

Langford Village Community Association Minutes

18th May 2015

Attendees: Bob Rudge, Ted Kingston, Steve Clack, Caroline Cadbury, Rich Ponsford, Dom Cotter, Matt Phillips, Mike Oke, Nick Barnet, Alan Coffey.

Apologies: Nick Cotter, John Broad, Dan Sames.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and agreed.

2. Treasurer's Update

Bank Balances at end of April 2015:

Account	No. 1	No. 2	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6	Total
April 15	1,743.63	7,670.54	0.00	23,645.20	0.00	33,080.37

Despite insurance costs and ground rent, the month still showed a surplus.

Caroline reported that two hall users are behind with payments – she will continue to chase

Jayne has increased her rates for cleaning the hall by 10%. This was considered reasonable and agreed.

Caroline was asked by hall users about the hall acoustics and the cutting of the grass in the back garden.

Both matters were dealt with later in the meeting.

ACTION: Caroline to chase outstanding payments.

3. Hall Improvements

- **The Garden** – The article in Langford Life requesting ideas is due to appear imminently.
- **Bike Racks** – Andy is in agreement and has requested ground mounted racks.

ACTION: Rich to liaise with Tesco.

- **Hall acoustics** – Following discussions with Martin at Amadeus regarding the fixing of the panels, Matt recommended that we proceed and ask Micky Pease to install the panels. Matt will discuss fixings with Micky. Matt will also use a phone app to monitor the sound improvement. If required, further panels can be ordered at a later date. All members of the committee were in agreement with this action.

ACTION: Bob, Matt and Mike to order the panels and liaise with Micky Pearse for installation.

4. Town Planning/Bicester Garden Town

In his absence, John Broad had provided a detailed account of developments (attached to the minutes). John was thanked for his considerable efforts.

5. Langford Life

Steve and Rich reported that the new edition is to appear within the next 10 days. Rich's pdf of the page layouts looked highly impressive. Bob is all geared up for the delivery. Distribution is organised for this edition, with a request for further distributors contained in the magazine. It was agreed to send a copy of Langford Life to various parish, Cherwell and County Councillors, including Barry Wood, as well as Victoria Prentis, our new MP.

ACTION: Steve, Rich, Mike and Caroline to arrange distribution to councillors and invoicing of advertisers.

6. School Lollipop Crossing Patrol

Mike advised of painfully slow progress and the expectation that nothing will be in place before the start of the autumn term.

ACTION: Mike to continue to pursue the matter.

7. CDC Grant

Vickie Zielinski has advised that Community Association Grants are available. It was agreed that we should apply for one as a contribution to the current edition of Langford Life.

ACTION: Dom to apply for the grant.

8. AOB

Jubilee Lake – Melanie Magee had reported that work has been delayed but is due to start by Thames Water on 2nd June. Steve agreed to check to see if this includes cleaning the lake which is getting silted up at the Wretchwick Way end. Action: Steve.

Cllr James Porter – following his appointment as CDC Councillor for South Bicester at the recent elections James offered his support to the LVCA committee and also to come along to a meeting. Mike to liaise.

Langford Medical Practice (LMP) – following the surprising decision by the Care Commission for LMP to be put into special measures, support was expressed for the practice. Anyone wishing to do so can express that support via the Langford Medical Practice website or by social media:
<https://m.facebook.com/groups/852553398152859?ref=bookmark>

Grass Verges – the non-cutting of the grass verges has caused great concern among residents, resulting in considerable traffic on social media. Apparently, there are to be only two cuts this year. The verges are looking unsightly and attracting increasing amounts of litter. Nick Barnett came to the meeting to express his concern. He reported that he had been in touch with Cllr Michael Waine who advised that councillors had met today (Monday 18th May) and that Bicester Town Council had agreed to more cutting of the verges if additional funding could be supported by Cherwell District Council. We were advised to contact Cllr Tim Hallchurch in this respect. All members were encouraged to do so and for this information to be posted on Facebook.

Victoria Prentis – It was agreed to invite our newly elected MP to speak at the AGM in September. Mike to extend the invitation when sending Victoria a copy of Langford Life.

London Road – Alan Coffee came to the meeting to register his concern regarding heavy traffic on the London Road causing both noise and vibration to his and several other houses adjacent to the road on Martin Way. After discussion it was agreed that Alan should contact John Broad who has a greater understanding of these matters and might be able to advise accordingly.

Gavray Drive Section 106 – Vickie Zielinski has advised that £30-£35,000 may be forthcoming when Gavray Drive is developed and wanted suggestions as to how this may be used. Bob Rudge located plans that had been passed by CDC in 2002 for an extension to the back of the hall for internal and external storage. After discussion, it was agreed that this would be an excellent use of the money. Surprise was expressed that the sum indicated was not greater, as had originally been suggested. Mike to action.

Grass cutting in hall garden – Nick Barnett volunteered the services of his own mower and his teenage son to cut the grass. A figure of £20 was agreed. Nick, Caroline and Bob to action.

Date of Next Business Meeting – Monday 15th June 2015 at 8.15 pm at the hall

Addendum

Submission by John Broad on Saturday 16th May:

I will have to tender my apologies as I need to attend a CPRE meeting that evening.

Planning news is that although we are awaiting the results of the Planning Inspector report due by the end of May, CDC have opened up for consultation the start of the Local Plan 2 with a deadline date of the 8th June!!! I've attached a copy of the notification for you to read and maybe discuss a bit at the meeting. This will of course be a major part of the CPRE meeting I will be attending.

