

LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING OF LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL** which took place on Tuesday 10th May 2011 in Langport Town Hall starting at 7.30pm

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
(Section 100) ALL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO
MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

Public Question Time (limited to 15 minutes)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the meeting by asking questions, raising concerns and/or making comments. No decision can be taken on issues raised unless the matter is already an item on the agenda. All other matters requiring decisions will be placed on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting.

Present: Cllrs. Osborne; Saunders; Axford(Dunn); Naden; Pyle; Northcott and Gadd
Town Clerk
District Councillor Mills
County Councillor Yeomans
Pauline Burr (SSDC)
Andrew Lee (Langport Leveller
Angela Clarke; Eve Kerswill; James Morris (Co-option applicants)
PCSO Ben Middledich and colleague (called away before reporting)

5300

1. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from PC Toni Lines

5301

2. Receipt of Acceptance of Office of newly elected Councillors

The Clerk confirmed that signed Acceptance of Office Declarations had been received from all Councillors and that the meeting was quorate.

5302

3. Election of the Chairman of Langport Town Council

a. Receipt of Nominations

There was only one nomination for the position of Chairman – Cllr. Chris Osborne which was duly seconded.

b. Election

Proposal: That Councillor Osborne be elected as Chairman of Langport Town Council for the 2011 / 2012 Council Year.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5303

4. Receipt of Acceptance of Office of Chairman

The Clerk received the signed Acceptance of the Office of Chairman from Cllr. Osborne.

5304

5. Co-option of additional Councillors to fill vacancies left at the election.

There were only 3 of the expected 6 applicants present for co-option to the 4 vacancies on the Council. There was some concern about the absence of the other candidates but the Clerk pointed out that the Council could only consider those in front of them. Each of the candidates gave a short presentation explaining why they wished to be considered for co-option.

It was proposed that, as there were less candidates than vacancies, all 3 candidates be accepted en bloc. This was seconded.

Proposal: That Angela Clarke, Eve Kerswill and James Morris be co-opted as members of Langport Town Council.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

It was also agreed that the Clerk should re-advertise for an additional member of the Council.

5305

6. Receipt of Acceptance of Office of co-opted Councillors.

The Clerk received signed Acceptance of Office Declarations from the newly co-opted Councillors and the Chairman welcomed them and invited them to join their colleagues

7. Appointment of a Deputy Chairman of the Council

Two nominations were received for the position of Deputy Chairman, Cllr. Cara Naden and Cllr. Duncan Pyle. A vote was taken by a show of hands with the following result:

Cllr. Naden – 5 votes : Cllr. Pyle – 3 votes. Neither of the 2 nominees voted.

Proposal: That Cllr. Naden be appointed Deputy Chairman of Langport Town Council.

Outcome: Carried by 5 votes to 3 with 2 abstentions.

5306

8. To appoint members to serve on the under mentioned committees:

a. Finance & Employment (3)

Cllrs. Osborne, Naden and Saunders were appointed

b. Planning (3)

Cllrs. Pyle, Morris and Naden were appointed. Cllr. Osborne is an ex officio member of this committee.

5307

9. To appoint representatives to the under mentioned bodies:

The following appointments were made:

a. Langport & Huish Episcopi Joint Committee (4)

Cllrs. Osborne, Naden, Gadd and Kerswill

b. Abattoir Liaison Group (1)

Cllr. Naden

c. Annie Tite Fund (2)

Cllrs. Gadd and Northcott

d. Langport Area Development Trust (1)

Cllr. Gadd

e. Memorial Field Management Committee (3)

Cllr. Dunn, Northcott and Morris

f. Ridgway Hall Management Committee (3)

Cllrs. Dunn, Gadd and Pyle

g. Somerset Association of Local Councils (1)

Cllr. Northcott

h. Sir Edward Hext Almshouses (2)

Cllr. Northcott – it was decided that there was only a need for 1 representative

i. South Somerset Links Steering Committee (1)

Cllr. Clarke

j. The Levels Children's Centre (2)

Cllrs. Saunders and Naden

k. Langport Information Centre Steering Committee (1)

Cllr. Clarke

- l. Market Towns Investment Group (2)
Cllrs. Clarke and Gadd
- m. Moors & Levels (1)
No representation

5308

10. To appoint the following:

The following appointments were made:

- a. Footpaths Liaison Officer / Parish Warden
Cllr. Gadd
- b. Parish Emergency Contact
Cllr. Gadd

5309

11. To determine the Town Council Policy on the payment of Expenses to Councillors

The only expenses that the Town Council currently pays to Councillors are to cover the cost of travel to meetings, attended on behalf of the Council, outside of the Town of Langport. Councillors have to determine whether to continue with this policy or to introduce an alternative system of expenses in line with current legislation.

Proposal: That the Council continue with the current policy.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously

5310

12. Declarations of Interest in Items included in the remainder of this Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

5311

13. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 5th April 2011.

Proposal: That the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Outcome: Approved unanimously.

5312

14. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this agenda.

Minute 5295 – There was a review of the grant awarded to the Langport and Huish and District Senior Citizens Club in the light of information concerning a grant of £1125 received from other sources for the same project.

Proposal: That in the light of the information received the Town Council should withdraw the offer of a grant of £250.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5313

15. Police Report

The Officers having been called away, no report was made.

At this point the meeting was suspended in order to allow Andrew Lee to speak. He asked whether there was any intention for the Joint Committee to discuss the issue of the exclusion of the Press and Public from their meetings. The Clerk informed him that this had been considered and it had been determined that there was no requirement for the admission of these bodies provided that all matters discussed were raised at the individual Town and Parish meeting.

5314

16. To receive District Councillor's Report

Nothing to report

5315

17. To receive County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Yeomans reported that the new County Plan had now been issued and that a summary was included in the Cabinet Agenda. He recommended the Council to access this to obtain advance notice of future plans. There was concern at both County and District level about the proposed new Audit Regulations following the disbanding of the Audit Commission.

5316

18. Membership of Langport Business Association

The Clerk suggested that it may be advantageous for the Council to become full members of the Langport Business Association. The cost to the Council would be £30 per annum and joining would send a strong signal of support to the organisation. There was some discussion on the matter.

Proposal: That the Town Council join the Langport Business Association.

Outcome: Approved unanimously.

5317

19. To Consider Matters of Planning

- a. **Application 11/01491/FUL & 11/01496/LBC** – Demolition of a shop and erection of 3 dwellings; Herald House, North Street, Langport TA10 9RQ; Mr. K. Matthews.
Proposal: That the Town Council respond to this application as follows:
Langport Town Council, whilst not objecting to the principle of development on this site, is unable to support this application for the following reasons:
- The form of the proposed development does not fit with the very strong linear form of development that is a feature of Langport and which has previously been strongly defended and protected by South Somerset District Council's own Conservation Officers.
 - Councillors feel that the proposals do not adequately consider the amenity rights of the neighbouring properties.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously

5318

20. Correspondence

- a. Huish Episcopi Primary School – Funding Request
The request for funding for swimming lessons was discussed and it was agreed that whilst the application had missed the deadline it should be considered because of the importance of the proposed activity in this area.
Proposal: That a grant of £250 towards the cost of swimming lessons be awarded, but that the school be advised that future applications will not be considered unless they are received in accordance with the grant schedule.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously
- b. Future Youth Provision – Steering Group Meeting Notes
- c. Somerset Market Towns Forum – Freezing of Funds
- d. SCC – Waste Planning: Issues and Options
- e. British Youth Council – Local Councillor Shadowing
- f. Western Power Distribution – Stakeholder Event Invitation
- g. Charlotte Jones – SCC Libraries : Final Decision on Hours/Closures
The above 6 items were noted.
- h. SALC – South Area Agenda, Minutes and Councillor Training Programme Details
The Clerk drew the attention of Councillors to the programme of Councillor Training Sessions and informed them that he considered that it would be in the interest of the Council if interested members attended one of the courses. This was then discussed before the following decision was taken.
Proposal: That any Councillor interested in attending a training course notify the Clerk in order that the necessary booking can be made with SALC. That the cost of attendance on the course be funded by the Council.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously
- i. SAW – Annual Review 2001/2010
- j. Parrett Drainage Board – Newsletter
The above 2 items were noted.

5319

21. To Consider Matters of Finance

- a. Appointment of Bank Signatories
Proposal: That for continuity the existing signatories, Cllrs. Osborne (Chairman) Cllr. Gadd and the Town Clerk (Signatory of last resort) be retained and that they should be joined by Cllr. Naden (Deputy Chairman), That the Clerk arrange the necessary paperwork with NatWest Bank.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously
- b. Approval of Payment Schedule. (available at meeting)
Proposal: That the payment schedule should be approved with the addition of the grant awarded to Huish Episcopi Primary School and the LABG Membership Fee.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.
- c. Approval of the Annual Governance Statement for 2010 / 2011.
The Clerk advised the meeting that the annual accounts had been approved by the Internal Auditor who had signed the Internal Audit Report in the Annual Return. It now only

remained for the Council to approve the Annual Governance Statement before the Annual Return is submitted to Moore Stephens, the external auditor.

Proposed: That the Annual Governance Statement be signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

d. Appointment of Internal Auditor

Proposed: That Jean Davenport be re-appointed as the Council Internal Auditor for the next financial year.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

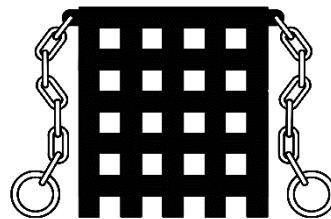
5320

22. Items for next month's agenda

Libraries

Town Survey

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Langport Town Council which took place on Tuesday 7th June 2011 at 7.30pm in Langport Town Hall.

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(Section 100) ALL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO
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Public Question Time (limited to 15 minutes)

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Present: Cllr. Osborne (Chairman); Cllr. Naden (Deputy Chairman); Cllrs. Gadd, Pyle, Northcott, Saunders, Dunn, Morris, Clarke, Kerswill.
Langport Town Clerk
County Cllr. Yeomans
Rob Golledge (Western Gazette); Andrew Lee (Langport Leveller)
Mr. & Mrs. Edwards; Barry Winetrob; Janet Seaton; 3 representatives from All Saints Youth.

The representatives from All Saints spoke regarding the plans for the development of All Saints Church in association with the Churches Conservation Trust. They are looking for support with applications to funding / support bodies. Councillors decided that they had insufficient information to make a decision and it was agreed that the representatives should meet with the Clerk and Councillors on Tuesday 14th June 2011.

5321

1. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from District Cllr. Mills

5322

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5323

3. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 10th May 2011.

Proposal: That the minutes should be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5324

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this agenda.

There were no matters arising.

5325

5. Presentation of Outstanding Service Award to Colin Edwards

The Chairman presented a certificate and lapel badge to Colin Edwards, thanking him for all his efforts in helping the various organisations in the Town.

5326

6. Co-option to fill vacant position of Councillor.

Candidates for the vacant position on the Town Council were asked to make themselves known to the meeting. The only candidate was Simon Martin who made a brief presentation to Councillors.

The Chairman recommended Simon as a suitable candidate and invited comments from other Councillors.

The consensus of opinion was that Mr. Martin was a suitable candidate and, in the absence of any other candidates, it was unanimously agreed that invite him to join the Council.

The Clerk invited Mr. Martin to complete an Acceptance of Office Declaration which he duly did.

Cllr. Saunders expressed concerns about the co-option process and the Clerk explained that the process followed was that laid down in statute.

5327

7. Police Report

No Police presence

5328

8. To receive District Councillor's Report

No report.

5329

9. To receive County Councillor's Report

County Cllr. Yeomans reported that:

- A convoluted consultation process is currently taking place regarding the future Mineral & Waste Strategy.
- It is hoped that the ground will shortly be broken for the Walpole Anaerobic Waste Digester and there are plans for another facility in Bridgwater.
- The next round of 'star chamber' discussions are taking place to determine future County Council expenditure cuts. He stressed that he will strongly resist any further cuts in the waste budget.
- There is a meeting of the Somerset Waste Board on 20th June when the District Council is expected to seek recompense for costs incurred dealing with an increase in 'fly-tipping' following changes to the opening hours of the HWRCs. There has been a reduction on the amount of waste going to landfill resulting in a reduction in landfill costs.
- There is concern that insufficient provision has been made concerning the provision of water or work to deal with the proposed increase in housing in the County.
- The Local Enterprise Partnership between Devon, Somerset, Plymouth and Torbay has been successful in obtaining a £30 million grant towards improvements to broadband provision in the area. There is a target to provide all towns in the area with Superfast Broadband by 2016, although this will mean increasing the funding to £100 million.

5330

10. Langport Arts Festival – Andrew Lee

Andrew Lee outlined his ideas for organising a ‘Langport Arts Festival’ in 2012 and asked for support from the Town Council. There is a need to make this festival different to those already taking place and also to ensure that it doesn’t clash with existing events. There is already strong support from existing organisations in the Town and the aim would be to build on what we already have and not create a completely new organisation.

It was the general view of Councillors that this was an exciting prospect that the Council would support wholeheartedly.

