

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

Minutes no: 2022/03

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 7.30pm in Langley with Hardley Village Hall.

Parish Councillors (6) present	Nigel Sullivan (chair), Garry Moore, Frances Kirkpatrick, Michael Caston, Tibby Bunn, Cheryl Frost.
County Councillor	None
District Councillors	None
Also in attendance	Emma Webster (clerk)
Members of the public	3

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

None.

2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members and consider requests for dispensation.

None.

3. To approve the Council minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2022.

The minutes were approved subject to some formatting changes.

The Chair apologised that the Annual Parish Meeting had not been organised or advertised and could not legally go ahead. A date to re-schedule will be sought by the end of the month.

4. Adjournment for public participation (15 minutes allowed for).

A member of the public promoted the book – ‘Langley with Hardley a trip through time in this Norfolk village’ by Loddon and District Local History Group, compiled by Carol Webb and Elvie Herd, on sale for £7.50. The book is available locally, from Carol and Elvie directly and will be sold at the Jubilee Cafe being held in the Village Hall on Friday 3 June. The Parish Council has agreed a £200 contribution towards printing costs, however the payment has been delayed as the banking situation with Barclays is not yet resolved.

A member of the public raised the issue of a hedge on Langley Street near the play area which should have been cut back, but hasn't been. The Chair apologised and offered to view the hedge with the parishioner after the meeting (which was done).

5. To appoint and welcome the successful applicant (Emma Webster) to the position of Clerk to the Parish Council.

Emma thanked the committee for the warm welcome on her first day in the role.

6. To consider training requirements for the new councillors

All councillors were encouraged to look on the Norfolk Association of Local Council's website for current training courses that maybe of interest and relevance to the role. There is funding available in the budget for training.

7. Reports from Parish Clerk (none) County Councillor, District Councillor and Police (not available at the meeting, however these were later circulated by e-mail), and Tree Warden (none).

John Wheeler, Tree Warden, was thanked (in his absence) for doing a great job planting trees and hedges. There was a discussion around a vandalised bush at Langley Staithe and dismay that there was nothing more to be done until it re-grows. There was also discussion with the public around the churchyard in Hardley and how and when it is mown.

8. To discuss and confirm the contract for grass cutting in the Parish.

After a tendering process it was agreed by all Councillors present to award the contract jointly to Dean Baldry and G S Tractor Services. A member of the public asked the council to formally adopt the initiative from Norfolk County Council for 'No Mow May' and promoting the Bee-line. The Council agreed to write into the grass mowing contract for next year, 2023, that no areas should be mown until 1 June and publicise locally why this is being done. The Chair agreed to formally stand down the previous grass cutting contractors, CGM, and send the new contract to Dean Baldry and G S Tractor Services.

9. To notify the Council that preparation to submit documents required for the annual internal audit and Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) is being undertaken (Thursday 30 June).

This was noted.

10. To receive an update on Barclays Bank.

The Chair reported that he had spent some time in branch in order to update the signatories and is hopeful the banking situation is now resolved.

11. Planning: To receive planning applications and make comments, To receive results and updates on outstanding applications.

The Council's response to the retrospective garage building has been published.

12. Highways: To receive a report on highways issues outstanding.

George Lane roundabout has been completed. A Member commented that there are fewer minibuses using Langley Road and Loddon Village.

13. Finance: To receive the income and expenditure figure. To agree payment of invoices and other expenses, To note any monies received.

Income - NIL. The Chair spoke about how limited the finances are at Parish Council level and, aside from the precept, the only income comes from the running of events or grant funding. With

limited resources for running events the Chair urged anyone to forward information about potential grants. The Chair said that he hoped he has secured a £200 grant for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations organised by the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed to explore the purchase of recycled plastic picnic benches for the play area with this money.

Expenditure: Invoices have been received from GS Tractor Services, Dean Baldry, Norfolk Association of Local Councils (subscription), South Norfolk Council (emptying of dog bin) and CGM Limited and Loddon and District Local History Group. It is the intention of the Parish Council to settle these invoices as soon as the banking issues with Barclays is resolved.

14. Langley Abbey – Entrance for visitors to Langley Abbey

A Councillor commented that there are brown tourist road signs which direct visitors from the A146 to Langley Abbey – however Langley Abbey is no longer open to the public, and hasn't been for some time. The Chair agreed to approach the owners to ask if they can facilitate removal of the signs.

15. To receive updates from individual council members (for information only)

Cllr Kirkpatrick reported that builders were blocking the entrance to Fishers Lane footpath and the sign had been toppled. This was agreed as an enforcement issue and that the Police should be contacted.

Cllr Bunn reported that she has been made aware of people selling drugs in the early hours of the morning in the grounds of the Church, and at the river in daylight hours. Information has been collated and sent to the Police.

16. Date and time of the next meeting confirmed as Tuesday 12 July at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signature and date: