

Minutes of Langham Parish Council Meeting held on 26th May 2009

Attendance

Cllr R Hosmer Chair
Cllr G Kirk
Cllr R Wright
Cllr R Bailey
Cllr J Higgins
Cllr P Duncan

1. The clerk opened the meeting and Cllr Hosmer was appointed as Chairman.

Proposed Cllr P Duncan
Seconded Cllr J Higgins

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr A Pickard and Cllr F Mitchell. Cllr F Mitchell was attending a planning meeting regarding Gates Nursery on behalf of the council. Cllr Pickard had got the dates wrong. Chairman to speak to Cllr Pickard regarding non attendance.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr R Hosmer, Cllr Ray Bailey, Cllr G Kirk declared an interest in the planning application for bowling green.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 27 January 2009

Cllr Wright asked that under Matters Arising point 4.1 – The wording be changed to record a lack of communication over the resignation of the old clerk, the appointment of the new clerk and the handover and not only the handover as reported in the previous minutes. .

Cllr Duncan – queried this comment as he felt he had been adequately informed.

Cllr Wright asked that under MA 4.2 – the wording be changed to read that Cllr R Wright to **inform** the history group about the work done on the pump handle and not draft a memo via email as stated in the minutes.

Cllr Wright advised that under MA 4.5 it was Gill Frisby who had booked the village hall for the evacuees reunion and not Mike Frisby as stated.

Cllr Duncan advised that the opening balances in the accounts section 6, should read 2008 and not 2007

Cllr Higgins advised that in AOB 13.2 it was the accessing of the Rutland County Council website to find the 106 Planning Obligations Document which had proved difficult and not finding the details as stated in the previous minutes.

The Minutes were signed as correct.

Proposed Cllr Duncan
Seconded Cllr Bailey

5. Matters Arising

a. Seat on Oakham Road

Cllr Hosmer asked the councillors on their view on the seat on the Oakham Road. The general consensus was that it was in need of replacement with the concrete breaking up. Cllr Duncan suggested that the new seat needed to be robust rather than beautiful. Cllr Wright suggested ones similar to those outside PO in Oakham. Clerk to investigate style and cost of a new seat.

FT

Cllr Higgins suggested that siting a seat near the roundabout would also be beneficial to assist people walking into Oakham.

Cllr Higgins also suggested that perhaps local people could be approached to ask if they would like to sponsor a seat to commemorate the death of a loved one. The request is to go in the next issue of Langham News.

Cllr Wright also suggested that a seat in Ashwell Road between Ashwell and the village would also be a useful amenity to parishioners.

b. Dog fouling and extra rubbish bins

Cllr Hosmer commented that the problem is ongoing with the bin in Mickley Lane constantly full.

The council felt that the bin in Mickley Lane should be increased in size and the one in Mickley Lane moved to the end of Manor Lane. Cllr Wright asked if County Council would be willing to provide a bin for free. Clerk to contact – Environmental services at the County Council. Advised that the bins will need to be concreted in.

FT

c. Village sign

Cllr Hosmer advised that the concept of a Village sign was talked about at the parish meeting with the general consensus being to go ahead.

Cllr Higgins proposed that we go with Mike Frisby's suggestion to try to incorporate the 11th century design currently in the graveyard.

Cllr Duncan pointed out the sign in the centre of Langham and informed the council that he is not in favour of spending money on a village sign.

JH

He suggested that a board with additional information on may be better.

Cllr Higgins remembered a previous conversation relating to some villages getting financial assistance in buying their Village Sign. Cllr Wright advised that this had been as a result of money available for the Millennium.

Cllr Higgins is to meet with Mike Frisby to research possible designs and costs.

d. Evacuees reunion

Cllr Hosmer – read out a letter from Alex Wilby who had been in communication with the evacuees. The evacuees are keen to attend the village show on Saturday 12th September and the church service on the Sunday, but feel they will not have the opportunity to have a specific reception. They were very touched that the bells will be rung on their behalf.

Cllr Bailey to arrange the bell ringing. Cllr Wright suggested that the evacuees be contacted to advise on time of bell ringing. Clerk to email

RB

John Carter to advise that bells will be rung on the Saturday after the show at approx 5pm and also to advise that the church service will not be until the Sunday evening on that weekend
Cllr Bailey to communicate with Mike Frisby regarding the time of the end of the show and to ask Mike to make a little speech. FT

e. Cardiac Arrest machine

Cllr Hosmer asked for suggestions on where to site the machine. Cllr Bailey suggested outside the village hall and Cllr Duncan suggested it be inside the church porch. There was concern over the security of the system Cllr Hosmer advised that the box would be locked. To access a person would ring 999 and get a code to enable them to open the box. The machine then gives a step by step guide to it's use. RH

Cllr Hosmer suggested that one be sited in the main village and a possible second one at Ranksborough. Cllr Higgins felt that outside the village hall would be appropriate in the centre of the village.

Cllr Hosmer to investigate cost, including contacting Brian Reed at Ranksborough Park to ask if they would be willing to have one.

Cllr Wright asked if anything had been heard relating to the footpath outside Mr Abel Smith's. Cllr Hosmer advised that this would be covered within the Planning section.

6. Correspondence

a. Cllr Hosmer read out a letter from Laurence Martyn regarding the Woodlands site. Mr Martyn advised the council of the work done by the volunteers and requested that the councillors consider making a donation to the Woodlands Group.

Councillor Higgins proposed a £50 donation, Cllr Duncan seconded. Clerk to issue a cheque. FT

Mr Martyn also raised the question of insurance cover when volunteers are working on the Woodlands site. The clerk advised that there is cover up to £50000 for volunteers, employees and councillors between the ages 16 -80. FT

Cllr Wright queried whether this cover was adequate for councillors and advised that the age criteria was a problem. Clerk to contact the Insurance company to enquire about additional cover.

b. Next Parish Councils Forum is not until June 29th at Catmose. Amongst the topics for discussion is Rutland CC Local Development Strategy. Cllr Higgins to review documentation and attend meeting JH

c. Public sector duties document to be circulated FT

d. Local amenities document to be circulated FT

e. Cllr Hosmer advised about a Clerk update course and asked council whether they felt it appropriate to send the clerk on the course. To be decided by 23rd June. RH

f. Cllr Crouch to be contacted to ask for a report on the Rutland FT

Community Safety Policy.

- g. Active Rutland was shown – to be put on noticeboard FT
- h. The handover of council houses to Spires Homes was discussed. Cllr Higgins reported that if houses were sold £4m would come to RCC.
- i. Cllr Higgins raised a question regarding the CPRE AGM. No documentation has been received, Clerk to chase. FT
Cllr Higgins and Cllr Wright to attend. Attention brought to the fact that a donation will need to be made.

7. Finance Report

Langham Parish Council

Finances April 2009 - March 2010

The financial year is divided into six two-month periods.

	2008-09	Year to date:			Current period:		
	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Budget</i>	Actual	Variance	<i>Budget</i>	Actual	Variance
INCOME							1
Precept:	16,000.00	16,000.00	16,000.00	0.00	16,000.00	16,000.00	0.00
Grass Cutting:	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Street Lights:	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Burial Ground:		0.00	840.00	840.00	0.00	840.00	840.00
Admin fees:		0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
Insurance:		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sundries:		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest:		0.00	11.79	11.79	0.00	11.79	11.79
VAT:	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL:	18,700.00	16,000.00	16,901.79	901.79	16,000.00	16,901.79	901.79
EXPENSES:		0.00			0.00		
Clerk's Salary:	2,400.00	400.00	372.00	28.00	400.00	372.00	28.00
Clerk's Expenses:	150.00	25.00	27.92	-2.92	25.00	27.92	-2.92
Street Lights:	4,230.00	705.00	1,068.09	-363.09	705.00	1,068.09	-363.09
Burial Ground RCC:	600.00	100.00	160.00	-60.00	100.00	160.00	-60.00
Grounds & Open Space:	7,100.00	1,183.33	1,052.99	130.34	1,183.33	1,052.99	130.34
Insurance:	1,000.00	166.67	0.00	166.67	166.67	0.00	166.67
Admin:		0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Sundries:	500.00	83.33	80.42	2.91	83.33	80.42	2.91
Recreation Ground:	850.00	141.67	0.00	141.67	141.67	0.00	141.67
Grants:	1,700.00	283.33	0.00	283.33	283.33	0.00	283.33
Bus Shelter:		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Audit:	150.00	25.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	25.00
Subscriptions:	400.00	66.67	353.37	-286.70	66.67	353.37	-286.70
Hall Rental:	120.00	20.00	37.00	-17.00	20.00	37.00	-17.00
Chairmans Fund:	100.00	16.67	9.99	6.68	16.67	9.99	6.68
Contingency:		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Post Office:		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
VAT:		0.00	167.28	-167.28	0.00	167.28	-167.28
		0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL:	19,300.00	3,216.67	3,379.06	-162.39	3,216.67	3,379.06	-162.39

