

## **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall Tur Langton on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr. T Bladon (Chair), Cllr K Briggs, Cllr C Weston

Derek Hewitt, Hanbury Charity, Gary Kirk, Yourlocale

In attendance: Mrs Alison Gibson, clerk

### **1. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

The minutes 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 2016.

It doesn't seem to be two minutes since I was presenting my report last year. Yet again it has been another busy year for our clerk who has been working tirelessly to comply with the raft of new transparency rules and regulations. We were successful with a bid for funds from NALC (National Association of Local Councils) to buy a new laptop and to fund extra hours for our clerk to ensure our website is up to date. Our website is now a mine of information and is worth visiting for planning applications, records of our meetings, details of progress on our Neighbourhood plan and lots of links to useful local information.

One of the questions asked last year was about positions of fire hydrants in the village following an incident at The Crown. After investigation we found the positions are clearly marked with a concrete post with a yellow hydrant sign and in our village they are on the green opposite Bulls Terrace and on the entrance to the drive to The Manor.

Last year we made the decision to develop a neighbourhood plan for Tur Langton. We are continuing to work hard and we are now part way through the process. Thank you to everyone who attended our drop in event, completed questionnaires and volunteered to help with the environmental aspect of the plan. It is very important to us that finished plan should reflect the majority view of the village so the more people who input to the plan the better it will be. If you are interested in supporting us please speak to the chair or the clerk for details.

In 2015 I shared with you that we had at last been offered a lease from Merton College but that it was unsatisfactory due to a short duration. We have continued to negotiate and it has now been increased from 10 years to 21 years. This is a real step forward but other issues remain involving potential unspecified costs that have not as yet been resolved. We continue to be very concerned about the present state of the village hall and are trying hard to reach an agreement.

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Recently a resident (JT) approached the PC to gain support for the installation of a defibrillator in our phone box. We agreed that this was a very worthwhile project. JT is taking responsibility for organising the raising of funds and although the PC is unable to make any sizable contribution as the request was made after our budget had been set, it was agreed that the PC will hold all the funds and make the purchase ensuring transparency. The PC will also purchase the village phone box when sufficient funds have been raised. This will mean that the phone box will no longer be functional and the PC takes responsibility for the upkeep of this listed feature of our village and the ongoing costs of the defibrillator. This will need to be considered when setting next year's budget.

During the past year the Parish Council has published several newsletters and organised a competition to design a logo for our council. The competition entries will be reviewed at the meeting that follows and this will lead to the creation of a logo that can be used on our documents including our newsletter. When we perfect the preparation and delivery of the newsletter we hope that it is informative and useful. The preparing a newsletter can prove to be time consuming so we hope that it is a worthwhile activity, therefore feedback and suggestions are very welcome. We also publish reports in the Kibworth Chronicle and Langton Newsletter all of which are prepared in order to help our community understand the role and work of our Parish Council. We are there to represent the views and opinions of the residents so please contact us about local issues and concerns and we will try and help. As financial pressures build on Local Government, the roles and responsibilities of Parish Councils could be extended so it is imperative that the clerk and councillors are up to date with current practice. A list of training that has been undertaken and the consultations that the Parish Council have responded to are attached to this report.

In conclusion we thank you for taking the time to attend this meeting and look forward to representing our community in the coming year and completing our ongoing projects

### **3. Neighbourhood Plan update – Gary Kirk, *Yourlocale***

The first consultation event for the Neighbourhood Plan took place last July at the Crown Public House. A report of this event has been produced and is available through the Parish Council's website or from the clerk. More recently there has been a community questionnaire and the results of this are in the process of being summarised for publication. Useful information on a range of issues has been gained from these consultations, including some interesting comments on the location of any new housing, which is a key issue for further debate. Gary advised that if the plan does identify site(s) for housing it would give protection from speculative development elsewhere. It would be in the region of four or five houses and the sites would have to be deliverable, the owners would have to want development there. It is easier to identify sites in some communities than others. An alternative approach is to identify key sites to be protected so that development cannot take place on these sites. The Environment Group work was launched at an

event in January and the work of this group is progressing to identify such sites for inclusion in the plan.

Behind the scenes the socio-economic data has been analysed. The results are skewed by the fact that the Shangton Care Village statistics are included with those of Tur Langton. This needs to be explored further to see how the Shangton data fits in with that of Tur Langton. It was noted that the Care Village has now closed and the site is available for sale. This led to a discussion about the possible future for this site.

Cllr Bladon thanked Mr Kirk for his presentation.

#### **4. Hanbury Charity – Report by Mr Derek Hewitt, Chair, the Hanbury Charity**

Dr Susan Hills is the Parish Council Trustee to the Hanbury Charity, and the council's first point of contact. Mr Hewitt circulated a copy of the Charity Commission Scheme for the charity. He will forward a copy of the latest accounts once finalised.

The charity distributes funds under five categories, defined in the Scheme, and has plenty of funds, having benefited from the sale of the old secondary school in recent years. Around £30,000 a year is available for educational purposes, covering two of the categories. The money from the sale of the school has to go towards education. There are three smaller categories, for the relief of persons in need, for the relief of persons who need care and to help the church. Money was given to the church in Tur Langton last year under the latter category for repair to the organ. The "area of benefit" covers several local villages and the "preferred area" is the parishes of East Langton, Thorpe Langton, Tur Langton and West Langton.

The two categories relating to educational purposes are the provision of items, services and facilities for Church Langton C of E Primary School (and any other school substantially serving the preferred area) and to anyone between the ages of 16-24 in the area of benefit with a need for help with education costs with a preference for those in the preferred area.

The charity is keen to promote this last category, where they are not getting enough applications. The funding is not subject to means testing. The fund does not cover transport or living costs. An example of what can be claimed for is a laptop. It is available for young people in apprenticeships, for example for specialist equipment. It was noted that there is not a large percentage of young people in that age range in

the village. The council will promote this in their next newsletter and also on the website.

Mr Hewitt queried whether there is any educational activity in the Village Hall. There is not at present, claiming from the fund could be considered in the future should it become appropriate.

In response to a query as to whether the funds could be claimed towards the cost of a footpath for walking or bikes at the side of the road to the school, Mr Hewitt advised that this does not easily fall into the remit of the charity as they do not distribute funds for transport. He advised approaching the school. Cllr Bladon advised that the school is in the process of negotiations with East Langton Parish Council to try and develop a Transport Plan.

Cllr Bladon thanked Mr Hewitt for his presentation.

**5. Questions from members of the public – none present**

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

Signed\_\_\_\_\_