5331

11. To receive reports of meetings attended by Councillors on behalf of the Council

A meeting to discuss the possibility of local communities joining together to seek funding to replace the youth services removed by the County had taken place. There is a suggestion that consideration is given to provide one full time and two part time youth workers to oversee youth provision in the district.

The Ridgway Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting had taken place with a new committee being elected. Cllr. Duncan Pyle is the new chairman. Sub-committees to look after the Youth Centre and Premises Management had been set up.

5332

12. Parish Survey – presentation by Cllr. Val Saunders

Cllr. Saunders presented a draft survey for discussion. A variety of views were expressed but it was agreed that conducting this survey was a good idea in principle. It was decided that the LIC would be used for people to return paper responses to but that the Town Council email would be used for electronic responses.

Proposal: That a sub-committee, comprising Cllrs. Saunders, Dunn, Kerswill and Naden be set up to prepare a final draft of the survey for presentation to the Council at its meeting on August 2nd. That the Council agree an expenditure of £75 to cover the cost of including the survey, if approved, in the Langport Leveller.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5333

13. Libraries

A discussion took place regarding the future of Langport Library in view of the proposed 20% cut in opening hours which come into effect on 1st October 2011. It was agreed that the fact that the library will only be open until 5pm in the week and during the morning on a Saturday could result on a reduction in the amount of use the Library gets and therefore there was a need to keep a close eye on future developments.

It was also agreed that there was great scope for use of the Library building during the periods that it is closed for Library use.

5334

14. To Consider Matters of Planning

There were no planning matters.

5335

15. Correspondence.

- a. SSDC – New details for Area North
- b. Rural Services Network – Newsletter
- c. SCC – County Council Rights of Way Service
- d. Civil Contingencies Unit – Emergency Planning
- e. Great Bow Wharf – Newsletter
- f. Calley Bingham – Petition re Field Road
- g. Avon & Somerset Police – Policing Priorities
- h. Community Council for Somerset – BBC Invitation
- i. SCC – Broadband Grant
- j. County Councillors Monthly Letter
- k. LEG Notes
- l. SCC – Public Rights of Way Annual Report
- m. Sustainable Gov – Public Service Efficiency News

All the above were noted

5336

16. To Consider Matters of Finance

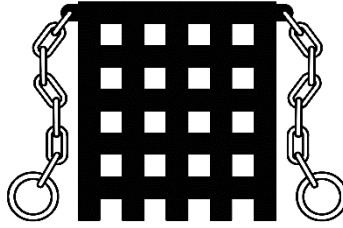
- a. Approve Payment Schedule. (available at meeting)
Proposal: That the Payment Schedule be approved.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5337

17. Items for next month’s agenda

There were no matters raised.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Langport Town Council held on Tuesday 5th July 2011 at 7.30pm in Langport Town Hall.

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Public Question Time (limited to 15 minutes)

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Present: Cllr. C. Osborne (Chairman); Cllr. C. Naden (Deputy Chairman); Cllrs. Gadd, Clarke, Dunn, Saunders, Pyle and Morris. Town Clerk
District Cllr. Mills; County Cllr. Yeomans
Barbara Sharratt – Somerset County Council
Andrew Lee – Langport Leveller
Barry Winetrobe; Janet Seaton; Nan Eaves

Nan Eaves addressed Councillors on behalf of the disabled group that meet at the Ridgway Hall, concerning the withdrawal of funding for the group by the County Council. She requested any help that the Town Council could provide to secure the future of the group. Both Cllr. Mills and Cllr. Yeomans stated that they were looking into this matter and Cllr. Pyle said that the matter of the cost of the hire of Ridgway Hall was being investigated by the Management Committee. It was agreed that the issue would be put on the agenda for discussion at the August Town Council meeting. Nan was asked to keep the Clerk informed of any developments in the meantime and it was also suggested that she contact the neighbouring Parish Councils seeking support.

5338

23. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Northcott and Martin and also Rob Golledge of the Western Gazette.

5339

24. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5340

25. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 7th June 2011.

Proposal: That the minutes should be accepted as an accurate record.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5341

26. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this agenda.

No matters arising.

5342

27. Police Report

There was no report other than the circulated list of crimes committed.

5343

28. To receive District Councillor's Report

The Area North Committee had received a presentation, from Neil McWilliams, on the work being carried out by Highways in Area North. This included the resurfacing of The Hill. He informed the committee that cuts to the budgets, mainly revenue, would affect the maintenance of verges (now to be cut once a year), weed killing, and the emptying of gully pots (now to be done once every 2 years).

A presentation had also been made by the Streetscene manager who reported that in future there would only be one weed spray per year in the Towns.

Councillors raised a number of issues with Cllr. Mills including the condition of the footpath in Bush Place, the failure to adequately repair the damage to the footpath on The Hill caused during the resurfacing, the delays in moving the Belisha beacon outside the Town Hall to improve the pavement width for wheelchair / scooter / pushchair users, the failure to install a gully pot in the drain outside the Town Hall to alleviate odours during the summer and the indications that the frequency of cleaning in the Town had been reduced. He promised to pursue these matters with the appropriate departments.

5344

29. To receive County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Yeomans referred members to his monthly newsletter (attached) and added that:

- A seminar was due to be held, in South Somerset, on how the proposed changes to the National Health Service will affect the area.
- The Localism Bill should be effective by November. This concentrated heavily on the use of Information Technology which could make life difficult for those who do not have access to computers.
- The County Council is looking to save a further £15 million next year.

5345

30. To receive reports of meetings attended by Councillors on behalf of the Council

a. HEPC / LTC Joint Committee

The meeting discussed the following points:

- The recent unfortunate accident on Field Road and the petition that is currently being raised. The meeting agreed that there was nothing the Parish Council could do until the result of any investigations and the inquest are known.
- The current situation with the wall at All Saints Church. The meeting was informed that the work was more extensive than originally expected and would accordingly cost more than budgeted. HEPC representatives asked for details of the final cost which they would take to the next available meeting for consideration of a contribution.
- Problems with litter on the footpath running alongside the railway line and the Recreation Ground.
- The current position with the Ridgway Hall Youth Club.
- The possibility of installing Bus shelters in the Town.

b. Planning Meeting with Dave Norris (SSDC)

This was felt to have been a very useful meeting although there was perhaps too much emphasis on what the District Planning Officers did and not enough on what Parish and Town Councillors could do.

5346

31. Emergency Planning

Presentation by Barbara Sharratt, Somerset County Council

Barbara explained that Emergency Planning was carried out as a partnership between the County and District Councils. The purpose of her visit this evening was to seek the support of the Town Council in the setting up of a network of 'transit centres' to deal with the short term care (up to 7 days) of individuals displaced from other parts of the Avon and Somerset area in the event of a major incident. Parishes would not be expected to work alone but would be supported by a co-ordinator (1 to every 5 parishes) whose responsibility it would be to ensure that the necessary facilities were made available. She is in the process of writing the Somerset Large Scale Evacuation Plan but this needs the commitment of Town and Parish Councils if it is to have any value. A number of relevant questions were raised and it was agreed that this matter would be discussed again at the August meeting after Councillors have taken the opportunity to consider what is required.

5347

32. Langport Community License

Is this the best way to manage community organised events?

The question of whether the Council should maintain the Community License in light of the fact that it restricted the ability of local organisations to maximise their income from running a licensed bar was raised. It was felt that this problem could be overcome if a suitably qualified individual could be found to take on the role as designated licensee on a supervisory basis. If this could be achieved the benefits of holding the license were felt to outweigh the disadvantages. The Clerk will investigate this further.

5348

33. All Saints Wall Update

The work on this has now been completed to the satisfaction of the owners of Lions Gate who allowed the necessary work to be carried out on their land. Their co-operation has meant that the final cost, although over the budgeted figure at £12,900 was not as high as had been expected. A breakdown of the costs has been sent to HEPC for consideration.

5349

34. Forthcoming Events

- a. Tour of Britain Cycle Race
- b. Queens Diamond Jubilee

The question of what the involvement of the Council in these events should be. It was agreed that the Council should act as a facilitator and that a letter would be sent to all interested parties to determine the level of interest and to seek suggestions.

5350

35. To Consider Matters of Planning

- a. **11/01491/FUL (Amended)** – Demolition of a shop and the erection of 3 dwellings; Herald House, North Street, Langport TA10 9RQ.

Concerns were expressed that the elevation and appearance of the wall between the proposed development and the garden of Herald House did not appear on the plans and therefore appear not to have been considered. It was not considered that the amendments to the plans affect the views previously expressed.

Proposal: That the Planning Officer be informed that the Town Council do not consider that the amendments do not affect the comments previously made by the Council.

Furthermore that the Town Council does not consider that the status of the wall dividing the properties has been adequately considered.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5351

36. Correspondence

- a. South Somerset Together – Notice of AGM
- b. SCC – Update on Library Opening Hours and Mobile Libraries
- c. Langport Arms Hotel – Town License Concerns
- d. Community Council for Somerset – Trustee / Director Recruitment
- e. LEG – June Meeting Minutes
- f. SSDC – Standards Committee Agenda

- g. Citizens Advice Bureau – Invitation to AGM
- h. Somerset Towns Forum – Report on Glastonbury Event

All the above were noted,

5352

37. To Consider Matters of Finance

- a. Annual Budgeting Programme
The Annual Budgeting Programme was agreed.
- b. Approve Payment Schedule. (available at meeting)
Proposal: That the Payment Schedule should be approved.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

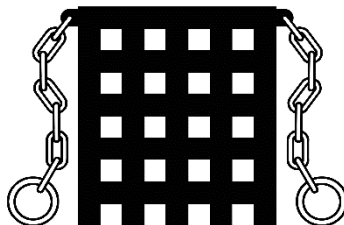
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38. Items for next month's agenda

Future of Ridgway Hall Disabled Group
Community License
Future Events
Community Survey

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....
Meeting Chairman – 2nd August 2011



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

**You are summoned to a meeting of the Langport Town Council
on Tuesday 2nd August 2011 – 7.30pm
in Langport Town Hall.**

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Nothing was raised by members of the public.

Present: Cllr. Naden (Chairman); Cllrs. Clarke, Gadd, Kerswill, Martin, Northcott, Pyle, Saunders.
Town Clerk.
District Councillor Mills; County Councillor Yeomans
Andrew Lee (Langport Leveller); Rob Golledge (Western Gazette)
2 representatives of the Ridgway Hall Disabled Group.

5354

39. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies already received from Cllr. Osborne and Cllr. Dunn. Cllr. Naden will chair the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr. Osborne (Holiday) and Cllrs. Dunn and Morris (Work Commitments)

5355

40. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5356

41. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 5th July 2011.

Proposal: That the minutes be accepted as an accurate record.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5357

42. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this agenda.

There were no matters arising.

5358

43. Police Report

In the absence of any Police representative the written report of crimes was accepted although it was noted that the layout lacked clarity and did not make it particularly easy to understand.

5359

44. To receive District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Mills reported that he had taken up the matters raised at the last meeting. Chris Cooper (Streetscene) had responded that there has not been any reduction in the frequency of street cleaning but there has been in the weed treatment programme. This could give the impression that the standard of cleaning had deteriorated. He had also said that the reason that the small pavement sweeper was not in evidence was due to a lack of staff to operate it. There has been no response from Neil McWilliams (County Highways). Councillors commented that they were able to detect the difference between rubbish and weeds and that the Town still appeared uncared for. They also said that if the District Council were unable to fully utilise the Pavement Sweeper they should consider handing it over to the Town, which could arrange for someone to use it within the Langport / Huish Episcopi area.

Cllr. Mills also reported that Area North had received:

- A presentation from the Community Justice Panel which revealed that re-offending rates were substantially lower for cases dealt with by the panel than those dealt with by the courts (3% compared to 64%). SSDC has given a grant of £2500 to the panel.
- A presentation from the Housing Manager detailing the current state of completions by the local Housing Associations.

5360

45. To receive County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Yeomans referred members to his monthly newsletter. He also commented that:

- Although houses are being built by the Housing Associations there is very little net gain as we are losing properties at a comparable rate.
- There are substantial changes coming in the way the County Council operates although it appears that not all members are being kept informed.
- The County Council will have a supervisory role in the proposed revamped Health Service.
- The review of County Ward Boundaries will result in the loss of 1 division and a reduction to 55 Councillors. The changes will mean that no existing division will remain the same, every division will fall within a single district and no division will cross a County boundary.

- There was dissatisfaction at the last Abattoir Liaison Group meeting as there was no representative of the company present.
- The Fire Rescue Service is launching a trading arm in an effort to raise revenue by taking on a training and advisory role.

5361

46. Future of the Ridgway Hall Disabled Group (formerly Langport & Huish Satellite Group)

A brief history of the group was given which revealed that there are between 20 and 24 members who meet at the Ridgway Hall weekly, although not everyone attends both meetings. As a result of the proposed changes, every member of the group will have to be reassessed to determine the level of their needs. Some concern was expressed about this in the light of recent press coverage of professional assessments being overturned at a higher level.

Discussions with representatives of the Group and County suggest that the cost of running the group in the present format would be around £35K per annum and Council members cannot, at this juncture, see how the local parishes can be expected to fund this.

A number of existing members have links with the armed forces and it was suggested that they be asked to contact the service support agencies (British Legion, SSAFA, Help for Heroes) to see if they would be able to help with funding.