OVERALL SURPLUS/DEFICIT: -600.00 0.00 12,783.33 13,522.73 739.40 12,783.33 13,522.73 739.40

Current a/c: at 1 Apr 07:	4,647.99	2,075.44
Deposit a/c: at 1 Apr 07:	8,611.03	
Less uncleared cheques/income	2,572.55	
Opening balance:	<u>10,686.47</u>	
Income to date:	16,901.79	
Expenditure to date:	3,379.06	
Surplus/deficit to date:	<u>13,522.73</u>	
Balance at 31/5	<u><u>24,209.20</u></u>	

7. a. Finance position

The clerk showed the council the management accounts. Cllr Duncan suggested that the 'admin' and 'sundries' sections be amalgamated. Cllr Duncan also advised that the burial ground grass cutting costs be shown within Grass Cutting.

Cllr Duncan advised that the period 6 accounts balance carried forwards had been £9837 and asked for the difference to be explained. The clerk apologised for the error, explaining the mistake has occurred due to the difference between internal and external accounts.

The difference between the £9,837 and £10,686 was explained as follows:-

Cheques issued

Ordnance survey £ 62.96

Cory Enviromental £221.38

Income recieved

Rutland CC Grass £1133.64

Cllr Duncan advised that the grants had not been sent. Clerk to investigate.

Proposed Cllr Kirk
Seconded Cllr Bailey

b. Signoff of 2008-2009 accounts and audit.

The clerk showed the councillors the accounts for 2008 – 2009. The fixed asset register was reviewed and the value of the new street lamps agreed.

The councillors reviewed the Local Council Annual Return figures and agreed them to be correct. Cllr Hosmer signed the audit document.

Cllr Hosmer read through the questions within the Annual Governance Statement and signed them as approved.

Proposed Cllr Kirk
Seconded Cllr Bailey

Cllr Hosmer advised that the accounts need to be internally audited and asked for possible nominations. Cllr Hosmer to progress. The clerk advised the councillors that the notice inviting parish members to review the accounts has been posted.

c. Insurance

The Clerk advised the meeting of the Insurance premium for the following year to be £1005, this being part of a 3 year deal as agreed in the previous year. Clerk to investigate additional volunteer and councillor cover. FT

7.

d. Accounts for payment.

There were no accounts for payment to be discussed.

e. Chairmans fund

Cllr Hosmer suggested that £100 be budgeted into the accounts.

Proposed Cllr Kirk

Seconded Cllr Higgins

Planning

- a. Planning report
- b. 52 Well Street.

Cllr Higgins raised her objections to the application for the bridge repairs to 52 Well Street. Cllr Higgins advised that the bridge had damaged the bank and the proposal showed a diversion of the brook. Clerk advised that this part of the application had been listed in error. Cllr Higgins felt that this information should have been passed on to the Planning Committee straight away. The clerk apologised.

FT

The council requested that the position be clarified. Clerk to contact RCC.

The clerk advised that the Highways dept had been contacted regarding the parking space and had been advised that permission had been granted for this. Cllr Bailey and Cllr Duncan stated that they felt the parking space to be an improvement. Cllr Wright suggested that as a matter of courtesy the Parish Council should be advised when such permission is given. Cllr Hosmer advised that this is not a requirement.

FT

Cllr Higgins advised that the size of parking space has been increased. Clerk to notify county council.

Cllr Bailey asked if there had been a discussion with the owner. Cllr Higgins felt that this was not appropriate. Cllr Duncan and Cllr Bailey felt that they should be able to discuss with parishioners, although they did not have the authority to enforce. Cllr Wright also felt it to be inappropriate.

