



LANGWORTH GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Serving the grouped parishes of Barlings, Newball, Stainton by Langworth and Reasby

Minutes of the Langworth Group Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 5th of July 2016 in the Memorial Hall, Langworth

Present: Councillors' Mrs Y Green - Chairlady, Mr M Herbert - Vice Chairman, Mrs S Burnett, Mr C Buttress, Mr P Bowser, Miss A Gould, Mrs C King, Cllr J Machin, County Councillor Mr I Fleetwood, District Councillor Mr C Darcel, Parish Clerk Mrs M Soroka

1 Member of the Public attending

33 16/17 PUBLIC FORUM

No Comments

34 16/17 APOLOGIES

Cllr H Walker, District Cllr A Welburn – Absence explained and accepted by the PC.

35 16/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

36 16/17 MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 7th of June, Cllr H Walker & Cllr C King added as were in attendance, minutes were then formally proposed as an accurate record by Cllr S Burnett & seconded by Cllr M Herbert.

Minutes of the Parish Council extraordinary meeting held on the 20th June 2016, Cllr Buttress requested that they show a recorded vote as requested. Minutes to be altered and presented for signing at next meeting.

37 16/17 PLANNING

Cllr Herbert commented that it should be made clear that it is WLDC making the planning decision & not the Parish Council

134506- PROPOSAL: Planning application for variation of condition 3 of planning permission 130189 granted 16th October 2014 relating to amendment to approved drawings 741 A3 001B, 002C, 003B, 004B, 005A, 006B and 11B

Cllr Herbert commented on the 28 day deadline for response for planning applications & suggested the PC had a policy in place on how to deal with applications should they come in directly after a PC meeting.

Cllr King suggested that the PC hold an extraordinary meeting should this arise. A discussion then arose referring to delegated planning powers, planning committee's & extraordinary meetings.

Resolved: To agenda for next PC meeting.

Cllr Gould brought information regarding planning application 134506 to the attention of the PC and offered concerns to some aspects of the changes applied for. **Resolved:** Clerk to request an extension to allow Cllr's to look at points raised by Cllr Gould.

38 16/17 POLICE MATTERS - REPORT OF LOCAL INCIDENTS

Local incidents read out by Chairlady: May total number of incidents = 16, including 1 inconsiderate, 2 Domestic, 1 sexual, 1 theft, 4 suspicious & 7 traffic offences.

39 16/17 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Chair Lady read a report from D/Cllr Welburn regarding devolution (Appendix 1)

D/Cllr C Darcel referred to the devolution of Lincolnshire & stated that he did not think that there was enough information available to make an informed decision and that more thought & time should be given & referred to the survey in the County News.

40 16/17 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

C/Cllr I Fleetwood stated that he & D/Cllr Darcel had attended a devolution workshop at WLDC & and raised concerns that by appointing a Mayor, it could raise another tier of costs that could not be justified. C/Cllr Fleetwood went on to refer to the County News survey pointing out that it was written by WLDC & is a simple survey which people should be encouraged to complete, however, there were further concerns over how many people read the newsletter.

C/Cllr Fleetwood was pleased to report that County Council had now started to cut the grass on side roads.

41 16/17 REPORTS & CORRESPONDANCE

a) Emergency Plan – Cllr King proposed that LGPC recognise and support the introduction of the Langworth Emergency plan which is currently under development. Seconded by Cllr Buttress.

Cllr King reminded the PC of the upcoming Emergency Plan training taking place on Thursday 18th August.

b) Proposal by Cllr Herbert that LGPC support the development of a Neighbourhood Plan and that the first stage is to organise an "Open Day" in order to generate interest in the community. Cllr Herbert went on to state that the Neighbourhood plan appears to be the way to support development of the community. A discussion took place with the main cause for concern being the PC's and the community's commitment to push it forward. **Resolved-** To move forward with the Neighbourhood plan and to re-assess. Seconded, Cllr Gould

c) NCS youth group project, opportunity to use the voluntary youth group to tidy & paint the play park- **Resolved-** Cllr's agreed to buying paint and providing the play park as a project for the group. Proposed by Cllr King, Seconded by Cllr Gould.

d) Proposal by Cllr Gould to consider whether the Campaign to Protect Rural England is a worthwhile cause for the PC to join. Cllr Gould informed the PC of the benefits and the costs involved. Cllr's discussed the pros & con's involved. **Resolved:** PC agreed to agenda for the next meeting.