It was agreed that there was a need to approach the Councils of all the areas represented by members of the Club to devise a strategy for taking this matter forward. The difficulty was seen to be the short time scale before the County Council funding is withdrawn.

Proposal: That the Clerk should write to all the Parish Councils which have residents attending the group to seek their support in putting together a scheme that will address the future of the group.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5362

47. Community Events License

The Clerk reported that there were a number of suitable individuals who possess 'Personal Licenses' and were willing to act as the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) for the Langport Community License. All would be prepared to operate in a manner that will allow local organisations to maximise their income from any events that they organise. Changing the DPS involves an application for a minor variation at a cost of around £25. It was agreed that the most suitable offer came from Pedro Aparicio (Evans the Butcher) and that the Clerk should proceed with making the necessary application.

Proposal: That an application for a variation to the Community License be made replacing Richard Collins (Langport Arms) as the Designated Premises Supervisor.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5363

48. Community Survey

The latest version of the survey was discussed and, after minor modifications, approved. It was agreed that the survey would be distributed via the September edition of the Langport Leveller and the replies would be directed to either the Langport Information Centre (Hard copies) or the Town Council email address. It was requested that respondent to the LIC be asked to mark their envelopes survey.

Proposal: That the Council proceed with a the agreed Community Survey which will be distributed via the September issue of the Langport Leveller.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously

5364

49. Future Events

The proposed dates for the Langport Festival are Saturday 2nd June 2012 until Sunday 10th June 2012. These dates encompass the Diamond Jubilee Celebration Weekend and the Walking Festival Weekend.

5365

50. To receive reports of meetings attended by Councillors on behalf of the Council

- a. Signage Meeting with Langport Area Business Group and SSDC

It was reported that there had been a successful meeting between the Town Council, Business Group and the District Council and that it had been agreed to address the whole issue of signage from the Gateway Signs through to in town advertising signage.

- b. Memorial Field Management Committee
The last meeting was well attended with good representation from both Langport Town Council and Huish Episcopi Parish Council. The Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) was discussed and it was agreed that there was a need to push forward with this before there is any threat to the District Council funding.
The recent report on the Play Area was discussed and it was agreed that the faults need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.
Meetings of the Committee will now take place on a monthly basis.
- c. There was a meeting of groups involved in trying to sort out District Youth Provision where it was agreed that a joint application would be to the Lottery for funding for Youth Workers. The question of whether Youth Services were subject to OFSTED inspection was raised and Cllr. Gadd will take this up with the appropriate people.
- d. Ridgway Hall Management
The Partnership Agreement between the Ridgway Hall and Somerset County Council, for the provision of Youth Service support, is now in place. There are various matters ongoing with the Ridgway Hall, particularly repeated requests from users for a reduction in charges. These will be addressed as soon as a financial analysis is completed.

5366

51. To Consider Matters of Planning

- a. **11/02448/FUL** – Erection of 52 residential units with associated works, car parking and access ways; Bartletts Elm, Field Road, Huish Episcopi – **We are being consulted on this application as the neighbouring parish.**
It was agreed that there were no comments beyond those that had been made for the previous application for this site.
- b. **11/02281/FUL** – Erection of a first floor extension to dwelling; Flowerdale, Bow Street, Langport TA10 9PQ
Proposal: That the Town Council has no objection to this application.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.
- c. **11/01491/FUL** – Demolition of a shop and erection of 3 dwellings – Herald House, North Street, Langport TA10 9RQ
Proposal: That the Town Council is pleased to see that the neighbours are now supporting the application but that this does not affect the comments previously made. The Town Council is concerned that, whilst the dividing wall is to be retained, there are no elevation drawings, or photographs, of it in the application to ensure that it is retained in its current form.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.
- d. **Notification – 11/00894/FUL** – Erection of 9 dwellings (plots 53 – 61) in lieu of approved Employment Units B and C; Land at Old Kelways, Somerton Road, Langport – **Application Withdrawn**

5367

52. Correspondence

- a. SSDC – Polling Districts and Polling Places Review – **comments required for forwarding to SSDC**
Noted
- b. Geoff Mackett (SCC) – Community Resilience – **decision required re format of meeting**
Cllr. Naden will take on responsibility for arranging a meeting with interested parties.
- c. Kevin Greenwood – Proposal for Cider Sales in Town Square – **decision needed**
There was considerable discussion on this matter with various views being expressed.
Proposal: That the Town Council agree to this suggestion being trialled for the remainder of the summer subject to the agreement, **in writing**, of:
 - Richard Collins – the Designated Premises Supervisor.
 - South Somerset District Council who lease this land from the Town Trust.**Outcome:** Agreed by 7 votes for with 1 abstention.
- d. Somerset Towns Forum – Email Bulletin
- e. SSDC – Memorial Field Recreation Ground Inspection Report
- f. Somerset Community Food – Update
- g. South Somerset Together – AGM Report
The remaining items were noted.

5368

53. To Consider Matters of Finance

- a. Review of Expenditure for first quarter of 2011/2012 Financial Year
The review of expenditure against budget was accepted.
- b. Approve Payment Schedule. (available at meeting)
Proposal: That the Payment Schedule be approved.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5369

54. Items for next month's agenda

Ridgway Hall Disabled Group

5370

55. Proposal: That the press and public be excluded as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business. [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2)]

Outcome: Councillors agreed to this proposal. This was done with great reluctance as Councillors could not see any reason why this could not have been discussed in open session, but accepted the advice obtained by the Clerk from the Somerset Association of Local Councils.

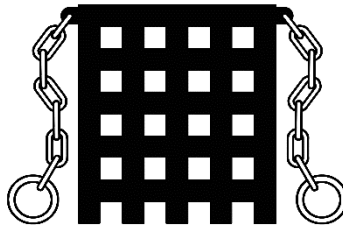
5371

56. The Clerk seeks guidance regarding a matter referred to him in confidence by another local authority.

The Clerk was given guidance on a matter referred to him in confidence by another local authority.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.58pm

Signed.....Meeting Chairman 30th August 2011



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Langport Town Council
on Tuesday 30th August 2011 – 7.30pm
in Langport Town Hall.**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
(Section 100) ALL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO
MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

Public Question Time (limited to 15 minutes)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the meeting by asking questions,

raising concerns and/or making comments. No decision can be taken on issues raised unless the matter is already an item on the agenda. All other matters requiring decisions will be placed on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting.

Present: Cllr. Naden (Chairman); Cllrs. Gadd; Saunders; Dunn; Kerswill; Northcott; Martin; Pyle.
Town Clerk.
District Cllr. Mills.
Rob Golledge (Western Gazette)
PC Lines & PCSO Middledich
Nan Eaves (Langport Disabled Group)

Rob Golledge informed the meeting that, with effect from the September 12th edition, the Western Gazette would be re-launching the Langport and Somerton edition of the newspaper. They would also be withdrawing their Dorset editions with the exception of the Sherborne edition.

5372

1. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Osborne; Clarke (Holiday), County Cllr. Yeomans and Andrew Lee (Langport Leveller).

5373

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5374

3. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 2nd August 2011.

Proposal: That the minutes should be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5375

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this agenda.

The Clerk referred members to the draft survey design, which had been circulated by email, for approval and/or amendment. He pointed out that some wording changes had been made in an attempt to improve clarity, appearance and the information collected. Concern was expressed about some of the changes, particularly the inclusion of a firm closing date for replies, and Cllr. Saunders asked that it be recorded in the minutes that in her opinion the wording agreed at the last Town Council meeting should have been used without any alteration.

Proposal: That the reference to an October 15th closing date should be altered to read 'the middle of October'.

Outcome|: Agreed 7 for with 1 against.

Proposal: That the adjusted survey should be published in the next edition of the Langport Leveller.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5376

5. Police Report

PC Lines referred members to report on crime statistics for August. She informed the meeting that, although it may have appeared that there was very little Police presence in the area recently, considerable efforts had been made to tackle the problems of anti social behaviour, alcohol abuse, metal thefts and thefts from local farms. Overall she and her colleagues were very pleased with the current situation in Langport.

5377

6. To receive District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Mills reported on the response he had received from County Highways to the queries raised at the last Town Council meeting.

He has been notified that, following analysis of a Footfall Survey, it is proposed that the opening hours of the SSDC desk in the Langport Information Centre should be reduced. The new hours will be Monday – Thursday from 9am until 2.30pm. Councillors expressed surprise that the desk would

not be available on a Friday which appears to be one of the busiest days in the Town. He will take this up with the officer concerned.

There was very little concerning Langport and Huish Episcopi at the last Area North meeting. Councillors commented that the general Streetscene appearance of the Town was of concern and there was a request for the litter bin in Stacey's Court to be moved closer to the seat in the hope that it will be used more often. He will bring this to the attention of the Streetscene officer.

5378

7. To receive County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Yeomans, members were referred to his monthly newsletter.

5379

8. To receive reports of meetings attended by Councillors on behalf of the Council

There had been a meeting of the Edward Hext Charity to appoint a new Secretary.

The MUGA project is going strong and they are awaiting the results of a number of grant applications.

The SALC Annual General Meeting take place on Saturday 24th September. Cllr. Northcott is unable to attend and members were reminded that, although we have a designated representative, this and all SALC meetings are open to any Councillor.

5380

9. Paddy Mounter Bequest Update

Some concern was expressed that the beneficiaries of the money raised at Cllr. Mounter's funeral were not aware of the sums of money that they were intended to receive. The Clerk informed the meeting that this has arisen because of confusion about who was informing the organisations. He confirmed that £650 was intended for the MUGA and £350 for youth activities. He agreed to write to the appropriate organisations.

5381

10. Ridgway Hall Disabled Group Update

Nan Eaves gave an update on the current situation. No money has been received from neighbouring authorities, although they have been notified by one that the situation will be discussed at their next meeting.

A committee and constitution is now in place and an account has been opened at the NatWest Bank. She will be addressing the Rotary Club of Langport and Somerton to explain the current position. (It was suggested that she also contact the Somerset Levels Club)

They have received grant application forms from a number of funding organisations and the County Council Support Workers are being very helpful in completing these.

Somerset Social Care Directorate Officers are due to visit Club members to assess their needs.

It was agreed that the current insurance situation regarding Volunteers and Public Liability needs to be checked.

5382

11. To Consider Matters of Planning

- a. **Application 11/02910/FUL** – Alteration of a portion of wall to form access for maintenance to existing walled garden – The Gateway, The Hill, Langport TA10 9QL

Proposal: That the Town Council object to this application on the grounds that without a Design Access Statement it is unable to see any justifiable reason for supporting it.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

- b. **Application 11/03045/R3C** – S73 Application to vary condition 1 of planning permission 06/02305/R3C (dated 4th July 2006) to retain unit E755TC for a further 5 years – Huish Episcopi Primary School, North Street, Langport TA10 9RW

Councillors have already agreed to support this application.

- c. **Application 11/03221/FUL** – Conversion of existing building to B1 light industrial use on the ground floor and residential use on the first floor – Land adjacent to New House, Baulkes Yard, Bow Street, Langport TA10 9YA

Proposal: That the Town Council has no objection to this application.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5383

12. Correspondence

- a. Wessex Water – Change to Sewer Ownership

Noted

- b. SALC – County Divisions Review

This will be included on the next Town Council Agenda.

- c. SCC – Roads Closure Notice for Tour of Britain Cycle Race
- d. Network Rail – Notification of Rail Improvement Works
- e. Royal Horticultural Society – Britain in Bloom
- f. SSDC – Market Towns Investment Group
- The above items were noted.**
- g. South Somerset Together – Renewable Energy Conference – **2 Delegates Required**
Cllr. Naden + 1 other will attend.
- h. Somerset Highways – Response to Outstanding Highways Issues
- i. Avon & Somerset Constabulary – Strategic Policing Plan
- j. Avon & Somerset Constabulary – Community Policing Awards
- k. SSVCA Newsletter
- l. SALC – Money for Playing Fields
- m. Somerset Highways – 50MPH Speed Limit on A378
- n. Avon & Somerset Constabulary – Update on OP-FURROW
- o. Avon & Somerset Constabulary – District Newsletter
- p. Somerset Waste Partnership – Newsletter
- q. Great Bow Wharf – Newsletter
- r. Diane Layzell SSDC – Response to letter re Signage
- The above items were noted.**

5384

13. To Consider Matters of Finance

- a. Approve Payment Schedule. (available at meeting)
Proposal: That the Payment Schedule be approved.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously

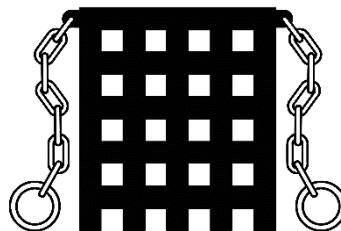
5385

14. Items for next month's agenda

County Divisions Review
Customer Care
Langport Library

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed.....
Meeting Chairman
4th October 2011



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Langport Town Council

held on Tuesday 4th October 2011 – 7.30pm
in Langport Town Hall.

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
(Section 100) ALL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO
MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

Public Question Time (limited to 15 minutes)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the meeting by asking questions, raising concerns and/or making comments. No decision can be taken on issues raised unless the matter is already an item on the agenda. All other matters requiring decisions will be placed on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting.

