

**Minutes of Langham Annual Parish Meeting
Held on Thursday 10th May 2018
At Langham Village Hall**

Attendance	<p>Cllr. B Palmer – Chairman Cllr. Duncan Cllr. G Palmer Cllr. Manning Cllr. Hosmer C. Cllr. Hemsley Helen Duckering – clerk</p> <p>14 members of the public</p>
Apologies	<p>Cllr. Higgins Cllr. Ovington Cllr. Sweeney Cllr. Wright Mr & Mrs Braithwaite Mr Frisby PC Appleton</p>
Item	Actions
1	The meeting opened at 7.30pm
2	<p>Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 16th May 2017</p> <p>The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr. Manning Seconded Cllr. Duncan</p>
3	<p>Report from the Chairman of Parish Council</p> <p>Cllr. B Palmer gave a summary of the work Parish Council over the last year and outlined some future projects. Report attached Appendix 1.</p>
4	<p>Parish Council Finances</p> <p>A summary of the previous year's income and expenditure was circulated – Appendix 2 attached.</p>
5	<p>Crime and Policing Report</p> <p>A report from PC Appleton was read detailing crime figures for Langham for the year:</p> <p>Burglary dwelling – 7 Criminal damage – 5 Theft from vehicle – 2 Theft – 2 Assault – 3</p>

	<p>The arrest of one male appears to have caused burglaries to cease. Work continues to reduce rural crime, such as hare coursing. A beat surgery was held in Langham in April.</p>	
6	<p>Report from Trustees of Langham Village Hall</p> <p>The work of the trustees since their election in February 2017 was outlined – this includes addressing day to day running of the hall; heating, electricity consumption etc. and looking at more major issues such as drains, roof and the general integrity of the building to make it fit for the future. It is intended that the drains will be replaced during the summer. Grant applications to various providers are currently being completed, hoping to provide funding for up to £60,000. The Trustees acknowledged the Parish Council's support for their work and the indication that 10% match funding will be provided. The Street Market last year raised £3750 and this will take place again on August Bank holiday. This year will include more family and children activities.</p> <p>The meeting thanked the Trustees, Secretary and Treasurer for their hard work over the last year.</p>	
7	<p>Report from Langham Traffic Group</p> <p>Carolyn Debenham gave a report on the work of the Traffic Group and the proposal submitted to Rutland County Council to calm traffic through Langham. This includes the placing of two pelican crossings and reducing the speed of traffic approaching the village from Melton Mowbray and through the village. The proposal is evidence based including collected traffic data. The proposal is currently due for review for short list by RCC in June and if successful, following surveys, work could commence in 2019. The Parish Council has agreed to contribute up to £7500 to the scheme.</p>	
8	<p>Report from Munday's Close Working Group</p> <p>Tim Maskell gave a report on work undertaken at Munday's Close. The group of 10 volunteers have completed various tasks over 3 activity days to refurbish and maintain the area, including coppicing, cutting back and erecting boxes for bats and birds. Surveys of flora and fauna have been completed and there is an intention to provide a wet area.</p> <p>Thanks, were expressed to the volunteers.</p>	
9	<p>Report from Trustees of Langham Parochial Charities</p> <p>Gill Frisby read a short report on the charity and their accounts – appendix 3 and 4 attached.</p> <p>The re-election of the trustees, Mrs Gillian Frisby and Mr Terence Manning was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>The Trustees were thanked for their continuing work.</p>	

10	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none">• C.Cllr Hemsley advised of the consultation on proposals to develop St George's Barracks. He confirmed a meeting with the RCC Highways and the RCC Director to resolve flooding issues on Burley Road.• Concern was raised regarding the excessive speed of traffic along Bridge Street and surrounding roads. The Parish Council agreed to consider this at their next meeting.• Thanks were expressed to Mike Frisby for his work updating and maintaining the village website. <p>The meeting closed at 8.45pm</p>	
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Appendix 1.

2018 Parish Council Annual Report

Sadly this year we said goodbye to George Kirk who has served on Langham Parish Council for many years – a number of those as chairman, and latterly as a member of the Finance Sub-committee. We acknowledge George's amazing commitment and contribution to our community over the years – he is sadly missed.

On a happier note, last month we were able to welcome a new Parish Councillor – Councillor Jane Sweeney. It is a delight to welcome more youth into the team.

Since our last Annual Meeting we have increased the number of Parish Council meetings we hold each year from 6 to 10. We have done this:

- Because the amount of business the Parish Council has had to deal with has increased,
- Because we want to process the business we have to deal with more efficiently, give proper consideration to matter we have to deal with and make timely decisions.
- Because we want to be more proactive, hopefully addressing issues early before you, our parishioners, raise them, and
- Because we want to take forward some of the Community Actions listed in our Neighbourhood Plan.

As part of this report 2 members of our community will give you a short brief on the 2 Proposals/Community Actions from our Neighbourhood Plan that have been taken forward this year –

- The development and improvement of Munday's Close as a Pocket Wildlife Park and
- The application to RCC to improve traffic speed and safety along the A606 through the village.

