

LANGFORD PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Langford Parish Council was held on

Monday October 3rd at 7 pm at the Old Crown, Langford

MINUTES

- Present:
 - Mark Harris (Chairman) Sharron Emery Rod Stewart
- In attendance:
 - Neil Ray (Clerk)
- Apologies were received from
 - Andrew Bushell
 - Jenny Pitkin
- The Minutes of the last meeting on the 8th August 2011 were duly approved and signed.
- The meeting discussed and noted updates on the Matters Arising at meeting of 8th August 2011
 - War Memorial refurbishment grant update
 - The Clerk reported that the War Memorial Trust had awarded a Grant of £642 on 8th September.
 - After discussion, the Contract had been awarded to Richard Noviss of £1,285. The terms were 33% on start and the balance on completion. Work was due to start week on the week of 10th October to clean the stone with the mortar stone repairs to be done before the end November. The contractor confirmed public liability insurance of £2 million, to be confirmed by the Clerk before work began. The Conditions from War Memorials were to be agreed and signed by contractor before work could begin.
 - The Clerk was asked to advise Rachel Range and request a note in the Parish Notes.
 - Telephone Box usage proposals
 - Cllr Sharron Emery reported that the initial contact for someone to build a Perspex display panel had not met with success and that she would now contact other contractors for an estimate of the cost.

- Affordable Housing Update
 - The Clerk reported that work is now under way on the construction of the eight houses and the access road completed has now been completed.
 - Practical completion has been confirmed for 31st March 2012.
 - There followed a discussion as to how to best ensure that the allocation of the houses was first to be offered to people meeting the selection criteria and based on having a connection to Langford. The Clerk was asked to write to Ffiona MacEwan at the Housing Department at WODC to confirm this.

- Expansion of Carterton update
 - Cllr Rod Stewart reported on his attendance at the WODC meeting to discuss the WODC Core Strategy on September 14th. He reported that about 50 speakers had been tabled to speak, of which over 40 did in fact speak. The majority was clearly against the proposals to expand to Carterton West. The WODC Councilor, David McFarlane spoke robustly against the proposal.
 - Following the above meeting, the LPC was able to email to Core Strategy Group an update to its earlier letter stating that “the Langford Parish Council was pleased to be able to present its thoughts at WODC special meeting on the 14th of September and formally acknowledges the principle that in rejecting a strategic development site at Carterton in the Core Strategy Document, West Oxfordshire District Council may seek to disperse the need for new houses required within the WODC area, both within existing town and village settlement boundaries and in appropriate other sites within those parishes, including Langford which has already committed to the building of 8 "affordable" houses, currently under construction and is committed to fully supporting that principle and to work with officers and members of the District Council to ensure that all appropriate sites within this parish are identified, assessed and presented in that endeavor”.

- Playground proposals and update
 - The Chairman reported that of the 35 questionnaires returned in connection with the playground requirements, over 80% were from village residents. 97% of the respondents supported the LPC in developing the playground, and quite a number use playground in other villages. The Headmistress of St Christopher's School undertook to get the School Council to make a proposal on the matter.