Present: Cllr. Osborne (Chairman); Cllr. Gadd; Cllr. Northcott; Cllr. Saunders; Cllr. Pyle; Cllr. Martin;
Cllr. Naden: Town Clerk.
District Cllr. Mills; County Cllr. Yeomans.
Andrew Lee (Langport Leveller); Rob Golledge (Western Gazette).
There were no members of the public present.

5386

1. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Clarke; Dunn and Keswill.

5387

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5388

3. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 30th August 2011.

Proposal: That the minutes should be accepted as an accurate record.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5389

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this agenda.

Langport Disabled Group

This will be operating as an independent group with effect from Monday 17th October 2011 and will now only be meeting on a Monday (**should be Wednesday**). They have been in discussions with the Ridgway Hall concerning their hire costs (**there have been no discussions with the Ridgway Hall**) and are still investigating transport costs. They are requesting financial support from Langport Town Council, both in the immediate future and longer term. After some discussion it was agreed that, whilst there are some funds available, the Council needs fuller information about the groups financial position before deciding on the level of any support. It was decided that this would be deferred until the November meeting when Cllr. Saunders should have this information available.

5390

5. Police Report

Councillors were referred to the report that had been circulated by email.

5391

6. To receive District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Mills had nothing to report as the last Area North meeting had only lasted 20 minutes.

5391

7. To receive County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Yeomans referred to his two written reports before informing members of the recommendations that the County Council will be making to the Boundary Commission regarding the Electoral Review.

The recommendations are that a new Langport / Curry Rivel County Ward should be created consisting of the parishes of Aller, Beercrowcombe, Curry Mallett, Curry Rivel, Drayton, Fivehead, Hambridge with Westport, High Ham, Huish Episcopi, Kingsbury Episcopi, Langport, Muchelney and Pitney.

There is also a recommendation that the District Ward should be made up of the High Ham, Aller and Pitney part of Burrow Hill, Curry Rivel and Langport & Huish.

Councils should receive formal notification of this by the end of the week and have until 14th November 2011 to make comments to the Boundary Commission which will make any amendments by February with the consultation period ending in April.

5392

8. To receive reports of meetings attended by Councillors on behalf of the Council

It was noted that the next meeting of the Children's Centre Steering Group will take place on Thursday 20th October 2011, starting at 9.30am. Cllr. Naden will try to attend.

There had been a District Youth Meeting to further discuss the future of Youth provision in the area. The group is looking at making an application to the National Lottery but is modifying its' approach to also consider Youth Provision in Schools.

A Ridgway Hall meeting was told that the loss of groups using the hall is having an effect on the income of the hall, which is not helping budgeting, although matters are under control. Research is being carried out into improving the standard of building insulation. There is some confusion over who is responsible for paying the telephone costs and this is being followed up with Somerset County Council and British Telecom.

Work on the Multi Use Games Area Project is progressing and applications have been made to a number of different grant sources. Monies raised and pledges from local organisations currently amount to around £15,000.

Members were referred to the notes of the Joint Committee that had previously been circulated.

5393

9. Somerset County Electoral Divisions Review

As, at the time this was discussed the County Council's proposals were not available, the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

5394

10. Customer Care – raised by Cllr. Val Saunders

Cllr. Saunders presented her views on the way in which the Council currently deals with the people that it represents. Some heated discussion then followed at the end of which the following resulted.

Proposal: That a broad based sub-committee be set up to review the current performance of the Council and recommend ways in which that performance can be improved.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5395

11. Langport Library – Setting up of Friends Group – raised by Cllr. Julia Gadd

Cllr. Gadd reported that she had discussed this matter with the Langport Librarian and the Langport Book Club and found that there is strong support for a support group. She asked for the support of the Town Council and this was given wholeheartedly.

Proposal: That Langport Town Council will give its' full support to plans to set up a support group for Langport Library.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5396

12. Christmas Lights

It was agreed that the Christmas Lights would be erected on Sunday 27th November 2011, in time for the Langport Events Group Christmas Fair, and taken down on Monday 2nd January 2012.

Cllr. Gadd reported on progress with the project to replace the willow reindeer. This will now be carried out as a project with Huish Academy and she is hopeful of having obtained full funding for it.

5397

13. To Consider Matters of Planning

- a. **11/02688/FUL (Retrospective)** – Erection of a secure perimeter fence to student guidance and learning centre – St. Mary's Church Room, Hanging Chapel Road, Huish Episcopi, TA10 9QR – **We are being consulted as the neighbouring parish.**

Proposal: That the Town Council will fully support the recommendations made by Huish Episcopi Parish Council regarding this application.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

- b. **Determination – 11/01491/FUL & 11/01496/LBC** – Demolition of shop and erection of 3 dwellings and shop – Herald House, North Street, Langport – Approved with conditions.
 - c. **Determination – 11/03045/R3C** – Application to vary Condition 1 of planning permission 06/02305/R3C to retain unit E755 TC for further 5 years – Huish Episcopi Primary School, North Street, Langport TA10 9RW – Conditional Permission granted.
 - d. **Withdrawn Application – 11/02910/FUL and 11/ 02911/LBC** – Alteration of portion of wall to form access to existing walled garden – The Gateway, The Hill, Langport TA10 9QL.
 - e. **Withdrawn Application – 11/02281/FUL** – Erection of a first floor extension to dwelling – Flowerdale, Bow Street, Langport TA10 9PQ.
- The above four items were noted.**

5398

14. Correspondence

- a. LGBC – Electoral Review of Somerset
- b. SSDC – Annual Meeting with Area North
The above items were noted.
- c. Shopmobility – Grant Request
The Clerk is to contact Shopmobility asking them to submit a grant application in line with the normal timescale and provide evidence of the use of the service by Langport residents.
- d. Historic Towns Forum – Using Social Media to improve knowledge sharing.
- e. Langport Cricket Club – ECB Construction Initiative and SLA
- f. SCC – Somerset Electoral Review
The above items were noted.
- g. Chris Cooper SSDC – Ridgway Hall, Langport
The Clerk is to write to Mr. Cooper pointing out that Ridgway Hall only owns 3 metres of the land at the rear of the hall, the assumption being that the remainder is in the possession of SSDC. He is also to request the installation of an additional rubbish bin near the seat.
- h. Langport Area Business Group (LABG) – Consent for use of pillars
- i. SSDC – Draft Core Strategy – Invitation to Drop in Session
- j. Somerset Towns Forum – Land Purchase Advice
- k. Somerset Towns Forum – Supermarket Developments – Learning the Lessons
- l. SCC – County Plan and Annual Report
- m. SSVCA Update
- n. SCC – National Highways and Transport Survey
The above items were noted.
- o. SSDC – Renewable Energy Conference and Tour
Cllr. Naden is attending this event.
- p. LABG – Federation of Small Businesses
- q. LABG Update
- r. Centre for Sustainable Energy – Renewable Energy Essentials
- s. Langport Events Group – Meeting Notes
- t. Joint Committee – Meeting Notes
The above items were noted.
- u. Abby Haines – Grant Application
The Clerk has sought advice from SALC regarding this matter and has been advised that the Council would probably breach current legislation if it were to make an award to an individual.
- v. Somerset Arts Week (SAW) – Maximum Exposure Launch Invitation
Cllrs. Naden and Saunders are attending this event.
- w. SSDC – Draft Core Strategy – Committee Meetings Timetable
- x. SAW – Making Matters, Making Places Seminar
- y. Parish of Huish Episcopi cum Langport – Remembrance Day Service
- z. SSVCA – Inclusion Innovation Programme
- aa. SSVCA – Changes in Senior Management
- bb. LABG – Somerset Food Life Awards Finalists
- cc. Somerset Waste Partnership – Bank Holiday Waste Collections
- dd. Clive Miller Associates – Community Consultation Event – Westover Development
- ee. Community Council for Somerset – Community Oil Scheme

- ff. Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) – Annual Meeting Notes
 - gg. Funding Central – Grant Advice
 - hh. Somerset Towns Forum (STF) – LEP Business Forum
 - ii. Meteorological Office – Public Weather Service Community Resilience Consultation
 - jj. Avon & Somerset Constabulary – Monthly Report
 - kk. STF – Community Led Planning in Somerset Towns
 - ll. Peter Jeffs – Town & Parish Snippets
- The above items were noted.**

5399

15. To Consider Matters of Finance

- a. Approve Payment Schedule. (available at meeting)
Proposal: That the payment schedule be approved.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

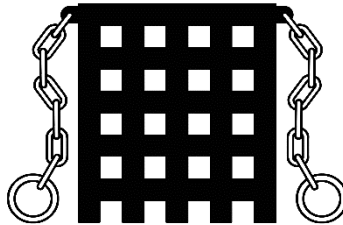
5400

16. Items for next month's agenda

- Somerset Count Electoral Divisions Review
- Langport Disabled Group Grant

The meeting closed at 8.54pm

Signed.....
 Meeting Chairman
 1st November 2011



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Langport Town Council
 on Tuesday 1st November 2011 at 7.30pm
 in Langport Town Hall.**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
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already an item on the agenda. All other matters requiring decisions will be placed on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting.

Present: Cllr. Osborne (Chairman); Cllrs. Naden; Gadd; Northcott; Morris; Pyle; Dunn; Kerswill; Saunders.
Town Clerk.
District Cllr. Mills; County Cllr. Yeomans.
Andrew Lee (Langport Leveller); Rob Golledge (Western Gazette).
Jo Straddling; Barry Winetrob; Janet Seaton; Gary Edmonds.

Jo Straddling, Barry Winetrob and Janet Seaton spoke regarding agenda item 12(a). They stated that, whilst they had objected to previous applications relating to the alterations to the wall, they felt that the changes addressed the majority of those objections and they would not be challenging the application. They asked that Councillors look upon these as completely new applications and respond accordingly. They were advised that, from the point of view of the Council these were new applications which would be looked at fully by the Council.

Janet Seaton also addressed Councillors regarding noise from a helicopter accessing the abattoir since it was taken over. It was advised that they record the use of the helicopter and take this matter up with Huish Episcopi Parish Council and the Environmental Health Department of SSDC.

5401

1. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Clarke and Martin.

5402

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5403

3. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 4th October 2011.

Cllr. Saunders said that Minute 5389, relating to the Ridgway Hall Disabled Group, was incorrect as the group was meeting on a Wednesday, not Monday, and had not been in discussion with the Ridgway Hall regarding charges.

Proposal: That the minutes, should be amended to reflect the above comments and subsequently approved.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously

The Clerk reminded Councillors that it would be helpful if they would notify him of any obvious errors in the minutes as soon as they receive them, particularly if they relate to matters of fact. This would enable corrections to be made, and draft minutes re-issued, before the meeting.

5404

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this agenda.

a. **Town Survey**

The box in the LIC is quite full. The working party will meet to conduct an analysis of the responses received and prepare a preliminary report to the full Council for the December Town Council meeting.

b. **Customer Care Review**

A meeting of the working party will be held before the December Town Council meeting.

c. **Christmas Lights**

The Chairman asked for an indication of which Councillors will be available to help erect the lights November 27th 2011 and take them down on January 2nd 2012.

The Clerk asked for the agreement of Councillors to arrange for Andy Glide to provide lifting facilities for the erection and removal of the lights and also to purchase new LED rope lights to enable repairs to the display units to be carried out. Councillors agreed to this request.

5405

5. Police Report

No police presence.

5406

6. To receive District Councillor's Report

District Cllr. Mills said that he had nothing to report regarding Area North business. He had been asked to raise the issue of a change in SSDC policy relating to the inspection of Playgrounds but noted that this was already included under "Correspondence".

5407

7. To receive County Councillor's Report

County Cllr. Yeomans referred Councillors to his monthly newsletter. He said that he had nothing else to report other than to say that, with the current economic position, nothing is liable to stay the same for very long.

5408

8. To receive reports of meetings attended by Councillors on behalf of the Council

Children's Centre – This is doing well and is in the process of expanding its outreach work with links being formed to the Primary School and Somerton. Councillors questioned the practicality of expanding the work that the centre is doing in view of the fact that it is currently having difficulties maintaining the existing services due to staffing problems.

Multi-Use Games Area – an advisor has been taken on to assist the group with the submission of grant applications.

District Youth Group – a meeting was held to discuss the formation of a consortium of local councils to organise Youth Services in the area from April 2012, when Somerset County Council withdraw their support. This will require funding and a presentation will be made to the November meeting of the Joint Committee.

Renewable Energy Tour – this went very well and there are a number of potential avenues that might benefit the area which are being investigated.

SAW Event on Community Art – this proved to be a very interesting day.

5409

9. Ridgway Hall Disabled Group

- a. Letter from Martock Parish Council

Martock Parish Council is not putting anyone forward for the suggested strategy group.

- b. Grant Application

The necessary financial information has not been received so this was deferred until the December Council meeting.

5410

10. Council Meeting Schedule for 2012

The Clerk presented the proposed meeting schedule for 2012 and this was agreed by Councillors.