42 16/17 Memorial Hall Play Area

Proposal by Cllr Machin to re-open the play area - Cllr's had a heated discussion as to reasons the play area was closed. Chairlady explained that there were several aspects of the decision to close the play park with the main cause for concern being that the area had not been inspected since the retirement of the Play Inspector in April. Chairlady then advised the PC of the work carried out by the Clerk to find a replacement inspector & that an inspector had now been found. The first inspection could be carried out 11th July 2016 & monthly inspections thereafter should the PC agree. Heated discussions continued & Chairlady re-iterated that the Play area had not had an inspection since April which was imperative as the PC's insurance would be invalid. **Resolved:** PC agreed to the monthly inspection to be done at a cost of £20 per month invoiced from Welton PC & to re-open play area after the first inspection providing nothing serious reported. Proposed by Cllr Gould, seconded by Cllr Burnett.

20:50 member of the public left the meeting.

Chestnut homes meeting discussed the possibility of funding fencing to the remaining 2 sides of the play area. PC to approach J Myers (memorial hall Chairman) to request permission to remove Hawthorn trees to enable fencing to be done.

43 16/17 Notice Boards

Clerk advised of quote to repair PC notice boards & stated that out of 6 companies approached only one had provided a quote of £490. **Resolved:** Funding of £250 may be available through D/Cllr Wellburn, D/Cllr Darcel to check requirements for funding & C/Cllr Fleetwood stated that he would personally donate £250 towards the repairs.

44 16/17 Annual Adoption of Policies & Standing Orders

Proposal to adopt policies, procedures & standing orders: Cllr's had received copies prior to PC Meeting. PC to adopt all policies, procedures & standing orders listed below. .

- Policy & Procedure for Communications (Protocols)
- Complaints Procedure
- Disciplinary Policy & procedure
- Financial Regulations
- Fly Posting Policy
- Policy & Procedure for Dealing with Grievances
- Lone Worker Policy & Procedure
- Media Policy
- Members Code of Conduct Policy
- Payment of Expenses Policy
- Procedure for Dealing with Grants & Loans
- Standing Orders

Proposed by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Buttress.

Clerk advised Cllrs that the updated Register of Assets that been sent to them prior to the meeting would also be forwarded to the PC's insurance company.

Adoption of updated register of assets proposed by Cllr Gould, seconded by Cllr Burnett.

45 16/17 Finance

Accounts for Payments (listed below) handed out to Cllrs and clerk advised of post-dated checks that were agreed for salary requirements at the extraordinary meeting on 20th June 2016.

Lonsdale Direct Solutions (Langworth Local) - £81.45

B Solly (Internal Audit)-£60.00

Glendale Countryside (Grass Cutting) - £352.50

Clerk's expenses (including phone, utilities, Mileage & postage reimbursement) - £82.05

LALC- Training-£16.00

LALC- Training-£16.00

LALC- Training-£140.00

Clerk's June Salary/pension contributions

Clerk's July Salary/pension contributions (post-dated)

Clerk's August Salary/pension contributions (post-dated)

D Y Green (Chairlady's expenses for May/June including Mileage & phone calls) - £15.00

Accounts for payment agreed, proposed by Cllr Burnett, seconded by Cllr Machin.

Clerk advised that small purchases such as printer ink may be required before next PC meeting In September. Cllr King proposed designated power be given to Clerk during August to purchase printer ink, seconded by Cllr Burnett.

Chairlady stated that she had purchased pots and plants for the village & was awaiting the receipts, therefore, requested that the Clerk be given designated power to reimburse the money spent when receipts are produced. Proposed by Cllr Burnett, seconded by Cllr King

46 16/17 ACTION LOG REVIEW – The Chairlady advised that Cllr Burnett will be taking the action log & sending out to Cllr's shortly after the Meeting. The log was then reviewed & updated.