The stupidity of this is that no one can guess what might need to be in Local Plan 2 until they have seen the inspector report on "The" Local Plan and there is only about a week between them to send in comments. One frightening item on the list of subjects for Local Plan 2 is warehousing and distribution. Whilst not hopefully of direct concern to the LVCA, the inclusion of the 2 million sq ft warehouse alongside Stoke Lyne and the B4100 that was raised as an "Omission Site" at the end of the Local Plan inquiry could be included in Local Plan 2. It also mentions warehousing at each junction of the M40 meaning massive eyesores and increased traffic at junction 8.75 (proposed new junction to Graven Hill), 9 and 10. I will of course object to these ideas and recommend all on Langford to do the same - remember before the 8th June. CPRE will of course object as a protection body.

Note that they ask for comments on what might be "included" rather than "excluded"! We can use this to our advantage though as Local Plan Part 2 is the time for "us" to make representation for the Langford Orchard to be designated as a "Local Green Space (LGS)" in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This should be officially requested by Pat Clissold and Pam Roberts but there is a need for written support from as many residents as possible to this request; sent to the CDC at the address on the letter. It would be great if this could be done electronically but the LVCA would need the residents email addresses. As with many of these things, this is a numbers game and to get the LGS instigated requires a high number of local residents to request it.

Nothing heard about any bridge across the London Road crossing as yet. I do note that they are constructing 2 massive towers which I guess are the lifts and bridge for access across the line to each platform. These need to be large enough for wheelchairs and bicycles as well as people. They also seem to be building a double deck parking area for, I think, around 570 cars. These cars will of course have to somehow get either from the town or across the level crossing using the already congested London Road.

There is a plan to install 2 pedestrian crossings on London Road, on the town side of the crossing, notices are on the lighting columns.

The housing seems to be getting underway behind the Claypits Allotments and alongside the Care Home with access from London Road via Park Flats. This tiny road is already pretty congested with parking as the flats do not have any parking spaces. "We" did object to these houses and indeed to some aspects of the care home with regard to this limited access route. Emergency vehicles may find it extremely difficult to gain access at some times of the day. Access from the entrance by Alchester Terrace by the level crossing has been denied by the land owner; he has installed a locked gate! He had a bit of an argument with the developers and threw his teddies out of the pram years ago! Access to the Claypits allotments is however alongside this road.

It looks like the housing development along London Road between Boundary Way, London Road and the Industrial Estate is also about to start. The low fences currently visible are Newt fences. More construction traffic on London Road is to be expected and then increased residents traffic of the new development in future.

Nothing yet has been heard about the Gavray Meadows as we still await the Inspectors report. We might need to fight against a strip development along Gavray Drive though even if the Inspector agrees with the area being designated as a Local Green Space as the map doesn't extend the area to the road. We could fight this in Local Plan 2 of course.

Although parking has been curtailed at the London Road end of Mallards Way from those who can't find a space on the industrial estate, some people seem to have started parking on the grass further along. I have also had complaints from residents in Bicester Fields Farm that people are using the side roads to park all day. Difficult to deal with as the real problem is the lack of enough parking on the industrial estate. Perhaps the Councillors should visit the company's on the estate to promote cycling and walking, car sharing or using the busses as befits promoting the eco town and garden town ideals?

As the rail loop work is coming to a close it might be the right time for our Councillors to ask Railtrack to resurface Gavray Drive after their heavy vehicles have turned it into a switchback surface?

People may notice the grass on the verges and local areas growing rather long. This will undoubtedly be caused by the contract for grass cutting to be restricted to just two mowings per year to save money. You can think of this as a benefit for wildlife or an eyesore as it leaves the area looking unkempt.

One problem with unkempt areas is that our 'Yoof' seem to think this is where all their empty drink cans, bottles and other rubbish should be thrown! Sort of out of sight and out of mind attitude but all the rubbish does appear when the mower tries to cut the growth back. This rubbish then gets shredded and blows all over the place and the cans and bottles damage the mower blades. Broken glass in the verges is of course impossible to collect and is a future hazard forever!

I think the LVCA should send a letter of appreciation to Thames Valley Police for their prompt action in getting the travellers moved off the grass between old and new Langford so promptly. When I saw the caravans on my return from a meeting in Farnborough that evening my heart sank. I thought they would be there for ages as the usual requirements of paperwork and appeals took their usual extended time. Kids hurtling around on quad bikes and motorbikes, the grass ripped up by vehicles, potential thieving in the area, etc. The Police acted promptly and issued the movement notices rapidly followed by the travellers moving on. They did of course chain saw the fence along Mallards Way to gain access to the field and judging by the bag of soil some remedial work is going to be required, which the residents will have to pay for out of our taxes. I doubt the travellers will pay for anything and no one will admit to the criminal damage to the fence and so, unlike any of us, they will not be going to jail!

All good fun!?

Regards from John LB

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Update on Monday 18th May:

Further news on the Local Plan.

The inspector is expected to report towards the end of May when the CDC planners will then take a further 2 weeks to evaluate his comments. This means that the consultation period for Local Plan 2 will have passed!!?? It may mean that there will be a further public consultation on the Local Plan 1. A timing cock-up caused by the elections and CDC not changing their timing for Local Plan 2.

Regards from John LB

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