: Cllr V-A has advised DC accordingly and we can expect further charges. DC had recently mended the screen of the SID at no cost to LMPC. d) Cllr V-A had been in touch with Paul Hutton (DC Parking), who said that we could ask for a **visit from a traffic warden** at a specific time/place if required, to stop traffic blockages in the High Street. It was agreed, after discussion, to contact the school in the first instance to ask that parents park responsibly at drop-off and pick up times. **ACTION: Cllr Knight to approach new Head Teacher on the matter.** e) **White Lines between Langton and Kingston.** Following a decision by DC Highways not to do work on the B3069 road surface in the near future, Mr Mephram says that these will be refreshed shortly.

8. Confirm and sign Minutes of the Meeting held 7th July 2021. The notes of the meeting were agreed to be a correct record and signed.

9. Matters Arising from the Minutes. a) Item 13: Extension of 30mph at Coombe junction; DC Highways had rejected LMPC's proposal to make the western end go beyond the cow crossing, but is pressing ahead with its current proposal.

b) Item 14.2. Sign at Play Area. Outstanding: **ACTION: Clerk**

c) Item 16; Cothill Trust. The Land Registry enquiry is outstanding: **ACTION: Clerk.**

10. The Clerk's Report for the period 30.6. – 31.8. 2021. Correspondence received and actions taken can be read on p.2 of the agenda. Report received.

C.A1. Cllr Allowances. Cllrs did not wish to change the *status quo*.

C.A7. Gaia Pope memorial tree. It was agreed to suggest that St George's Field might be the best site.

ACTION: Cllr Knight to raise with St George's Head Teacher during proposed meeting.

C.A11. Complaints about state of Crack Lane Cemetery. It was **RESOLVED: a) To get new gate catch for small gate on north side; b) To remove current sign board and replace with small sign advising contact with Clerk/parish website; c) Remove all bins for a 3-month trial period.** **ACTIONS: Clerk to organize as above.** A new policy banning plastics in the cemetery will be discussed by the Policy and Governance working group and brought to Council for consideration. **ACTION: Clerk to write to Mrs Duncan advising her of LMPC's decisions.**

C.B9. Drains at PCs. It was **RESOLVED: To ask local builder for price to mend drain: if more than £500, Clerk to bring quotation to Council for approval; if £500 or less, builder to go ahead.**

D.A8. Changes to Tenancy Agreement. It was **RESOLVED: To change Item 16 to say: 'No herbicides, pesticides or chemicals may be used on the allotments unless their use has been approved by the Council and the Landlord [National Trust], nor any materials which could cause pollution or**

contamination of plots, adjoining property, water supply or the environment generally'. **ACTION: Clerk to advise LMAA/tenants and revise tenancy agreement accordingly.** Other allotment matters will be considered in October, and the fully-revised version of the tenancy agreement will be published after that. The NT will be asked for a full list chemical substances which are banned on its land. **ACTION: Clerk.**

D.A10. DAPTC AGM motions. 2 proposals had been put up for consideration: however these were not taken forward.

D.A12. CLT request for private informal meeting with LMPC. It was **RESOLVED: To ask the Clerk and Mrs Sutton to arrange a mutually convenient date for the meeting.** **ACTION: Clerk.**

D.A15. Beaver reintroduction Consultation. It was suggested that the Clerk publish access to the consultation on the website and in the Dubber. Cllrs Pearson and Christie will review the document and bring it back to Council at the next meeting. **ACTION: Clerk, Cllrs Christie and Pearson.**

The next final date for inclusion of correspondence-related agenda items received between meetings is 5th October 2021.

11. Chairman's Announcements. a) The Clerk had recently celebrated 10 years in the role, and Cllr Knight recorded Council's thanks for her service; the occasion had been marked with a presentation. b) Cllr Knight had met with Richard Purchase, school governor, who advised that a new Head Teacher will be in place for the new school year. The school is keen that the new Play Area is established as soon as possible, and says that the area to the east of the current swings may be used if LMPC wishes. Cllr V-A recommended that Council write welcoming the new Head Teacher and wishing her well, and this was agreed: **ACTION: Clerk.**

12. Approval of Recommendations made at by Policy and Governance Group meeting 25th August. It was **RESOLVED: To approve recommendations as follows:**

a) To adopt a redrafted version of LMPC's Code of Conduct to reflect relevant changes in the DC Model Code 2020. **ACTION: Clerk to revise, date, circulate and post.**

b) To adopt a redrafted version of LMPC's Complaints Procedure. **ACTION: Clerk to revise, date, circulate and post.**

c) That the Clerk draft a simple guide to 'Communication with LMPC', explaining time constraints and what content or behaviour might be regarded as habitual or vexatious. **ACTION: Clerk.**

d) To retain the current pattern of ad-hoc working groups and Extraordinary Planning Meetings or requests for extensions as necessary.