5411

11. Somerset County Electoral Divisions Review

Councillors felt that there was little that could be done to influence these proposals although they did have concerns about the practicalities of any individual adequately representing the electorate of the proposed 'Langport Ward'

Proposal: That the Clerk should write to Somerset County Council expressing their concerns about the practicalities of any individual adequately representing the electorate of the proposed 'Langport Ward'.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5412

12. To Consider Matters of Planning

- a. **Planning Applications 11/03879/FUL and 11/03983/LBC** - Alteration of portion of wall to form access for maintenance to walled garden; The Gateway, The Hill, Langport TA10 9QL. The plans submitted were examined and there was a full and open discussion on the merits of these applications. It was agreed that the following response should be made to the planning officer:

Proposal: Langport Town Council can see no justification for the creation of a new gateway into the listed perimeter wall for use on an occasional basis. It is the view of the Council that the necessary work in the Kitchen Garden can be carried out either via the double gateway

in the main grounds of the property or by widening the existing pedestrian access on The Hill to a maximum of 1.5metres.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

- b. **Determination 11/03221/FUL** – Conversion of existing building to B1 light industrial use on ground floor and residential use on first floor; Land adjacent to New House, Baulkes Yard, Bow Street, Langport TA10 9YA – **Application refused.**

Concern was expressed that Cllr. Mills appeared not to have responded to a request for his views about this application from the Planning Officer. Cllr. Mills assured the meeting that he had responded, supporting the view of the Council that the application should be approved, and had been expecting this matter to “go to Committee”. He would take this up with the appropriate Planning Officer and request that the decision be reviewed.

5413

13. Correspondence

- a. Transition Langport – Civil Contingency Plans
It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Somerset County Council to request copies of any Contingency plans that they had covering the Langport Area.
- b. The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Beacons – The Guide to Taking Part
Cllrs. Morris agreed to review this document.
- c. Citizens Advice Bureau – Grant Request
The Clerk has written to the CAB asking them to submit an application in March 2012.
- d. SSDC – Parish / Town Council Precepts 2012/2013
The Council has been asked to submit its 2012 Precept figure by 31st January 2012.
- e. SSDC – Operational Playground Inspection Service
SSDC are discontinuing the free Playground Inspection Scheme and will in future be making a charge to those Playground Providers who wish to use the service. It was agreed that this matter would be referred to the Memorial Field Management Committee which is responsible for the Recreation Ground Playground.

5414

14. To Consider Matters of Finance

- a. Approve Payment Schedule. (available at meeting)
Proposal: That the schedule of payments should be approved.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.
- b. Expenditure Review
The Clerk presented a review of current expenditure against budget together with an estimate of what the total expenditure would be by the 31st March 2012. A number of points were raised which the Clerk was able to answer to the satisfaction of members.
Proposal: That the Expenditure Review should be approved.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

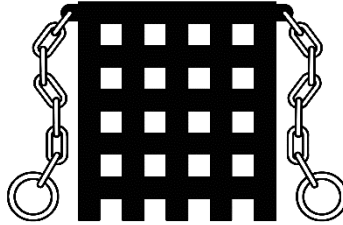
5415

15. Items for next month’s agenda

2012 Draft Budget and Precept
Ridgway Hall Disabled Group Grant Application
Footpath Bypass
Town Survey
Customer Care

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.12pm

Signed: Chris Osborne
Chairman of Extraordinary Meeting – 22nd November 2011



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an EXTRAORDINARY meeting of the Langport Town Council on Tuesday 22nd November 2011 at 7.00pm in Langport Town Hall.

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
(Section 100) ALL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO
MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

Public Question Time (limited to 15 minutes)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the meeting by asking questions, raising concerns and/or making comments. No decision can be taken on issues raised unless the matter is already an item on the agenda. All other matters requiring decisions will be placed on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting.

Present: Cllr. Osborne (Chairman; Cllrs. Gadd, Naden, Morris, Dunn, Saunders, Clarke, Pyle, Martin and Kerswill.
County Cllr. Yeomans.
Rob Gollidge (Western Gazette); Andrew Lee (Langport Leveller)
Kate Pausey

Kate Pausey asked why there was a proposal on the agenda to exclude the public and press. The Chairman explained that, as the agenda item was a matter relating to the employment terms and conditions of an employee, normal procedure required the Council to consider excluding the press and public. He advised that the Council would take a decision on this matter immediately before discussing the agenda item.

Andrew Lee asked whether the grading of the position of Town Clerk had been assessed by an independent body. He was advised that this was the case. He then asked whether the salary paid to the Town Clerk was in accordance with the appropriate Spinal Column Point. He was again informed that this was the case.

5416

1. To receive Apologies for Absence

Because of the nature of the business to be conducted the Town Clerk had informed the Chairman of his non-attendance. In his absence notes of the meeting were taken by Cllr. Gadd

5417

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5418

3. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st November 2011.**

Proposal: That the minutes should be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5419

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this agenda.**

It was agreed that any matters arising would be covered by the agenda of the Town Council meeting on Tuesday 6th December 2011.

5420

5. **Future Terms and Conditions of the position of the Langport Town Clerk**

Before putting the following proposal, the Chairman read out a letter from the Town Clerk stating that he would be happy for the press and public to remain and asking that, in the event of them being excluded, County Cllr. Yeomans and District Cllr. Mills be allowed to remain if present. The Chairman then asked for a vote on the following:

Proposal: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business as this item relates to a Personnel matter. [Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1 (2)]

Outcome: It was unanimously agreed that the proposal be rejected and the press and public allowed to remain.

The Chairman then explained that the Extraordinary Meeting had been called after a recent Finance and Personnel meeting, called with the sole intention of preparing a draft budget for presentation to the next Full Town Council meeting had to be abandoned because Cllr. Saunders was not prepared to continue with it until the Town Clerk's Terms and Conditions of Employment had been resolved. He then invited Cllr. Saunders to explain her proposals.

Cllr. Saunders explained that this was only one of the reasons that she did not feel able to continue with the Finance Committee meeting. Others included there being no formal agenda and no terms of reference. She expressed her concerns about the level of the Town Council Precept when compared to other authorities in South Somerset, **stating that the 2011/2012 Band D precept for Langport was £189.57 as against a precept of £143.07 for Somerton**, and the proportion that was allocated to salary costs. She then proposed that the Budget allocation for the Town Clerk's salary should be reduced from £24,000 to £16,000, which she felt would provide better value for money.

Cllr. Osborne asked for clarification as to how cutting the salary of the Clerk would provide better value for money for either the Council or the council tax payers.

Cllr. Dunn interjected that the proposal was not to reduce the salary but to reduce the hours of work.

Cllr. Osborne said he could not see a distinction between cutting the hours of work and cutting the salary. This was a proposal to reduce costs and the result of a reduction in working hours would mean that, at a time when government proposals were generating an increase in the workload being placed on Councils, it would be difficult for even the basic workload to be adequately covered. This could mean that a need to employ additional staff was generated.

Cllr. Saunders responded that this was the same for all councils.

Cllr. Gadd asked whether there was a sound business case for making the proposed cuts as simply making a cut of this nature did not necessarily mean that money would be saved.

District Cllr. Yeomans then indicated a wish to speak and was invited to do so by the Chairman.

Cllr. Yeomans asked if he could put a number of questions to the Council and this was agreed.

He asked whether the Clerk was employed under contract to the Council and this was confirmed.

He pointed out that this meant that any change to the terms and conditions could only come about as the result of a mutual agreement between the Clerk and the Council. If one or other varies this without the consent of the other there is a breach of contract and the injured party could take the matter to a court of law which could prove very expensive for the Council. As the action taken to vary the conditions would be an unlawful action, the indemnity insurance taken out by the Council on behalf of Councillors would not be valid and Councillors who voted for that course of action would be individually and severally liable for the costs incurred.

Cllr. Saunders said that the proposal was not about personality but about the post. She asked Cllr. Yeomans how the County Council had dealt with making changes to many of its posts. He responded that this was only achieved by negotiation and by paying substantial amounts of

compensation or redundancy money. The contracts have not been broken but have been altered by mutual agreement.

Cllr. Dunn then said that she had not come here this evening to make a decision on changing the terms and conditions but to have a discussion on the matter. It was pointed out that this was impractical because we could not proceed with setting a budget for 2012 / 2013 until Council agrees on the terms and conditions for the Town Clerk. This was a decision that can only be made by the Full Town Council.

Cllr. Kerswill said that she was concerned that the Council precept seemed a lot of money for the 522 properties that we have.

Cllr. Osborne explained the basis on which the Town Clerk's salary was set and pointed out that since that salary was set there has been an increase in the work load and responsibilities without any corresponding increase in remuneration.

Cllr. Saunders then tried to compare the rates being paid by other Councils around the country.

Cllr. Dunn asked whether there was any means by which the Council could ask the Trust to increase their contribution to the Councils cost as they are now a much smaller percentage of the Council's budget than it used to be.

There was then a period of further discussion covering a number of topics.

Cllr. Osborne reminded the meeting that there was a need for a sound business case to be put forward if there is a wish to change the working conditions of the Clerk and he did not feel that this had been made.

He then asked Cllr. Saunders whether she wanted to make a formal proposal to the Council.

She indicated that she did and proposed the following:

Proposal: That the budget allocation for the post of Town Clerk is reduced from £24,000 to £16,000 for the 2012 / 2013 financial year.

The Chairman asked whether someone would second the motion and Cllr. Dunn indicated that she would.

The Chairman then called for those in favour of the proposal to indicate and 4 hands were raised. A call for those against was made and 7 hands were raised.

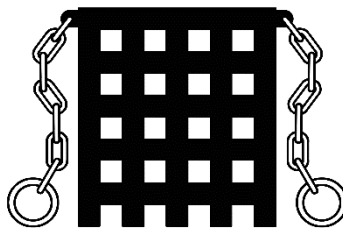
There were no exemptions.

Outcome; The proposal was defeated by 4 votes in favour to 7 votes against.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their input and the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed
Meeting Chairman
6th December 2011

The section of the minutes highlighted in **blue** is an amendment to the original minutes made at the request of Cllr. Saunders at the December Town Council Meeting.



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Langport Town Council on Tuesday 6th December 2011 – 7.30pm

in Langport Town Hall.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (Section 100) ALL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

Public Question Time (limited to 15 minutes)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the meeting by asking questions, raising concerns and/or making comments. No decision can be taken on issues raised unless the matter is already an item on the agenda. All other matters requiring decisions will be placed on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting.

Present: Cllr. Osborne (Chairman); Cllrs. Gadd, Pyle, Martin, Dunn; Naden, Saunders; Clarke and Kerswill.
District Cllr. Mills; County Cllr. Yeomans
Andrew Lee (Langport Leveller); Western Gazette
Taffy

Taffy stated that he was present in respect of agenda item 13a. The Chairman pointed out that this would not be discussed until the relevant part of the evening.

5421

57. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Northcott and Morris.

5422

58. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Clarke declared an interest in Agenda item 11a.

5423

59. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 1st November 2011 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd November 2011.

Cllr. Saunders asked that the following amendment should be made to the minutes. She apologised for not having brought these up earlier but said that she had been unable to contact the Clerk to discuss them.

Amendment: That following the statement that 'her concerns about the level of the Town Council Precept when compared to other authorities in South Somerset' the figures she quoted for the Langport and Somerton Band D precepts be added. This section will now read:

'her concerns about the level of the Town Council Precept when compared to other authorities in South Somerset, stating that the 2011/2012 Band D precept for Langport was £189.57 as against a precept of £143.07 for Somerton,'

Proposal: That the minutes should be amended as requested and approved.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5424

60. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this agenda.

Cllr. Saunders informed the meeting that the figure she had quoted at the Extraordinary meeting relating to the Somerton Town Council Band D precept was in fact incorrect. This should have been £127.91 and not £143.07 which was the Martock figure.

She questioned the legality of the decision by the Chairman to invite County Cllr. Yeomans to address the meeting saying that the Standing Orders of the Council were clear that any invitation to a member of the public to speak had to be with the full agreement of the Council. The Chairman stated that it was his understanding that members of the public could be asked to participate at the discretion of the Chairman and asked Cllr. Saunders to produce the Standing Order showing this to be incorrect. She was unable to do so at the meeting.

Cllr. Saunders also said that the information that County Cllr. Yeomans had given the meeting was inaccurate and misleading and may have unduly influenced the views of Councillors when they voted.

The Chairman asked Cllr. Saunders to confirm that she was saying that the information that County Cllr. Yeomans had presented was incorrect and she affirmed that this was the case.

She then said that the Town Council did have the right to change the terms and conditions of the Town Clerk without the agreement of the Clerk, who could then take an action against the Council, but not until he had left the Council's employment.

Cllr. Clarke asked that it be recorded that she objected to Cllr. Saunderson's assumption that the view of Councillors may have been influenced by statements made by County Cllr. Yeomans. She had listened to the arguments put forward and had already made her decision about how to vote before these comments were made. This view was echoed by Cllr. Gadd.

At this point the Clerk stated that he was coming to the conclusion that this issue had become a personal attack against him as current Town Clerk. This was denied by Cllr. Saunders.

5425

61. Police Report

In the absence of the Police, members were referred to the written report received from PC Toni Lines.

