

Langley with Hardley Parish Council

Minutes No: 2022/9

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 7.30pm in Langley with Hardley Village Hall

Parish Councillors (6) present	Nigel Sullivan (Chair), Michael Caston, Frances Kirkpatrick, Tibby Bunn, John Wheeler, Cheryl Frost.
County Councillor	None.
District Councillors	None.
Also in attendance	Emma Webster (Clerk).
Members of the public	Three.

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Garry Moore (prior commitment).

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

Members are invited to declare Disclosable interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Langley with Hardley Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

None.

3. To approve minutes of Council meeting held on 3 January 2023.

There was one amendment on item 22, to delete the words 'War Memorial' in the third paragraph. With this change the minutes were approved and signed by the Chair. This change also meant that the letter agreed at the last meeting to the War Memorials Trust will not be sent.

4. Adjournment for Public Participation (15 minutes allowed for).

This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions about and comment on items on the agenda before the Council make decisions.

A local resident spoke about the need for new dog bins in the Parish, item 5 on the agenda. There was discussion about dog walkers using Hardley Street (part of the Wherryman's Way) and bags of excrement being left on the side of the road, in hedges or hung from trees, or indeed not picked up at all. There was general agreement that the provision of a dog waste bin would discourage this activity and make for a more pleasant environment for all.

5. To discuss the request for a new dog bin in the Parish on Fish's Lane. Agree on a course of action.

The local resident who originally e-mailed the Council to raise the issue of dog bins in the Parish was present at the meeting to hear the discussion. The general need for further dog bin/s in the Parish was unanimously supported by the Parish Council, the discussion then focused on cost and location. The Clerk reported that the cost of a new 25 litre bin was currently £138.82 (inc VAT) and once a week emptying charges, payable to the District Council were £74.40 (plus VAT) per annum. Full information from the District Council on the provision of dog waste bins in Parishes was made available to Councillors prior to the meeting and can be found here

: <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/types-waste/litter-dog-bin-information-parish-councils>

The Chair said that whilst the need was agreed the funding available to Parish Councils was limited, especially as the precept was not raised this year. A Councillor suggested she would be willing to contribute towards the service, as did the local resident and thought that his fellow dog walkers would also agree to contribute. With these contributions, and exact location of the bin or bins the Council agreed to proceed further. It was agreed that the Clerk would e-mail those who have shown an interest in contributing to follow up the details, with a view to bringing a proposal back to the next meeting.

6. To discuss the Langley with Hardley Parish Trust (registered with the Charity Commission) and agree on the Trustees. Agree on any further actions

The Clerk explained that the Parish has been asked by the Charity Commission to update the records of charity number 1117975 - Langley with Hardley Parish Trust, and as a new Clerk she asked Councillors what charity this might be and how further details might be provided. Cllr Caston thought it could be the Poor's Trust and a member of the public gave the Clerk a phone number of someone involved who could be asked if indeed there was a link with charity 1117975 and the Poor Trust. Clerk to follow up.

7. To discuss the Langley with Hardley public rights of way and land deposits under section 31 (6) of the Highways Act 1980 and section 15A (1) of the Commons Act 2006. Agree on a course of action.

Councillor Wheeler had spent time reading the submission of CA16 forms and maps applicable to the Parish which have been submitted to the Legal Orders and Registers office at Norfolk County Council. These documents relate public rights of way, reference numbers D23 06, D23 07 and D23 08. Notices have been posted in the Parish relating to these deposits. Cllr Wheeler raised a concern on the factual accuracy of one of the deposits in that Stone Lane should be highlighted as a public right of way, not part of private land. The Chair asked Cllr Wheeler to respond to the Legal Orders and Registers office making this point.

8. To discuss a request for trimming bushes/trees in Fish's Lane. Agree on a course of action.

Councillor Wheeler said that he had visited the area after a request from a local resident. Cllr Wheeler has removed some branches and cut back bushes and will monitor the Lane, providing 'light touch' cut backs making the Lane easier to use for both walkers and horse riders.

9. To discuss a request for the no parking sign on Hardley Street by Fish's Lane to be made larger. Agree on a course of action.

A local resident had been in touch with the Council to say that drivers are ignoring the no parking sign on Hardley Street causing a nuisance by preventing access to this public right of way (Green Lane). Cllr Wheeler agreed to investigate the provision of a new, larger, sign in the hope that it will deter parked cars, however it was noted that the Parish Council has no powers of enforcement.