- The Clerk reported that there had been no response from Mike Goldsworthy / Mark Clifton of Leadbitter over clearance of playground by Cottsway/Leadbitter. It was presumed that this would no longer proceed.
- The design proposal from Carolyn Place, Anthony Stiff Associates, at a cost of £1,750 plus VAT, was due by mid November.
- The Chairman reported that he had made a number of Grant applications.
- A further discussion concerned the idea that the LPC fund a Youth Club facility to fund activities for older children.
- Aircraft noise complaints
 - Hugh Davis attended the meeting at RAF Brize Norton on 25th August. The meeting discussed excessive noise from engine ground runs and late night and early morning flights. Over-flights of villages were discussed; with some Hercules flying at 1,000 ft. instead of 1,500 ft. Crews had been instructed not to overfly villages. The late warning of late noise notifications was also discussed and a facility on the RAF website is being implemented.
 - The Local Consultation Working Group by RAF is to be represented by Hugh Davis at future meetings.
- Web site and communications to Village.
 - The Clerk reported that he had a quote to set up a site for £295 plus £25 pa hosting but this would be a static site with little opportunity to update. For a site that can be updated, the cost was likely to be £600 and £60 per year for hosting. The Clerk was asked to continue investigating this and to secure a domain name for the Village.
- Queen's Jubilee in 2012.
 - The LPC understood that the Parochial Council was waiting to see what the LPC was proposing for the Village. After some discussion it was agreed to propose a Sunday lunch for the Village on the 3rd of June, to be held in an open area in the centre of the village
- Bank Mandate update
 - The Clerk reported that this was still outstanding.
- WODC requirement for registration of Interests
 - The Clerk reported that the updates for Cllrs Mark Harris and Rod Stewart had been sent to WODC.

- Finance
 - Cheques written since last meeting:

▪ 398	Mark Harris –Playground design Prize	£20
▪ 399	St Mathews Churchyard	£180
▪ 400	Richard Noviss – War Memorial deposit	£430
▪ 402	BDO LLP 2010/2011 Audit	£90
 - Financial position at 3rd October 2011
 - Surplus £9,918.72 with a further £1,500 for the H2 precept due shortly.
 - Annual Audit Statement
 - A Clean opinion had been given; a certificate had been posted on Parish Noticeboard.
- Planning
 - Applications and Decisions since 8th August 2011
 - Applications
 - Heat Source Pumps 3 & 4 Church Row
 - Pool Building, The Vicarage
 - Decisions
 - The Byres, Rectory Farm had been approved
 - Pool Building, The Vicarage had been declined
 - Other Planning Matters
 - Works at Lockey House
 - Letter had been sent to the WODC planning department requesting they inform Lockey House owners of requirements of listing following requests to the LPC by parishioners..
 - Works at Sweet Briars.
 - It was reported to the LPC that work was being carried out, possibly to an existing building, in a conservation area. The Clerk was requested to ask the Planning Department to check that the owner had sought the necessary permissions.

- Other Business
 - The Clerk reported that with his likely difficulty in fulfilling duties over coming months due to ill health, he was going to have to bring forward his retirement from the post. He suggested that this be passed to Lynda Scott, who was the Clerk for Clanfield. The LPC duly agreed with the suggestion and the Clerk was asked to make approaches to Ms Scott.
 - The Clerk reported that a thank you card had been received from Rachel Range for her retirement gift.
 - The Clerk reported that he had received notification from the OCC of an Area Stewardship Fund, to be used for minor works to carriageways, environmental enhancements, repairs to footways, bridges etc. Applications are to be submitted to OCC Cllr Don Seale. The LPC discussed this and decided that an application should be made for the repair of “Badger” Bridge on the Radcott Road. The Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Don Seale.
 - The LPC agreed that a Stop Carterton West sign be affixed to its Parish Noticeboard by the Elms to give it the widest visibility.
 - The LPC discussed the need to agree plans for 2012, which might be supported by an increased annual precept.
 - Mineral Extraction: The LPC was reminded that there had been a request for comments of the draft Minerals Policy and that this was likely to be covered by AGGROW, who were meeting to discuss a response to OCC on their policy. The Clerk and Cllr Rod Stewart (both members of the AGGROW steering committee) were to attend the meeting.
 - Highways were discussed. The state of “Badger Bridge”, the clearance of leaves on the footpaths on the Lechlade Road and the parking of cars opposite the junction outside the Village Hall causing obstructions to vehicles (farm and emergency) turning at the junction. The Clerk was asked to write to the WODC Highways department to request action.
- Cllr Rod Stewart was thanked for hosting the meeting.
- Next meeting Monday 28th November 2011. At 7pm at the Old Crown, courtesy of Cllr Rod Stewart.