5426

62. To receive District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Mills reported that the last Area North Meeting had considered the future role of South Somerset District Council in the management of the Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre following the recent change of ownership. This has raised concerns about how to create a 'stand alone' management company.

He then referred to a number of other matters that were discussed including:

The Multi Use Games Area to which SSDC has committed a total of £40,000, subject to the additional funding being found.

Langport Visitor Centre where £10,000 has been recently spent on signage, benches and improvements to the car park.

The Town Centre where work is ongoing to improve the signage.

Cllr. Naden asked him to convey the Council's thanks to the Horticultural and Street Scene teams for the provision of spring bulbs and their help in planting them.

5427

63. To receive County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Yeomans referred members to his monthly newsletter (attached) for the main part of his report. He then said that:

Somerset County Council had given away £750 million worth of assets.

67% of Somerset County Council work was now franchised out with only 27% of people being employed directly.

The new way of working was moving ahead rapidly.

There were major concerns about the way that South West One was working but that, hopefully, there would be a fundamental change taking place in the near future.

5428

64. To receive reports of meetings attended by Councillors on behalf of the Council

There had been a meeting of the District Youth Group the outcome of which had been reported to the Huish Episcopi and Langport Joint Committee. The relevant extract from the Joint Committee Notes is as follows:

"Julia Gadd introduced Roger Powell and Mark Evans and gave a brief account of the current arrangements which are due to come to an end in April 2012 when Somerset County Council withdraws completely from the provision of Youth Services in the area. She explained that there have been a series of meetings with neighbouring parishes to discuss the possibility of developing an area wide scheme for future service provision.

Roger Powell and Mark Evans then explained how youth provision was currently provided in Martock, where the Town Council took a decision 4 years ago to tackle this area in anticipation of the withdrawal of the County provision. They took a decision to employ their own youth worker and this has enabled them to expand service provision to cover the full age range from 8 – 18. They are currently spending around £45,000 per annum but this has resulted in a significant reduction in anti-social behaviour and has made a real difference to the lives of the youth in the area.

There are three options open to local councils to deal with the planned removal of County Services:

- a) Do nothing and allow the provision of youth services to disappear completely.
- b) Work as independent councils to provide youth services for their discreet area.
- c) Work together to provide an integrated youth service on an area wide basis.

The preferable route would be to develop option (c) which could enable a group of councils to employ youth workers on either a full or part time basis. This would also facilitate a greater interaction between the youth of neighbouring communities.

A number of councils have been involved in discussions on this (Crewkerne, Huish and Langport, Martock, Somerton, South Petherton) and the model proposed would involve the employment of the equivalent of 2 full time Youth Workers to cover the area.

The anticipated cost of providing this service over a 3 year period would be:

Year 1 - £80,000

The majority of this would come through grant funding with local parishes being asked to contribute a total of £25,000 - £27,000. Martock Town Council would cover half of this amount.

Year 2 and 3 - £70,000

The reduction in amount is due to the start up costs being covered during the first year. There would still be grant funding available but contributing parishes would be expected to provide a total of £35,000 by year 3.

The question of the personnel management of the Youth Workers was raised and Roger Powell indicated that Martock would initially be prepared to take this on as they already had procedures in place. It was, however, envisaged that there would be a need to set up a management body in the long term.

The aim is to have everything sorted out so that a new means of provision could be in place ready for April 2012. After some discussion it was agreed that a joint contribution of £8,000 would be sufficient to cover the cost of the service that we would like to provide at the Ridgway Hall.

Roger and Mark were thanked for attending and assured that this would be discussed between Huish and Langport Councils and a decision taken as soon as possible."

The Annual General Meeting of the Memorial Field Management Committee had taken place when it is found that there is no longer a Youth Representative on the committee. This will be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The Clerk reported on the recent meeting of the Huish Episcopi and Langport Joint Committee which had met to discuss Joint Funding Projects for 2012 / 2013. The projects that will be jointly funded are:

- The Memorial Field Recreation Field
- Langport Information Centre
- Somerton & Langport LINKS Community Transport
- Youth Services Provision

Consideration was given to the Ridgway Hall Disabled Group but in the light of no financial information having been provided, despite repeated requests, it was felt that it was not possible to recommend this as a Joint Funding Project.

5429

65. Langport Community Survey

Cllr, Dunn, on behalf of the Working Group, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the initial findings from the survey responses. This included a number of recommendations and clarification was sought that these were based solely on the results of the survey.

The following actions were agreed:

- Councillors would examine the written provisional report and make any comments to the Working Party by 3rd January 2012. (survey responses are available to Councillors, in the Town Clerk's Office, if they wish to inspect them).
- A copy of the provisional report would be sent to Charlotte Jones (SSDC) so that the findings can be compared to previous surveys.
- The Working Group would consider responses to the preliminary report and bring a final report to the Town Council Meeting on 7th February 2012 for agreement by the full Council. Once agreed the report would be made available to the general public.

5430

66. Disabled Footpath Bypass

The proposal is that a circular footpath should be created which would allow pedestrians, both disabled and able bodied, to travel around the centre of the Town without having to use the narrow, sloping pavements between Parrett Close and Stacey's Court. It is felt that, as well as improving safety, this could attract visitors to the Town. It was agreed that this was a proposal that was worth investigating through discussions with the relevant landowners and agencies.

5431

67. To Consider Matters of Planning

- a. **11/04345/FUL and 11/04346/LBC** – Alterations and extensions to existing public house to provide a community building for worship, socialise and conduct business – The Angel, Bow Street, Langport TA10 9PQ
Proposal: That Langport Town Council has no objection to these applications.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.
- b. **11/04531/ADV** – Display of 2 non-illuminated panel signs on pillars at the entrance of Langport car park – Car Park, Bow Street, Langport, TA10 9PG
As the applicant Langport Town Council cannot comment on this application.
- c. **11/04599/LBC** – Installation of an external light fitting to side entrance of flats – Former Lloyds Bank, Cheapside, Langport, TA10 9PB
Proposal: That Langport Town Council has no objection to this application.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.
- d. **Herald House** – advance notification from Conservation Planning of proposal to remove and rebuild a section of listed walling.
Notification of this was received from Conservation Officer Greg Venn. Councillors agreed that, provided this wall is fully reinstated they could see no objection to the proposal.

5432

68. Correspondence

- a. SCC – Somerset Waste Core Strategy
 - b. Cricket Club – Diseased Beech Tree
 - c. SCC – Disabled Badge Consultation
- All Noted.**

5433

69. To Consider Matters of Finance

- a. Application for Grant from Langport & Huish & District Senior Citizens Club towards the cost of the Annual Christmas Dinner.
Proposal: That a grant of £100 should be awarded.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.
- b. Langport Disabled Club Grant Application.
Proposal: That a grant of £100 should be awarded.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously
- c. Grant Application from PCSO Ben Middleditch for Archie's Xtra
Proposal: That a grant of £100 should be awarded.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.
- d. Approve Payment Schedule.
Proposal: That the Payment Schedule, Amended to take into account the awards made this evening should be approved.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously. (A copy of the amended schedule is attached to these minutes.)
- e. 2012 Draft Budget and Precept
The Clerk presented the proposed budget and explained the reasoning of the Finance Committee when they considered the budget at their meeting on Thursday 24th November 2011.
Proposal: That the Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and agree the proposed budget subject to a review at the January Town Council Meeting to determine whether anything has arisen that materially affects the proposals.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously. (a copy of the proposed budget is attached to these minutes.)

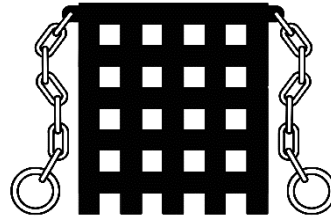
5434

70. Items for next month's agenda

Review of Draft Budget.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed.....
Meeting Chairman
3rd January 2012



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Langport Town Council
held on Tuesday 3rd January 2012 at 7.30pm
in Langport Town Hall.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (Section 100) ALL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

Public Question Time (limited to 15 minutes)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the meeting by asking questions, raising concerns and/or making comments. No decision can be taken on issues raised unless the matter is already an item on the agenda. All other matters requiring decisions will be placed on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting.

Present: Cllr. Osborne (Chairman); Cllrs. Clarke, Gadd, Martin, Northcott, Dunn, Naden, Saunders, Morris; Town Clerk.
District Cllr. Mills; County Cllr. Yeomans.
Andrew Lee (Langport Leveller); Rob Golledge (Western Gazette)
Jane Edge

The Chairman wished everyone a happy New Year and expressed his thanks to everyone who had helped to put up and take down the Christmas lights.

Jane Edge asked where she could obtain information regarding the application of the weight limit on HGVs travelling through Langport. The Chairman gave a brief explanation of the current situation and said that any further information could be obtained from County Highways. The Clerk said that if Ms Edge would contact him he would provide details of the officer who dealt with this matter.

5435

1. To receive Apologies for Absence
Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Kerswill and Pyle.

5436

2. Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.

5437

3. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 6th December

2011.

Proposal: That the minutes should be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Outcome: Approved unanimously.

5438

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this Agenda.

Minute 5424: Cllr. Saunders said that she had been asked to justify her statement that the Chairman did not have the right to invite District Cllr. Yeomans to speak during the discussions held at the Extraordinary Meeting. She then referred to a copy of the Parish Councillors Guide by Paul Clayden for this purpose. The Clerk pointed out that the Town Council did not operate under this guide but under the terms of a set of Standing Orders approved by the Town Council in August 2010. These Standing Orders are based on the Model Standing Orders issued by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Standing Order 1e clearly states that:

“At the discretion of the Chairman, a member of the public may be invited to speak at any point in the meeting.”

All new Councillors were issued with a copy of the approved Standing Orders when they signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office following the Local Government Elections in May 2011. Cllr. Saunders, along with other newly elected Councillors, acknowledged that she had received a copy.

5439

5. Police Report

There was no police presence and no written report has been received.

5440

6. To receive District Councillor’s Report

Cllr. Mills reported on the following presentations that had been made to the last Area North Meeting: Neil McWilliams of Somerset Highways reported that resurfacing of the A372 through Langport was included in the latest Structural Schemes Programme. However additional cuts to the programme have been requested which may put this in jeopardy. Cllr. Mills was asked to contact Neil McWilliams to enquire about progress on the re-siting of the Belisha beacon and the replacement of the gully pot, both outside the Town Hall and improvements to the drainage along Bow Street.

StreetScene had reported on the recent tree and bulb planting and the Council’s thanks had been conveyed to them as requested.

The S106 officer had reported on progress with outstanding agreements and was pleased to be able to say that he had received £20,000 from Yarlington Homes for the Eastover development.

The application to alter the road access at the Gateway, The Hill, Langport had been approved.

5441

7. To receive County Councillor’s Report

Cllr. Yeomans referred members to his December newsletter and was pleased to be able to say that the money for roads maintenance had been received from the Government. Libraries will be returning to their former opening hours following the recent Court ruling. There will be a new Public Consultation which is expected to result in the same, or very similar, decision being taken as previously.

5442

8. To receive reports of meetings attended by Councillors on behalf of the Council

There was a meeting of the Langport Youth Committee which was told that the Youth Club had secured a grant of around £2000. There were discussions over bookings at the Ridgway Hall following the loss of recent bookings which will have an adverse effect on income. It was agreed that the Ridgway Hall should have its own website, which could make booking the venue easier. When this has been developed a link will be added to the Town Council website and the current Ridgway Hall page discontinued.

5443

9. Customer Service - update by working group

This was deferred to the February meeting.

5444

10. To Consider Matters of Planning

No applications have been received but the Clerk informed members that approval has been given to the recent applications for The Angel, Bow Street and the former Lloyds Bank, Cheapside.

5445

11. Correspondence

- a. Bus Subsidies Reduction Consultation
- b. Council Tax Referendum
- c. Somerset Towns Forum – Guide to Localism / Mary Portas High Street Report
- d. Somerset Minerals Options Consultation

e. MTIG Meeting Notes

f. Neighbourhood Development Plans

g. SCC – Local Choice Events in February

These were all noted and Councillors were asked to make sure that they responded to the Bus Subsidies Consultation although it was felt that the wording of the questionnaire did not allow for appropriate comments to be made.

5446

12. To Consider Matters of Finance

a. Approve Payment Schedule. (available at meeting)

Proposal: That the payment schedule should be approved.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously

b. Confirm the Budget and Precept for the 2012 / 2013

The Clerk stated that nothing had occurred since the December meeting to alter the recommendations made by the Finance Committee.

Proposal: That the budget recommended by the Finance Committee at the meeting in December 2011 should be approved and the precept for the 2012 / 2013 financial year should be set at £69,500, the same as for the current year.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5447

13. Items for next month's meeting

Parish Survey Update

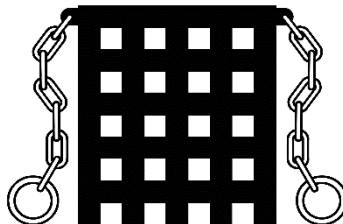
Customer Care Update

Circular Footpath Proposals

Explanation of the Function of the Town Trust

RSPB Big Lottery Grant – this resulted from information, provided to Cllr. Dunn by the RSPB, on which no decision could be taken as it did not appear on the agenda for this month.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20pm.