47 16/17 COMMENTS FROM CHAIRLADY

None

Date of next meeting 6th September 2016

Resolved to move into closed session. D/Cllr Darcel & C/Cllr Fleetwood left at this time

Appendix 1

July Report from D/Cllr Welburn

What is devolution and how will it affect West Lindsey

Devolution is the redistribution of power and funding from national to local government. Combined authorities (CAs) were introduced under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ('2009 Act') to enable councils to integrate economic development and transport functions across a functional economic area. The Lincolnshire Combined Authority would include all the 10 Lincolnshire Authorities 7 District Councils, LCC and the 2 Unitaries from the north, there will be 1 councillor from each of the 10 councils plus the Mayor elected by the public on the Lincolnshire Combined Authority Board.

All services will remain as they are now but the combined authority board would have responsibility for the new devolved areas of work undertaken at the moment by Central Government. A combined authority (CA) operates as a public body with its own legal personality, can impose a levy on constituent authorities and borrow for transport purposes.

The Bill also provides for a number of other flexibilities, including:

- *Enabling (but not requiring) a CA to have a directly-elected Mayor,*
- *Providing for the Mayor of a CA to exercise the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for the area (and where that occurs, allow the current PCC term of office to be extended until the mayor is in place.)*
- *Enabling the Secretary of State to remove a council from the boundaries of a combined authority, if it is the only one that does not consent to establishing an elected Mayor.*
- *Allowing a mayoral combined authority to levy council tax as a major precepting authority, similar to county councils or the Greater London Authority.*
- *Enabling the Secretary of State to change local government structures for an area, provided that all constituent councils consent, e.g. mergers of councils, moves to unitary structures, or changing the democratic representation of the area. The explanatory notes for the Bill elaborate that these changes are meant to be considered for the purposes of devolution.*
- *Establishing a scrutiny function for combined authorities as well as an overview and scrutiny function to cover the mayoral office.*

The offer on the table at the moment is £15 million per annum for 30 years as an investment fund for Skills, Education and Employment and this would be available without a mayor as part of the makeup. Potentially the combined authority is also looking to secure (up to a maximum of £23 million per annum still to be confirmed) for new funding for transport but this cannot be secured without a mayor as part of the package.

Other items on the list of potential areas for devolution of powers are

- Housing

- Water management
- Health
- Public protection

The cost of setting up the authority would equate to at least £1.00 per household per year and for that we would control our own budgets for the above items.

There are three real area of contention:

- the elected Mayor
- the qualifications of an elected Mayor
- another layer of Government
- Each authority having the ability to control their own destiny.

1. A Mayor doesn't sit well in a rural area but this is not a mayor in the civic sense. The Mayor would have control of the Transport budget and be eligible to become the Police & Crime Commissioner combining another role. They would sit on the Lincolnshire Combined Authority Board but would only carry 1 vote the same as the rest of the members. There is concern that there may be a power struggle between the Mayor (perhaps influenced by Government) and the combined authority. The Mayor would also have the authority to precept up to 2% for infrastructure schemes. The government want a mayor for governance reasons, the idea being that the people will vote for the Mayor and hold them accountable, it is also 1 voice to speak for the 10 authorities.
2. Being an elected office means that it could be a populist vote as opposed to the most qualified candidate, ideally it needs to be a skilled businessman with good negotiating skills.
3. Another layer of government will be a cost and will only deal with the new work taken over from government, it is also possible that it is the beginning of further change in how local government functions and changes so whilst responsibility is local in Lincolnshire it may not be local in West Lindsey and we are such a large and diverse county that one size does not fit all. The question is; is responsibility better in Lincolnshire or London but without a mayor transport powers and powers carrying large monetary responsibility will not be devolved.
4. There is also concern that even though each member only has one vote it would be possible for several members to vote against the interests of one member. Rules are being included to ensure that no member can have actions taken in their area without their consent.

Closed Session

Charlady reminded Cllrs that any required changes to the meeting notes must be brought to the PC's attention at the following meeting before being signed as a true & accurate record and requests for change must not be emailed to the Clerk.

The Chairlady then raised the point that resident complaints need to go via the Clerk. If any Cllrs are approached by residents wishing to complain they should advise them by reiterating points made within the PC meeting as to why a decision has been made etc. The personal email address of any Cllr should not be given out to members of the public.

Signed..... Dated.....