

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall Tur Langton on 12th May 2015 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr. Bladon (Chair), Cllr J Haynes, Cllr C Weston, Cllr Briggs

Two members of the public

PCSO Tom French, PCSO Lucy Cross

In attendance: Mrs Alison Gibson, clerk

1. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held 12th May 2014

The minutes were read out and were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting

2. The Chairman's report on the Parish Council's work over the last year.

Welcome to Tur Langton Parish Meeting 2015

The past year has been busy for us with activities including working with our new clerk to ensure we implement new legislation, preparing for a Parish Council Election, preparing an agreement with LCC for our new grass cutting contract, responding to planning applications and negotiating with Merton College Oxford concerning our village Hall lease.

I hope you have had a chance to view our Parish Council website. We are extremely grateful to our clerk Alison for the huge developments and improvements that have been made. This helps us to comply with new transparency legislation and also inform parishioners about the activities of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council election has taken place and I am pleased to say that our full complement of five parish councillors has been elected. This was an uncontested election so no ballot took place. The five councillors will be in office for four years before an election will take place again.

Training and keeping up to date with current legislation and good practice are an important aspect of a councillor's role. This year training has enabled our clerk to improve our website, understand the new consultation tool, help us prepare our precept, and much more. Councillor Weston has gained an insight into grant applications, local planning and community issues and Cllr Officer and I have concentrated on understanding the process of neighbourhood planning. A list of all our training can be found on our website.

Last year I informed you that Merton College had offered us a ten year lease. It took six months for the draft to arrive and unfortunately it was very unsatisfactory. The main problem was that the lease was for ten years with no possibility of extending it beyond then. We continue to negotiate with the support and assistance of HDC, Sir Edward Garnier MP, our District and County Councillors and yourselves via the letters sent to Merton College,

A lot of time has been spent negotiating a grass cutting contract with LCC. This is new but we have been successful in proving that our contractor complies with the stringent requirements issued by LCC so we are able to continue cutting the grass to the same standard as the past few years. Apart from a few small issues we feel that the grass in the village is maintained to a high standard. However this does have a cost implication and as the contribution from LCC has been halved we have had to adjust the precept to accommodate the change.

We continue to respond to planning applications and many parishioners will be pleased that the Bulls Head development is finally underway.

Finally Tur Langton Parish Council has recently made the decision to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan. The fact The Bulls Head development extended beyond the present limits to development and that these limits are to be removed in the new HDC Strategic Plan were strong incentives to go ahead with what will be an 18 month project leading to a document that will set out the future of development in our parish. We will be holding a consultation event on June 11th where a clear picture of what is involved will be set out and everyone will be able to make their contribution, offer support and get involved.

3. Questions from members of the public.

- **Village Hall** – when came to vote had difficulty getting up the steps, a handrail would be helpful.

Response – this was noted

- **Neighbourhood Plan** – we do need one. Was concerned to hear that Merton College had met with HDC to discuss planning permission for houses and provision of a bypass at Kibworth

Response – we have had the area designation approved and will be organising a consultation event shortly

- **Fire hydrants** - When there was a fire at the Crown a fireman asked my husband for the location of the fire hydrants. Does the Parish Council know where they are?

Response – we will try to find out

- **Bull's head site** – read an article in the Leicester Mercury about the withdrawal of an application relating to affordable housing – what is the current situation?

Response – an application for a variation of the condition requiring affordable housing on site to allow instead for a commuted sum for off-site provision was

withdrawn. A previous application for the condition to be removed was refused. We do not know what will happen next

- **Precept** – every year Harborough District Council have kept their council tax at the same rate, why has the precept for Tur Langton increased this year?

Response – we have had to cover the decrease in the amount of money reimbursed by Leicestershire County Council for grass cutting and the increase in precept takes this into account. We have also had to precept nearly £2,000 over two years to pay for the election. As there was not an election in Tur Langton the invoice from HDC will only be a small proportion of this and so in future meetings the council will review the budget headings for 2015/16. Every effort is made to keep any increase in the precept as low as possible unless there is a particular project we are raising funds for.

- **Cllr Kendall** – he is missed. Would like to record thanks for all of the hard work he has done since he became a Parish Councillor in 1991. He has put in a lot of time and effort and has been an asset to the council.

Response – thank you for these comments, he will be missed. We will pass the comments on to him.

Report from the police

PCSOs Tom French and Lucy Cross reported that there was one reported crime (burglary) in the Langtons over the last 12 months (apart from domestic related issues).

They are aware that speeding is a problem and use the speed gun. Another operation is planned in the next few weeks. It was requested that this take place between 7.30 and 9 a.m. and 4.30 to 6 p.m. (weekdays) when the problem is at its worst. The PCSOs advised that the operation would normally commence at 8 a.m. covering the Harborough District Council area so they could not be specific as to when they would be in TL. They will approach their supervisor to see if the operation can start earlier in the day. It was noted that speeding motor cycles also cause a problem, particularly on Sundays. Often noted to go through the village at the correct speed but speed up as they leave the village and are very noisy

Photographs of the officers who cover the area to put on the notice board were requested and the officers agreed to email some information

The chair thanked the officers for attending and for their report

The meeting was closed by Cllr Bladon at 7.30 p.m.

Signed _____