e) To respond 'no' to all questions in DC's Community Governance Review. **ACTION: Clerk.**

14. Play Area: Fundraising is going well, with over half of the shortfall now in place. Preparation of the new lease is going well, and Cllrs and Clerk had met the suppliers for final discussion about detail of the new equipment: there is likely to be a c. 3.5% rise in the cost owing to the current shortage of building materials. It was **RESOLVED: To place an order for the new play equipment as soon as possible, subject to an upper limit of £38,000 ex VAT.** The supplier estimates that if all goes well, the equipment could be installed by Christmas. Arrangements will be put in place for recycling of the old materials, and local quarries will be approached for aggregate and large stones for seating.

15. Adopt Action Plan 2021-22. A clause was added requesting that work be done to make Crack Lane safe, and it was **RESOLVED: To adopt the Action Plan 2021-22, including request to DC for asset transfer of school field to LMPC.** **ACTION: Clerk to initiate negotiations with Bill Wilberforce (DC legal team).**

16. Toilet Contribution Post. Cllr Kirby had prepared a proposal for such a post at a cost of just under £700 with sign. **It was RESOLVED: To install a collection post outside the toilets at Putlake, and also to look at a 'tap and go' system for remote payment.** **ACTION: Clerk, Cllr Kirby.**

17. Future of Post Office Services. The Clerk and others had been looking at temporary sites for Post Office services after the PO and shop close on 11th September. The Clerk had met a PO rep who is organising a part-time 'flying postmaster' system: she will get back to LMPC to explore possible

temporary sites when arrangements have been made. The Council **RESOLVED: To support the provision of ongoing postal services in Langton Matravers. ACTION: Clerk to continue to liaise with PO rep.**

18. DAPTC Purbeck report. The meeting had discussed the Community Governance review, asset transfer from DC, checking for ‘manorial waste’ in your parish and 20mph speed limits in local villages. NALC do not seem to be following up AGM motions put to them from DAPTC, and this will be taken back to DAPTC in November. It had been noted that a planning application at Wool had been rejected on the grounds of lack of access by waste lorries. DC Cllr David Walsh will be invited to the DAPTC AGM.

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

£ 5,181.07 Donations and fundraising for Community Playground Fund.

£ 100.00 Monument fee, the late Michael Lovell, Plot B11.

£ 660.00 Burial Plot sale, Plot A1. E64

(2) Note the following Payments by cheque or cash made for July-August:

£ 928.20 Clerk’s salary (July).

£ 26.38 HMRC – PC National Insurance payment (July).

£ 204.00 Ian Bugler, Grounds Maintenance (July).

£ 529.89 Linda McMorrow. – cleaning of Public Conveniences + materials (July)

£ 30.00 DAPTC – Code of Conduct Training.

£ 290.51 Jeff Streeter – Mend Putlake noticeboard.

£ 60.00 Purbeck Press – flyers for Playground fundraising appeal.

(3) Payment by Direct Debit:

£ 61.13 XLN Telecom for phone and broadband (July).

£ 27.85 NEST - PC contribution to Clerk’s pension (July).

(4) Note the following payments to be made for Aug-September:

£ 928.20 Clerk’s salary (Sept).

£ 26.38 HMRC – PC National Insurance payment (Sept).

£ 306.00 Ian Bugler, Grounds Maintenance (Aug).

£ 425.50 Linda McMorrow. – cleaning of Public Conveniences + bus shelter (Aug)

£ 300.00 DC Traffic Speed survey.

£ 240.00 PKF Littlejohn – Annual External Audit.

£ 150.31 SSE Enterprise – Mending light at Three Acre Lane.

£ 226.80 Drain Doctor – Jetting of foul drain at public toilets.

£ 21.58 WH Smith – office sundries – cheque to Clerk

(5) Payment by Direct Debit:

£ 61.13 XLN Telecom for phone and broadband (Sept).

£ 27.85 NEST - PC contribution to Clerk’s pension (Sept).

(6) Any other Financial Matters: a) **RESOLVED: To approve 1st Quarter accounts**. b) Noted successful conclusion of annual external audit. Papers posted according to Transparency regulations.

20. Confirmation of the date of the next monthly Council Meeting, 14th October 2021 at 7 pm.

21. Additional Items for future meetings: Neighbourhood Plan / Allotment officer roles, fees and insurance, / Listing of Street furniture / Lost paths / Non-plastic policy at Cemetery / new bin at Putlake.

Closed 9.35 pm.

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