10. To review the Parish Council's asset and investment register and make any changes to ensure that it is up to date.

Councillors read through the Parish Council's asset and investment register line by line and informed the Clerk of any amends in order to ensure the document is up to date and can be submitted as part of the upcoming Internal Audit. Amends were made as follows;

Bird hide	Reduce value to £2,500 due to vandalism
BT Telephone Box	Increase value to £1,000 in line with approx. cost for replacement
Computer - laptop	Reduce value to £400 due to depreciation
Laminator	Remove from asset register as this equipment broke and has been disposed of.
Arnold Baker Book	Remove from asset register – not passed on from previous Clerk.
No parking sign and post Fish's Lane	Remove from the asset register as the sign and post was damaged by farm machinery.
Picnic table Playing field	Remove from the asset register – became unsafe and has been disposed of.
Bench Seat Playing field	Remove from the asset register – became unsafe and has been disposed of.

The inventory of land was also reviewed and agreed as an accurate record, with one suggested amend as follows;

Land opposite end of Stone Cross Road	Add (formerly Parish Pit) in brackets.
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11. To follow-up on the recruitment of a new SAM2 (Speed Awareness Monitoring) volunteer and their training. Agree on a course of action.

The Chair advised that there had been no interest from anyone wanting to take this work forward so another request for help will be published in Chet contact.

12. To follow up on the request to lower the speed limit in Langley Green. Agree on a course of action.

Cllr Wheeler reported that, at the Parish Council's request, a Highways Engineer from Norfolk County Council has now visited the Parish and responded as follows;

"As promised, please receive my response to your request for me to reconsider your Parish Councils request for a reduced speed limit.

For your information, when considering requests for a reduced speed limit, each Parish is taken on its own merits, we do not compare one parish to a neighbouring parish, as each parish has a different built environment, which is our main criteria for considering a reduced speed limit. For a speed limit to be successful, and self-enforcing, it has to be appropriate, if it is not considered to be appropriate, drivers will largely ignore the speed limit, and compliance will be very poor. As you may already appreciate, if a new speed limit was to be introduced, it is extremely unlikely that it would be enforced on a regular basis by the Norfolk Police, as their resources are extremely stretched, the Police would only support a reduced speed limit if it was appropriate, and would be self-enforcing.

Having re-vested Langley last week, I drove along the length of the village in both directions, and noted that you have an existing 30mph limit that was installed in 1997 where you have a greater density of residential housing, but this changes to a 40mph speed limit from "The Beeches" to the end of the village.

I would suggest that there is a considerable difference in the built environment between the two sections of road, and when the reduced speed limit was introduced 20 + years ago, the Traffic Engineer obviously came to the same conclusion, which is why the reduced speed limit only extends part of the way along the road. If it was felt that a 30mph speed limit would be appropriate for the whole length of the village, a reduced speed limit would already be in place.

Regrettably I need to inform you that considering your request solely against our Speed Management Strategy, it does need not meet our criteria for a reduced speed limit, the existing 40mph speed limit is still appropriate for the sporadic residential development that exists throughout the length of the village.

However, in 2021 Norfolk County Council launched the Road Safety Community Fund, with a £1m budget to give communities across Norfolk the opportunity to promote small scale locally driven road safety improvements.

This is a 4 year project, with an objective to deliver approximately 100 County wide schemes, with a maximum threshold of £10k, the scheme commenced in West Norfolk in 2021, but will be heading to South Norfolk in 2023/24.

Any scheme needs to be supported by your Local Member, with each member promoting approximately 2 or three schemes, I need to stress to you that this is very much a Member led initiative.

My advice to you, is for you to contact your Local Member, and ask them if they would support an application to consider reducing the speed limit as a small scale road safety improvement for your community".

The Council has sent a thank you for the full and considered response and whilst there was general agreement the outcome was not positive on this occasion the Council agreed to follow up the suggestion of approaching the Local Member to ask for their support in reducing the speed limit as a small scale road safety improvement. Clerk to action.

13. To receive an update from the Telephone Box Community Library working group. Agree on any further actions.

There has been considerable work done on improving the Telephone Box Community Library since the last meeting. The Chair thanked Cllr Bunn for the work her and her team have done; the box has been cleaned, all books are now laid out beautifully and damaged books have been removed. Tibby said that there is a need for more children's books if anyone has any to donate please. The Chair said that he had submitted a 'Go for it' grant application to South Norfolk Council for funds to go towards materials to repaint the box.

14. To receive an update on the potential provision of additional parking spaces within the Parish. Agree on a course of action.

The Chair advised that there had been no interest from anyone wanting to take this work forward so the project is on hold until such a time as a working group can be put together.

15. To receive an update on the repairs to the play equipment in the play area. Agree on a course of action.

Cllr Wheeler advised that NGF Play Limited are waiting for a replacement cable for the zip line to be delivered. Once this is received they will be on site to make the repairs. NGF Play have been reminded that the work should be carried out and invoiced for in this financial year.

16. To receive an update on the new Facebook group for the Parish.

With the support of Councillor Moore the Clerk reported that she had set up a Facebook page for Langley with Hardley Parish Council and encouraged people to like and share the page. The Clerk will now use Facebook to communicate with local residents.

17. To receive an update on the progress of the project to replace the post on the Village Sign. Agree on a course of action.