Before that I want to highlight a few of the things we have done this year:

Regular Tasks

We continue our regular tasks of monitoring and maintenance around the village, reporting to RCC potholes, street furniture, such as litter bins, and street lighting that need attention. We manage the playing field, each councillor taking a month's duty, in turns, to check the equipment and litter pick. We pay for specialist equipment inspections, replacement parts and repairs each year including the unfortunate results of minor vandalism such as the burnt seating we had this year. We are responsible for grass cutting around the village and let a revised contract this year to ensure some areas, which had previously been neglected, were included.

Our Finance Sub-committee continues to do a great job in managing our precept and ensuring we allocate our budget for optimal results.

Planning

Each year we are being asked to respond to an increasing number of consultations, both from RCC and other bodies. The outcome of these consultations could affect us and it is therefore it is important that we respond. This year the biggest consultation has been on RCC's first draft of the new Rutland Local Plan. This is the comprehensive Planning Document that will replace the Core Strategy Document and guide all planning decisions in Rutland until 2036. The Langham Neighbourhood Plan is aligned to this document, and all Policies in our Plan will (or being slightly sceptical, should) guide any planning decisions that directly affect Langham for the next 18 years. Our Planning Sub Group waded through the document enabling a constructive response to be made to the consultation. This on top of their monthly task of responding to the many Planning Applications which come to us for comment ranging from trees that need cutting back to new

builds. They have reputation at RCC for providing clear constructive comments that assist RCC's decision making and undoubtedly protect our Parish from ill thought out or incongruous development. Their vigilance, experience, local knowledge and expertise are very much appreciated.

The best news to be found in the first draft of the new Local Plan is that Langham is not expected to accommodate any new housing development (i.e. Zero houses!) between now and 2036. However, what we DO need to keep an eye on is just how much development they plan for Oakham North West & Barleythorpe – supposedly Barleythorpe will double in population over the next 20 years, so we need to watch just how far the Green Separation Zone is pressured by this explosive growth (The GSZ is an area of green field to the south of Langham village that stretches to the southern Parish Boundary and, within which, there can be no development)

We will scrutinise the next draft will equal care. As always, we keep a close eye on RCC activities, with representatives attending their briefings, such as the Parish Forum to ensure we are alert to up and coming changes in policies and plans that could affect us.

Maintenance of communal areas and waterways

Last autumn a small sub group of councillors undertook a survey to identify where trees or hedging were impeding the safe use of paths and streets and where the flow of the Brook was blocked by vegetation. We are grateful to the many homeowners who responded positively when we contacted them asking them get their gardening gloves on. The same can be said of most parishioners who own land abutting the brook. By keeping the brook clear of vegetation, we hope to avoid unnecessary flooding in the village. Flooding on the Burley Road junction, as recently experienced again, is being addressed.

Our Burial Ground

Our Burial Ground has become a regular topic of discussion over recent months as more and more plots have been taken and we have just taken steps to consecrate some extra space within the site to provide additional plots. However, as you will have seen in Langham News, we need to start planning for the longer term, when the Burial Ground is full. Do we just close it or do we need to provide a new Burial Ground within the Parish? and if so where? Do we need to buy land to do that? These are questions we need your views on, perhaps some of you will say something about this later this evening.

Community Concerns.

Our latest proactive campaign is to address the disproportionate number of Rutland Dog walking companies who are bringing their charges to Langham for exercise because it seems we are one of the few parishes in Rutland that does not have restrictions on dog walkers and they seem to be abusing our hospitality by allowing their charges to run free along around Mundays' Close, in farmers' fields, even sometimes in our playing field, and indiscriminately leaving their poo bags behind. When the companies are identified the Dog Warden will be speaking to them and we hope to solve the problem amicably, if not we will explore what further action we can take. We want to make it clear that we are not intending to restrict our own parishioners and their four-legged friends.

Local Community Facilities and Activities

Another of our tasks is to support local community facilities and activities. We are represented on the Village Hall committee and we have been pleased to follow the progress of the new Trustees and their plans for the improvements and development. You may have noticed the surplus on our accounts this year. This is mostly connected with provision we are making to support local projects, which are being taken forward at the request of parishioners and are for the benefit of the Parish, but which have not yet got to the stage of needing funding. These include:

- An anticipated grant application from the Village Hall for some essential maintenance work,

- An anticipated grant application from the Parish Church towards modernisation providing facilities for greater use of the church,
- The anticipated need to buy land to provide a new Burial Ground when the current one is full if that is what you, the parishioners want,
- The anticipated need to provide some support to the Munday's Close Pocket Wildlife Park project
- And a commitment to provide up to £7,500 towards a traffic calming scheme on the A606 if RCC approves the works we have proposed.

I believe building this surplus, whilst ensuring day to day parish expenditure remains cost effective and efficient and ensuring increases in your Parish Precept are kept to the minimum (its zero this year), means we are delivering good value for money.

So to the Proposals and Community Actions we have seen taken forward this year:

First the development and improvement of Munday's Close as a Pocket Wildlife Park. This project is being driven by Tim Maskell and a small group of knowledgeable residents – Tim was a member of the LNP Steering Group and has turned the disappointment that many of us shared when our suggestions for Policies to do with biodiversity were turned down, into positive action. Tim?

Now the issue of Road Safety in the Parish. This has been a long-standing concern and clearly highlighted in our Neighbourhood Plan as requiring action by the community and Parish Council to persuade Rutland Highways authorities to provide solutions. Traffic was never considered a part of the Neighbourhood Plan (RCC's view, not ours!!) but was something that worried many members of our community. Last year we asked RCC to reduce the speed limit along the Burley Rd outside the village from 60mph to 40mph, but this request has been rejected. A quick straw poll here would help us decide if this is a decision we should be fighting.... hands up?

Late last year Carolyn Nevitte, one of a number of mothers walking their children to the primary school each day again brought to our attention the urgent need to do something about speeding traffic on the A606 and address the danger of crossing the road. This time a working group was quickly formed – Pat Ovington from the Langham NP Steering Group joined Carolyn, Ben Lashbrooke and four other enthusiastic members of the community - and came up with a proposal to submit to RCC within a very tight deadline. Carolyn is here to give us a quick brief on the work they undertook and the proposal for traffic calming measures that they presented to RCC in November last year. As usual, the speed of response is not great – we expect it to be considered at Council in May. They may say no – and that's the end of it. Or they may say yes – then it will take another 18 months plus for them to collect data, research, survey etc. etc. But ANY response is better than none – and we now have the Chairman of Rutland County Council as OUR County Councillor – so if we can't achieve it now, then we have no hope.

To finish, I want to thank all my fellow parish councillors for the work they do as willing volunteers, much of which goes on in the background unheralded. All the regular tasks and projects I have talked about have been and continue to be done by your Parish Councillors, either as individuals or working together, responding to what you tell them, keeping a eye out for what needs to be sorted and always looking to safeguard and improve the quality of life we have here in Langham.

And finally, most importantly, I would like to say a big thank you to Helen Duckering, our Parish Clerk, on whose shoulders so much of work we do relies. Your job is forever getting bigger and more complicated and you always manage to keep us on track with good humour and efficiency. Thank you.

Appendix 2.

Langham Parish Council Finance Summary 2017/18

INCOME

Precept:	£22,000
Street lighting grant:	£1,853
Grass cutting grant:	£1,358
Burial Ground:	£3,390
Donation:	£200
TOTAL:	£28,801

EXPENDITURE

Clerk's salary	£6,357
Grass cutting & maintenance	£4,775
Street lights	£1,127 *
Insurance	£1,086
Waste collection	£780
Clerk's expenses	£556
Grants	£500
Subscriptions	£403
Audit	£200
Other - hall rental, training etc.	£251
TOTAL:	£16,035

Responsibility for street lighting now passed to RCC April 2017

Appendix 3.

Report from the Trustees of Langham Parochial Charities for Langham Annual Parish Meeting^[SEP] 10th May 2018

In December 2017, we distributed seventy-three gifts of £9 to widows and widowers in the village. Eighteen messages of thanks were received.

The death of George Kirk in September saw the end of an era for Langham Charities. Without searching through the Parish Council Minute Books, we cannot say how long George had served as a Trustee, but it was a very long time. The Parish Council accepted Terry Manning's offer to replace George, which he duly did.

Terry had something of a baptism of fire, as a review of the rent of the land at Billesdon was due in October. Our suggested rent increase was disputed by the tenants, and/or their land agent, so negotiations took rather longer than usual. However, our original figure was eventually accepted and from 2018 until 2020, the rent will be £500 per annum.

A new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into operation this month and the Trustees have been exercised in preparing a Data Protection Policy and deciding how best to put this into operation. It seems unfortunate that, in order to make small gifts to widows and widowers, we have to ask their permission to retain their names and addresses on our database, but it appears that this will shortly become obligatory.

Finally, the Trustees would like to thank Sarah Clayton-Robb for independently examining the accounts and Michael Frisby for maintaining the data base, undertaking our printing and assisting with delivery of gifts.

Gillian V Frisby^[SEP] Terence R Manning^[SEP] Trustees^[SEP] Registered Charity No. 217550

Appendix 4.

Langham Parochial Charities

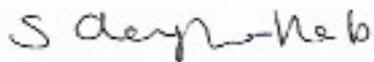
Trustees: Mrs G.V. Frisby & Mr T.R. Manning

Registered Charity No. 217550

Statement of Account 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018

Receipts		Payments	
Balance B'Fwd	£79.43	Distribution	£657.00
Fallow Chandlers	£200.00	Stationery, Printing & Postage	£20.02
Rent from Land at Billesdon	£445.00		
Donation	£9.00		
Bank Interest	£0.28	Balance C'Fwd	£56.69
	<u>£733.71</u>		<u>£733.71</u>

Independently examined and found correct



Sarah Clayton-Robb - Independent Examiner - 14th April 2018

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