

Langford Parish Council AGM

Langford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th May 2012 at the Village Hall, Langford at 6.00pm, followed by the Langford Parish Council AGM at 7pm.

Present: Mark Harris - Chair
Dr Andrew Bushell - Vice
Rod Stewart
Catherine Jones
Ann Tyldesley

In attendance: Rachel Range, Tracey Puffitt, Miranda Clack, Andrew Clements,
Susan Herbert, Richard Kirby, Sharon Emery, Cllr Don Seale (County Council)

Apologies: Jim Johnston

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting 2nd February 2012 were read and approved as correct

Report of the Parish Council – Andrew Bushell, Vice Chairman, Councillor, Changes on LPC:

Mark Harris elected as chairman of the PC to carry on the excellent work done by Rachel Range his predecessor.

Dr Andrew Bushell is Vice Chair.

Sharon Emery and Jenny Pittman stood down and thanks were given to both for their contribution.

March saw the appointment of Jim Johnston and Catherine Jones. It was noted that Richard Kemp was also an outstanding candidate but agreed that Catherine and Jim brought additional qualities and benefits not present or well represented on the Council.

It was decided not to have an election but to co-opt two additional representatives to bring the full complement of five members,

Clerk

Lynda Scott resigned in February and Ann Tyldesley is her replacement. Recognition also given to former Clerk, Neil Ray, for his good humour and patience and that he will be sadly missed.

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Precept Increase

Langford Parish Council has agreed to continue with the precept at 3000 pa for the financial year 2012-2013. This is a small charge levied upon each household in the Parish and collected by West Oxfordshire District Council. The Parish Council recognises that any increase should not be taken lightly we hope to convince we are spending the precept wisely, on both existing projects and on exciting new ventures.

Previous precepts are shown below:

2012/13	4.5%	£3000
2011/12	17.2%	£3000
2010/11	1.5%	£2500
2009/10	5.6%	£2500
2008/9		£2000

Address to Parish Councils – Cllr Don Searle (West Oxfordshire District Council)

Cllr Don Searle advised LPC on:

Council Budget 2012/13

By improvements made on their cost effectiveness they have seen evidence of smarter procurement, staff reductions and the trimming back of non-essential items.

Protected areas are Children's Social care and the Fire and Rescue services.

He stated that provision of care to an increasing number of elderly people, those with learning and physical difficulties, protection of vulnerable children and adults are the main concern of the District Council. He also reported they are working with Long Term troubled families to overcome their difficulties and that monies are ring fenced government funds.

NHS

Recognised that many changes to NHS provision are in process or have already happened. The District Council is working at improving co-operation with Social Services and that Public Health will shift to a County Council responsibility.

Dilmott Commission

Stated that if an individual has assets of £100,000 he/she will be expected to pay up to £35,000 for their care, then the rest will be government funded.

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Area Stewardship Scheme

County Councillors have funds available to spend on road safety measures, please put forward applications. Also more money is to be invested into road maintenance and repair of potholes. Applied for grant, Badger Bridge but this couldn't come out of the scheme.

Flooding

Flood prevention measures are being taken and he is aware that much more needs to be done to prevent flooding in normal downpours.

Sand and Gravel Extraction

Core policy of extending workings on existing sites rather than opening of new sites have been passed by the District Council and will now go before a Planning Inspector for approval. He assured that it would be challenged. Longworth has been refused. Our protection to Bampton and Clanfield sites comes from RAF Brize Norton, a poor road system and the need to preserve at least one area of the Upper Thames Valley

Housing

There will be more houses built in West Oxfordshire. Carterton West is probably not favoured – too much opposition to proposed sites

Military

Council accepts that it has a responsibility to help local military units, personnel and their dependents blend into our society. An allocation of £100,000 has been made available to ensure their wellbeing. We have appointed ex-military county councillors, as liaison officers, to each of the of the major military units resident in Oxfordshire. Don advised that he is the liaison officer for RAF Brize Norton

Library Service

This is to be preserved and no libraries in Oxfordshire will be closed. Although some, including Bampton will have reduced funding. However, sufficient for them to stay open at least one day per week. Hopefully further days can be provided by volunteers working with professional staff.

Waste Management

There will be a new Waste facility at Ardley, which will help produce energy and reduce the need for disposal at landfill sites which is both costly and undesirable.

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Other Langford Business Matters:

Langford Charity

Richard Kirby acknowledged the resignation of Jenny Pittman and Coral Oswald, Treasurer and thanked them for their assistance in the past

Mark Harris has agreed to be a trustee and Michael Schultz has agreed to be Treasurer. The other two trustees are Richard Kirby and Derek Lafford.

He also stated that no claims had been made against the Charity. At present funds stand at £2725.54 in the CCLA deposit account and £1246.99 in the Lloyds Current Account.

Playground

Andrew Clements asked if there was any provision for additional parking to the playground as he and other residents often found it difficult to park or access their property. Mark Harris reported that the new playground site is no bigger than the original and the park remains as before.

Other questions raised:

1. Could all the kerbs opposite the cricket pitch be drop kerbs? Mark Harris to check.
2. What provision has been taken, in regard to the playground for teenagers, e.g. shelter and or keep fit, training apparatus?

The Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The next Annual Meeting is to be held : TBC