This project is now complete, thanks to the generosity of a local artist and builder. The work is considered to be of a good standard and should last for many years to come, the plastic post replacing the splintered wooden one. The Council asked the Clerk to send a thank you letter on behalf of the Parish. Clerk to action. A photo has now been received and will be published in CHET CONTACT.

18. To discuss the Annual Parish meeting and agree on a course of action.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Annual Parish Meeting is due to take place shortly. It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish meeting immediately prior to the next meeting of Council. Due to this being an election year the date of the next meeting was moved back a week to 9 May.

19. Reports from:

- **Parish Clerk** – The Clerk reminded Councillors that Barclays are chasing documentation to meet money laundering requirements and the account will be closed if this is not received. The accounts have already been restricted. Internal Audit has been booked for w/c 22 May. An Application for the Kings Coronation Grant will be submitted on behalf of the Village Hall Organising Committee. The Clerk starts her CiLCA training this month to become a qualified Clerk and thanked the Council for the £250 contribution towards the fees and training (the rest, approx. £600 will be self-funded). The Parish mobile received an anonymous call regarding flooding at the Staithe on part of the Wherryman's Way. The Clerk talked about the Town and Parish Elections on 4 May, and that all current Councillors will stand down this year and new nomination forms need to be completed and returned to the District Council if Councillors would like to seek re-election. These forms need to be hand delivered to the Horizon Centre, Broadland Business Park by 4 April at the latest. If there are more than 7 applications for Langley with Hardley then there will be an Election held on 4 May.
- **County and District Councillor, Kay Mason Billig** – None.
- **District Councillor Jeremy Rowe** – Circulated by e-mail.
- **Police** – None.

- **Tree Warden** – Cllr Wheeler will make contact with the person who expressed an interest in this role and explain what is involved.

20. Planning

Weekly planning applications and decisions made from both the Broads Authority and South Norfolk Council are checked each week by the Clerk for applications or decisions made within the Langley with Hardley Parish boundary. Results, including nil returns, are sent by e-mail to Parish Councillors on a weekly basis.

The Parish Clerk has sent a response supporting the application 2023/0146, single storey rear extension, as discussed at the last meeting.

21. Highways

Cllr Wheeler had contacted the Highways department with regard to a blocked ditch on Langley Street which has led to flooding and damaged verge and posts on the corner of Old Forge, both had been acknowledged. Cllr Wheeler will share the full response when received. The potholes reported to Highways some time ago have now been filled and there was general agreement that the work had made a big difference.

22. Finance

- To consider any grant applications received in accordance with Langley with Hardley PC Grant Awarding Policy – None.
- To receive the income and expenditure figures (as of 7 March 2023)
 - Community account £8,902.37
 - Business Premium account £2,047.81
 - LAWHPCSSB account £158.65
 - INCOME: £74.40 from Mr P J Haggart in respect of dog bin invoice. Interest £2.74.
- To agree payment of invoices and other expenses. Cheques for the following invoices were signed during the meeting;

Cheque	To/For	Amount £
101047	Clerk salary and expenses	400.00
101050	Clerk salary and expenses	224.22
101051	South Norfolk Council – dog bin charges	267.84

Cheques 101046 and 101048 were spoilt, and subsequently shredded.

23. To receive updates from individual Council Members (for information only).

Cllr Kirkpatrick said that the Mill had been broken into and various items stolen and damaged. The Police are investigating.

Cllr Caston explained that a local young person has been litter picking in the Parish for the last 12 weeks as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award and it would be good if the Parish Council sent a letter of thanks. Clerk to action.

Cllr Wheeler commented on how the Village Hall is thriving again under Tibby's stewardship and praised the Village Hall Organising Committee for all their hard work.

Cllr Sullivan said that he would follow up on a letter received from the organisers of the Big Litter Pick, which the Parish Council traditionally takes part in (and receives a £20 fee for doing so).

24. To receive any items for inclusion on the next agenda (for information only).

None.

- 25. To consider the exclusion of the press and public under the Local Government Act 1972, schedule 12 A for exempt items containing confidential information.**

This was agreed.

- 26. To discuss the Clerk's annual appraisal. Subject to satisfactory performance the clerk will progress one point through salary scale LC1, increments payable on the 1 April each year, as defined in the Clerk's terms and conditions of employment.**

The Clerk was informed that her performance in the role had been satisfactory and the one point increment was awarded. The Council asked the Clerk to decrease the frequency of e-mails send to Councillors to once a week, unless urgent. Clerk to action.

- 27. To confirm date of the next Parish Council Meeting as Tuesday 2 May 2022 in Langley with Hardley Village Hall at 7.30 pm.**

As there is an election being held on 4 May it was agreed to push the meeting back by 1 week to Tuesday 9 May 2023. In order to accommodate the Annual Parish Meeting will start at 7pm, followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting at 7.30.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.