- c. Melton Road – porch

Cllr Hosmer asked if there had been any feedback on the porch extension on Melton Road. The clerk advised there had not and agreed to contact the enforcement officer again for an update. Cllr Wright advised it would depend on whether they have used their permitted development area.

FT

9. Report from any Sub Committees
None

10. Report from, Meetings Attended on Council behalf.

a. Cllr Hosmer advised that he had attended the Neighbourhood watch police meeting and advised that The North Rutland Area now has 2 beat officers again.

Cllr Hosmer also advised that the follow up to the Ashwell Prison riot is taking 17 police officers time, although these officers are not from our area. All prisoners must be interviewed.

Cllr Hosmer also highlighted that with 2 high grade prisons within Rutland the crime rate for the area is artificially high.

b. Cllr Kirk – Parish forum working group.

Cllr Kirk stated that membership of the Standards Committee had been raised. 3 councillors from anywhere in Rutland are needed to stand on the standards board. Cllr Higgins commented that the large amounts of paperwork tend to discourage councillors from standing.

11. Playing field inspection rota as follows

June Cllr Bailey
July Cllr Hosmer
August Cllr Duncan

Cllr Wright commented that the grass around the trees and up to the boundary has not been cut recently, she advised that imaginative play would then be more possible.

RH

FT

Cllr Hosmer to contact Glynn to request that the grass be cut to the boundary around the playfield. An extra charge may be incurred.

Cllr Wright also asked when the bark would be installed as the current level is very low. Clerk to contact Cllr Clouch

12. Items for Next meeting

1. Grant to the Church
2. Grant to the Baptist Church
3. Gate outside Abel Smiths. Cllr Hosmer advised that he had asked P Burdett to make safe and remove gate outside Mr Abel Smiths property and to put the matter on the agenda for the next meeting

FT

Cllr Kirk advised that parish council still waiting for footpath map from council.

Cllr Hosmer advised that all correspondence relating to the sale of land to the Electricity Board for the substation has been sent to Mr Pook (RCC Legal dept) and Tony Gowtage (solicitor). And we are awaiting their responses.

RH

Cllr Wright advised that we should contact the Association of Parish Councillors.

Cllr Kirk advised that the County Council have records on microfiche. Cllr Duncan reminded councillors that letters sent regularly reminding Abel Smith that land not owned by him. Cllr Hosmer highlighted that the Parish council could not claim ownership either.

Next meeting - 28th July 2009

13. Observations from AGM

- a. The state of the Churchyard had been raised. Clerk to write to County Council Environment regarding state of the churchyard, including paving stones. Cllr Kirk requested that the Church Wardens be sent a copy of any correspondence. Cllr Bailey advised that a person had tripped over the paving slabs recently. FT
- b.
- c. Michael Stokes had raised the issue of the adoption of the road around the Old Kennels. Cllr Higgins had inspected on Saturday. Cllr Higgins felt the road to be looking OK whilst there was no proper lighting, the grass was being cut. She felt that this is a private matter. Clerk to write to Rutland CC to ask what is the situation regarding the adoption of the Old Kennels. FT

14.

AOB

- a. Cllr Hosmer raised the question of the renaming of the road near the kennels and suggested renaming as Boundary Road . Cllr Duncan was not in favour. Cllr Duncan suggested Canal Road and recommended that the residents be consulted. He suggested that it would be undemocratic to do otherwise. Cllr Duncan proposed that the Parish Council write to RCC with a list of suggestions and recommend asking the residents. RH
Seconded by Cllr Bailey
Cllr Higgins warned against overriding historical naming conventions and suggested that Langham Parish Councillors should protect the history of the village and advise RCC that the name of Ashwell Road in Langham is not available for this road.
- b. Cllr Wright advised that the date of the next Langham News contribution required by July 13th. Cllr Hosmer to write an article. RH
- c. Cllr Hosmer advised that he had bought a copy of the Langham History Group Book with the intention to donate it to the school. Cllr Duncan suggested buying a number of books as potential prizes for the school. Cllr Hosmer to speak with the head teacher to see if this would be a useful gift. RH
- d. Cllr Higgins raised the issue of the Wheatsheaf no longer being open and the loss of 50% of pubs in the parish.
- e. Cllr Kirk raised the issue of the Gypsy's children not attending FT

school. Clerk to resend letter from last year.

Meeting closed 9.43