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Langport Town Council
on Tuesday – 7th February 2012 at 7.30pm
in Langport Town Hall.**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
(Section 100) ALL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO
MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

Public Question Time (limited to 15 minutes)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the meeting by asking questions, raising concerns and/or making comments. No decision can be taken on issues raised unless the matter is already an item on the agenda. All other matters requiring decisions will be placed on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting.

Present: Cllr. Osborne (Chairman); Cllrs. Gadd, Northcott, Pyle, Dunn, Saunders, Clarke, Morris, Naden; Town Clerk
District Cllr. Mills; County Cllr. Yeomans; Teresa Oulds (SSDC)
Cllr. Gerard Tucker (Chairman, Aller Parish Council)
Andrew Lee (Langport Leveller); Rob Golledge & Jenny Thomson (Western Gazette)
Fleming Ulf-Hansen, Lisa Newby, Bethany Pope, Julie Taylor, Jen McDonald, Ian Macnab, Wayne Stone (Members of Public)

A number of the members of the public were present to express their concerns about the future of the Langport Youth Club. They felt that the information that they had received would mean that Langport would be given a Youth Club provision that did not necessarily meet the needs of the local community. They felt that if the service was to be developed in a sustainable way there was a need to work from the bottom up and not the top down, and that there needed to be adequate involvement of the current volunteers in the discussions. The Clerk explained that the reason these discussions were taking place was because of a decision taken by Somerset County Council to withdraw from the provision of a youth service in the town from the end of March this year.

Cllr. Pyle, Chairman of the Youth Management Committee, explained that there were currently 2 proposals on the table and that these would be discussed by the Management Committee at a special meeting tomorrow evening.

Rob Golledge informed the meeting that he would no longer be reporting on the Langport and Somerton area but would be moving to cover Yeovil for the Western Gazette. He thanked Councillors for all their support over the past 14 months and introduced Jenny Thomson who would now be covering Langport and Somerton.

5448

71. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Martin who was unable to attend owing to work commitments. Apologies were also recorded from the Police representatives.

5449

72. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5450

73. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 3rd January 2012.

Proposal: That the minutes presented should be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5451

74. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this agenda.

There were no matters arising.

5452

75. Police Report

In the absence of the Police, members were referred to the report previously circulated.

5453

76. To receive District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Mills reported that the last Area North meeting had been given presentations by:

- The Chief Executive of the Somerset Community Foundation, an organisation that provides grants for activities involving young people, older people, cares and the vulnerable.
- The SSDC Welfare Benefits Team which has recently taken on a temporary full time adviser. During 2010/2011 they had dealt with 835 clients achieving a combined annual income of over £2 million for them.

He also reported that the planning application for the development of homes at Bartlett's Elm had been approved.

He has received a response to his questions to County Highways concerning the cleaning of gullies in the Town and the relocation of the Belisha beacon outside the Town Hall. Owing to budgetary

constraints, gullies and drains are now only cleaned out once every 2 years. However an order has been raised for an additional one off clean. It would not be possible to move the Belisha beacon to widen the footpath as the crossing would not then comply with current legislation. Both Councillor Mills and Town Councillors felt that this response did not adequately address a situation that the Council has been chasing for a number of years and it was agreed that the Town Council and Councillor Mills would both write to County Highways about these matters.

5454

77. To receive County Councillor's Report

Councillors had already received a copy of Cllr. Yeomans monthly newsletter.

Cllr. Yeomans reported that budgets were currently under review and that, following public pressure, the proposed changes to Young Carers Provision were being revisited. The budget (report on SCC website) is currently balanced but it is anticipated that there will be a 10% cut in the central grant which could mean a further £22 million will need to be saved. A recent decision to alter the Directorate structure, increasing the number from 4 to 8 has resulted in the loss of some key staff.

5456

78. To receive reports of meetings attended by Councillors on behalf of the Council

A recent meeting of the MUGA subcommittee (Memorial Field Management Committee) was told that the MUGA funding target had been reached and that final decisions about the exact makeup of the new facility were being made. Cllr. Mills was asked if he could check the precise amount that would be received under Section 106 agreements.

5457

79. Langport Youth Club

Cllr. Pyle explained the current position and informed the meeting that there were now 2 proposals under consideration. These would be reviewed at a meeting of the Management Committee tomorrow evening which would be making its decision on the basis of what is best for the youth of the Town. Any system put in place needed to provide the facilities that were needed by the community whilst providing a robust and reliable support structure. It was essential that the, whichever, proposal was eventually decided on, the structure met the needs and aspirations of all the parishes involved. There was then a period of constructive debate at the end of which the following proposal was made:
Proposal: The scheme decided on at the meeting of the Youth Management Committee on Wednesday 8th February 2012 would be supported by Langport Town Council inasmuch as the funds previously budgeted for youth provision would be made available towards the management of the scheme.

Outcome: Agreed by a vote of 7 in favour with 3 abstentions.

5458

80. Tenancy Agreement for Land on Langport Common Moor

Cllr. Gerard Tucker addressed the meeting with regard to the tenancy arrangements for the parcels of land owned by Langport Town Council, Huish Episcopi Parish Council and Aller Parish Council on Langport Common Moor. He explained that, because of proposed changes to the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Grants Scheme, the existing lease had been extended for a year until it was known what the changes would be. This situation with this was now clear and it means the ESA grants have been substantially reduced and can only be claimed by the person farming the qualifying land. As a result Greenslade Taylor Hunt has been in discussion with the current tenant, on behalf of the 3 councils, and has agreed terms of a new lease for all three parcels of land. Because of the timescale it was necessary for the agreements to be signed before any of the councils met in order to obtain the best return for the councils, and all three Chairmen, in consultation with their Clerks, had authorised this to be done.

Councillors agreed that the Chairman had taken the right decision in respect of this matter.

5459

81. Town Centre Signage

Cllr. Pyle outlined the current position with the signage planned for the pillars and gave the proposed costs which would be around £890 for the 2 main signs. The cost of any additional hanging attachments would be borne by the businesses requiring them. The Langport Area Business Group was prepared to contribute £150 and it was requested that the Town Council make a contribution of £250. The remaining cost would be met by South Somerset District Council. Councillors commented on the fact that the proposed sign did not mention the Library and it was agreed that a means of achieving this would be looked at.

Proposal: That this project should be moved forward with Langport Town Council contributing up to a maximum of £250.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

Wayne Stone of Pendra's Fish Shop then asked to speak and was invited to do so by the Chairman. Mr. Stone said that this situation had arisen because of his wish to advertise his business on the pillars. He was grateful for all the support that he had received from the Town Council and did not consider it right for the local council tax payers to have to meet the cost of this. Accordingly he was prepared to meet the costs incurred by the Council. He made it clear that he was not using this as a means to ensure that Pendra's was given permission to add a sign to the pillars and that he expected to be treated in the same way as any other applicant. Councillors thanked Mr. Stone for his generous offer.

5460

82. Parish Survey Update

Members of the working party presented the final draft of the report for discussion. Concerns were expressed that the second recommendation, relating to the setting up of a Youth Council, was not based on anything that was seen in the survey results and could therefore not be justified.

Proposal: That recommendation two of the report should be withdrawn.

Outcome: Agreed by 6 votes in favour to 4 votes of against.

Discussion then took place on the remainder of the report with the following result.

Proposal: That the remainder of the report should be accepted and the recommendations acted on, and that a copy of the report should be published on the Council website.

Outcome: Agreed by 9 votes in favour to 1 vote against.

5461

83. Langport Town Trust – a brief outline

The Clerk presented a brief paper on the history and current status of the Town Trust, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

5462

84. To Consider Matters of Planning

- a. **Application 12/00332/LBC** – Demolition of existing front wall and re-erection as part of the new front elevation as approved by planning permissions 11/01491/FUL and 11/01496/LBC – Herald House, North Street, Langport, Somerset TA10 9RQ.

Proposal: That the Town Council has no objection to this application.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

- b. **Determination** – 11/04531/ADV – Town Centre Signs – Approved with conditions

- c. **Determination** – 11/03879/FUL and 11/03983/LBC – The Gateway, The Hill – Approved with conditions.

The above items were noted.

5463

85. Correspondence

- a. The Veterans Charity – Invitation to join The Forces March 2012
Noted

- b. Langport Youth Group – Grant Request

Proposal: That a grant of £200 should be made to this group to enable the project to move forward.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

- c. Philip Binder / Alan Binder – Pump Unveiling Thanks

Noted. The Clerk also took the opportunity to inform members that the End of Project Report had been accepted by Awards for All and the Grant File closed.

- d. Royal British Legion – Grant Request

The Clerk informed members that the Town Council possessed a notice board of the type that the British Legion was seeking to purchase and that it had not been used in the period of time that he had been working for the Council.

Proposal: That the display notice board currently in the possession of the Town Council should be donated to the Royal British Legion, Langport Branch.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

- e. CONTACT – Fund Raising Walk along River Parrett

- f. SALC – Agenda for February Meeting

Cllr, Saunders confirmed that she would like to attend the Neighbourhood Planning Meeting.

5464

86. To Consider Matters of Finance

- a. Approve Payment Schedule. (available at meeting)
Councillors asked if it was possible to see the payment schedule prior to the meeting. The Clerk explained that the earliest that he could circulate a full schedule was lunchtime on the day of the meeting and it was agreed that this would be done in future.
Proposal: That the payment schedule amended to include the grant to Langport Youth should be approved.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

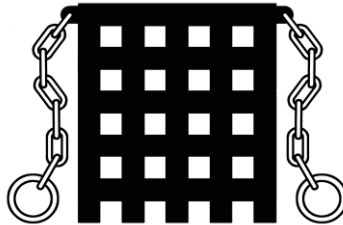
5465

87. Items for next month's agenda

Customer Care Report
Big Lottery Grant Update
Youth Service Provision

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed.....
Meeting Chairman



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Langport Town Council
on Tuesday 6th March 2012 – 7.30pm
in Langport Town Hall.**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
(Section 100) ALL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO
MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

Public Question Time (limited to 15 minutes)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the meeting by asking questions, raising concerns and/or making comments. No decision can be taken on issues raised unless the matter is

already an item on the agenda. All other matters requiring decisions will be placed on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting.

Present: Cllr. Osborne (Chairman); Cllrs. Naden, Northcott, Dunn, Pyle, Saunders, Kerswill, Morris, Clarke, Gadd, Martin; Town Clerk
County Councillor Yeomans
Andrew Lee (Langport Leveller); Jenny Thomson (Western Gazette)
Shirley Nicholas (Chairman HEPC); Cllrs. Graham Lock; John Woods; John Fraser; Barry Horsgood; Frank Pope (HEPC).
Members of Public (List of names attached)

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak and a number did in relation to Agenda Item 9, Youth Club Provision. Concern was expressed at the decision to bring this back to the meeting for further discussion and the Clerk explained why this had been necessary. The question of whether the Youth Representative had visited the Youth Club to talk to the members was raised and it was agreed that this had not been done. The general view of those members of the public attending was that the best interests of the young people of the Langport Area would be served by providing an independent youth club run by local people. The Chairman said that he was sure that their views would be taken into account when the matter was discussed.

5466

88. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from District Councillor Roy Mills.

5467

89. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Pyle declared an interest in Agenda Item 14(a), the planning application at Willows Business Park.

5468

90. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 7th February 2012.

Motion: That the minutes should be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5469

91. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this agenda.

Cllr. Saunders noted that no decision had been taken in respect of moving the proposals contained in the report on the Town Survey forward. It was agreed that this would be discussed, as an agenda item, at the April Town Council meeting.

Cllr. Dunn informed the meeting that the statement that the MUGA project had reached its funding target was now inaccurate. Because of the length of time that the project had taken there was now a shortfall of some £30,000 although the MUGA Committee was confident that this could be found through funding applications.

5470

92. Police Report

PC Lines asked whether there was anything that Councillors wished to discuss but no issues were raised.

5471

93. To receive District Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Mills there was no report.

5472

94. To receive County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Yeomans reported that all County councillors had received a copy of the Draft Boundary Proposals and expressed concern about the cost of producing and distributing these, together with the final report that will inevitably appear.

County Highways are considering numbering all road grids to make it easier for the public to report blocked drains. They are also considering a scheme which would enable local communities to measure, mark and report holes in the road that need attention.

5473

95. To receive reports of meetings attended by Councillors on behalf of the Council

Reports were received on:

- A forum with Somerset County Council to consider services that could be taken on by District / Parish Councils and the degree of willingness to do so.
- A meeting on Neighbourhood Planning arranged jointly by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and the Somerset Association of Local Councils. The consensus of both Councillors who attended and the Clerk was that this was a subject that the Council could ignore at its peril.
- Langport Business Group which now has 86 members and is envied by other similar groups. There was a discussion on the planned Youth Project to provide flags for display on shop fronts in the Town.

5474

96. Youth Club Provision – Review of the Decision taken at the February Meeting.

This item has been placed on the agenda following the receipt of the following motion, signed by 5 councillors in accordance with Langport Town Council Standing Order 11 (Rescission of Previous Resolutions).

Motion: “We the undersigned feel that, in view of the lack of a decision by Huish Episcopi Parish Council to support the proposal for an independent youth club in Langport, the decision taken by Langport Town Council and recorded as Minute 5457 should be revisited.

We feel that this is necessary because the alternative proposal put to Langport Town Council was dependent on both Langport Town Council and Huish Episcopi Parish Council supporting it and without the support of HEPC there is insufficient funding to take it forward.”

In an attempt to direct the discussions that were needed to take this matter forward, the clerks of Langport and Huish Episcopi had produced a document outlining 2 possible routes that could be taken. This had been circulated to both Langport and Huish Episcopi councillors. **It was pointed out that there was a discrepancy between the conditions imposed on the 2 proposals and it was agreed that all the conditions that applied to the Independent scheme should also apply to the Community Youth Scheme.**

The Chairman invited Cllr. Pyle, as chairman of the Langport Young Peoples and Community Centre (LYPCC) to inform the meeting of his views about the way forward. He started by thanking the clerks for their efforts and Roger Powell for all his work in trying to reach a compromise with the Community Youth Project (CYP) that would meet the concerns of the Management Committee. He said that he felt that the motion to bring this matter back to Council was an error of judgment and urged members to support the proposal for an independent Youth Club.

Cllr. Gadd was then invited to speak and she said that the discussions on the CYP had been ongoing since January 2011. There had never been any intention that the Langport Youth Club would be run by anyone other than members of the local community. The intention of the scheme was to provide a secure, well funded scheme that met the needs of the local community whilst benefiting from being part of a wider organisation. She expressed her fears that if Langport and Huish did not involve themselves in the CYP the entire scheme would fail as there was a risk that external project funding could be withdrawn.

The Chairman then invited Cllr. Nicholas (HEPC Chairman) to address the meeting. She said that she was surprised that the LYPCC Committee had not addressed the problem of future youth provision until they were made aware of the details of the proposed CYP. Having read all the available proposals and emails she was firmly of the opinion that the sensible way forward would be to join with Somerton and Martock in signing up to the Community Youth Project.

The Chairman then called for any motions that Councillors wished to put forward and the following were proposed and seconded.

Motion 1: That the Council agree to proceed with the proposal, put forward by the clerks of Langport Town Council and Huish Episcopi Parish Council in the circulated discussion document, to join the Community Youth Project.

Motion 2: That the Council agree to proceed with the proposal, put forward by the clerks of Langport Town Council and Huish Episcopi Parish Council in the circulated discussion document, to establish an Independent Youth Club for the Langport Area.

The Chairman then determined that a vote should first be taken on Motion 2 and called for a show of hands of those in favour and those against.

Outcome: 6 members showed in favour of the motion, 4 members showed against the motion with 1 member abstaining.

Motion 2 was carried and no vote was therefore taken on Motion 1.

Following the taking of this decision the Clerk reminded Councillors that under the terms of Standing Order 11(b) no further motion could be moved in relation to this subject for at least 6 months.

Cllr. Saunders requested that consideration be given to carrying out a review into the way in which different groups communicated with one another in an attempt to overcome the misunderstandings that had occurred during discussions relating to Youth Provision. She also asked for clarification of the role of the Langport Young Persons and Community Centre Committee.

5475

97. Report from the Customer Care Working Group

This item has been deferred to the April meeting pending a report from the Working Party.

5476

98. Update on RSPB Big Lottery Expression of Interest

Cllr. Dunn informed the meeting that this project had been unsuccessful in its submission of an Expression of Interest.

5477

99. Portas Pilot Project

It was agreed that, in light of a lack of response from the business community, Langport would not be putting in an application to be included in this scheme.

5478

100. Disabled Friendly Circular Footpath Update

Cllr. Saunders informed the meeting that the submission of an Expression of Interest to the LARK fund had been successful and that the next stage was the submission of a full application. She put forward the following proposal:

Motion: That Langport Town Council agrees to Cllr. Saunders, in discussion with other Councillors, submitting a full application to LARK for funding for a circular, disabled friendly footpath around the centre of Langport.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5479

101. To Consider Matters of Planning

- a. **Application 11/05062/OUT** – Proposed erection of employment units for B1/B2/B8 use – Land at Willows Business Park, Westover Trading Estate, Huish Episcopi – [We have been belatedly consulted as the neighbouring parish.](#)

Clive Miller, the agent for the applicant, was invited to address the meeting and answer any questions raised. He explained that the plans had changed slightly since the pre-application display with the result that the size of the green buffer had been increased which had allowed an increase in the number of parking spaces to 87. In response to questions from Councillors he confirmed that:

- Although this is an outline application, materials used will be predominantly natural in accordance with the design guide.
- There will be public access to the site from Westover.
- There will be no public access either to or from Frog Lane although the gateway will be retained, at the request of the Environment Agency, to provide an alternative means of access in the event of severe flooding.
- The wildlife areas, created 20 years ago, were designed with the proposed concept in mind so should remain unaltered.
- The appropriate wildlife surveys will be carried out with appropriate mitigation put in place if required to protect threatened species.

Motion: That the Clerk should notify the planning department that Langport Town Council has no objection to this application.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

- b. **Determination:11/03832/FUL** – erection of 9 dwellings in lieu of approved employment units B and C – Land at Old Kelways, Somerton Road, Langport TA10 9HB – **Application Refused.**
Noted

5480

102. Correspondence

- a. Langport Cricket Club – Post and Rail Fencing
The Clerk pointed out that the Council had an obligation, under the terms of the lease, to maintain this fence.
Motion: That the quotation received should be accepted and the Clerk authorised to place the necessary order for the work to be carried out.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.
- b. Wessex Water – Water main replacement, Hanging Chapel Road.
Noted
- c. Zurich Insurance – Local Council Policy Renewal
The Clerk informed the meeting that the premium for this policy had increased by just over £30 for 2012 / 2013. He pointed out that this was the second year of a 3 year agreement.
- d. Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Somerset
Noted

5481

103. To Consider Matters of Finance

- a. Approve Payment Schedule. (available at meeting)
Motion: That the payment schedule should be approved as presented.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

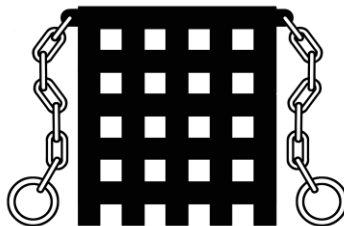
5482

104. Items for next month's agenda

Customer Care Report.

Development of strategy to address the proposals from the Town Survey.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes on the meeting of the Langport Town Council on Tuesday 3rd April 2012 – 7.30pm in Langport Town Hall.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (Section 100) ALL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

Public Question Time (limited to 15 minutes)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the meeting by asking questions,

raising concerns and/or making comments. No decision can be taken on issues raised unless the matter is already an item on the agenda. All other matters requiring decisions will be placed on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting.

Present: Cllr. Naden (Chairman); Cllrs. Gadd; Northcott; Martin; Clarke; Dunn; Kerswill; Pyle; Morris.
District Cllr. Mills; County Cllr. Yeomans
Andrew Lee (Langport Leveller)
Public Members: Barry Winetrobe; Janet Seaton

No members of the public asked to speak.

5483

1. To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Osborne (illness) and Cllr. Saunders (holiday).

5484

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5485

3. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 6th March 2012.

Motion: That the minutes should be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Outcome: Agreed unanimously.

5486

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the above meetings which are not covered by this agenda.

There were no matters arising.

5487

Police Report

Members were referred to the previously circulated report.

5488

5. To receive District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Mills reported that it had been agreed that the comments made by him, regarding the planning status of Huish Episcopi and Langport, at the Area North Core Strategy meeting had been incorrectly reported. A correction would appear in the minutes of the next Area North meeting.

A presentation had been made about the Capital programme which covered the improvements to the Langport Visitor Centre and car park, the expenditure of £10,000 to improve the play area at Barrymore Close and confirmation that the £35,000 grant for the Multi Use Games Area at the Memorial Field Recreation Area was still in place.

He also mention the approval of a planning application to convert a 6 bedroomed house in Houndsell Lane into two 3 bedroomed houses.

5489

6. To receive County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Yeomans referred the meeting to his previously circulated report.

He expressed his view that it was imperative for Huish Episcopi and Langport to develop a joint Neighbourhood Plan if it wanted to retain some control over future developments in the area. The planning regulations have been reduced to 63 pages which cover all aspects of planning, leaving the potential for significant loopholes that could be exploited by developers.

5490

7. To receive reports of meetings attended by Councillors on behalf of the Council

The Market Towns Investment Group meeting was given a presentation on a 'free' smartphone application that enables communities to provide live information about attractions, services and events taking place. There is an annual cost of £595 for the provision of this service. It was agreed that this was something that merited further investigation. The meeting also discussed ways of improving the visitor footprint in South Somerset and members were challenged to name the 3 best assets of their area.



The Edward Hext Almshouses committee have taken on a new secretary and a tenant who has recently moved in has agreed to take over responsibility for maintaining the garden areas.

Members attended the District Executive meeting called to discuss the Core Strategy, along with members of Huish Episcopi Parish Council. Strong representation was made for the Huish Episcopi and Langport area to be retained as a Rural Centre rather than being reclassified as a Market Town for development purposes. This was considered but the District Executive took the decision to accept the recommendation of Council Officers and classify the area as a Market Town. There is still the opportunity to make representations to the full council meeting in April. The decision will then go out to a 6 week public consultation before being submitted to a Planning Inspector. It was agreed that there is a need for a co-ordinated response from Huish and Langport councils.

The Langport Children's Centre is continuing with outreach projects for new expectant families and toddlers. They are also reviving the pushchair walking groups.

The Abattoir Liaison Group has commissioned a traffic survey following complaints that lorries moving to and from the abattoir were not following the agreed routes.

5491

8. Circular Footpath Grant Application to LARC – update

The Clerk informed the meeting that a full grant application has been submitted to LARC and that a decision is expected towards the end of April.

5492

9. Customer Care Report

The working group apologised that the report had not been circulated for prior consideration. The group had considered customer care from the point of view of people both outside and inside the Council. It was clear that, since the report was written, some of the issues highlighted had been addressed. It was agreed that the report should be circulated for consideration and comments.

5493

10. Taking forward the Town Survey proposals.

Motions

Proposal 1

That two working groups should be set up, each comprising a maximum of 8 members to consider the following issues:

Traffic and Transport – to be led by Cllrs. Naden and Kerswill

Town Enhancement – to be led by Cllrs. Gadd and Dunn.

That initial meetings be held with the Town Clerk to determine the other members of the groups and their remit.

Proposal 3

That the issue of a local plan should be referred to the next meeting of the Huish Episcopi and Langport Joint Committee.

Outcome: All three motions were agreed unanimously.

Proposal 3.

It was agreed that the first of a series of local producers markets held in the Town Square on Friday 30th March had addressed this issue.

5494

11. Langport Information Centre Update

Cllr. Clarke reported that, since the centre had opened in 2009, there had been a significant increase in footfall. Enquiries were regularly received for bus timetables, bluesheets, walks and poster drops. They also dealt with inquiries about the LINKS transport service and SSDC issues when their desks were closed. The number of enquiries about accommodation were less than expected but it was felt that this was primarily due to internet usage.

There are currently 10 volunteers covering 10 shifts so any absences can prove difficult. Members were asked to consider whether they knew anyone who would be interested in helping as an increase in volunteers would allow the centre to consider opening on a Saturday morning.

Councillors thanked Cllr. Clarke and all the volunteers for the hard work they put into running this important service.

5495

12. To Consider Matters of Planning

- a. **Determination 11/02448/FUL** – Erection of 52 residential units with associated works, car parking and access ways – Bartlett's Elm – **Permitted with conditions.**
- b. **Determination 12/00332/LBC** – Demolition of existing front wall and re-erection as part of the new front elevation as approved by 11/01491/FUL & 01/01496/LBC at Herald House – **Consent Granted.**
- c. **11/03221/FUL Notice of Appeal Decision** – Conversion of existing building to B1 light industrial use on the ground floor and residential use on the first floor – Baulkes Yard – **Appeal Dismissed.**

The above were noted.

5496

13. Correspondence

- a. Residents of Kennel Lane – Cemetery Trees
This has been referred to the District Arborist.
- b. SSDC – Area North Parish Workshop
Noted.
- c. Bandstand Marathon
It was agreed not to take any action regarding this.
- d. Sounding Out Somerset
- e. LEG Notes
- f. SSDC – Launch of new Council Plan 2012 – 2015
- g. SSDC – Localism in Action Document
The above were noted.
- h. Somerset Highways – Highway Improvements in Langport
This letter related to the possible resurfacing of the main road between Bow Bridge and Shire's Garage, together with improvements to the storm drainage and pavements. It was agreed that a separate meeting was needed to discuss this.
- i. Moore Stephens – Notice of Audit
Noted

5497

14. To Consider Matters of Finance

- a. Approve Payment Schedule.
Motion: That the payment schedule should be approved.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.
- b. Annual Accounting Statement (if completed)
Motion: That the Chairman is authorised to sign the Annual Accounting Statement on behalf of the Council prior to submission of the accounts for audit.
Outcome: Agreed unanimously.



5498

15. Items for next month's agenda

Customer Care Report.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.51pm

