

Meeting of Hodsock Parish Council

Minutes of **Hodsock Parish Council Meeting** held on the 7th Jul 2025 at Langold Village Hall, the meeting commenced at 5:00pm.

Council Members & Officer Present:	Cllr Sandy Walker	Chairman
	Cllr Graham Coe	Vice-Chair
	Cllr Gill Freeman	Cllr Jack Bowker (from 42/25)
	Cllr Jackie Wilkinson	Cllr Mel Morris (from 47/25)
	Cllr Flo Batey (Until 51/25)	Cllr David Hamilton
Also, Present	Ed Knox	Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
	Gill Freeman	District Cllr
	Kath Walker	Chairman of LVHMC for items 41/25 & 42/25

41/25 To Receive Langold Village Hall Management Committee (LVHMC) Report

A member of the Committee advised an update. The carpark wall is cracking due to self-set trees in an adjacent property, causing a detrimental effect to the structural integrity of the wall, it has also made a handrail come loose. The Chairman is to ask permission from the neighbouring property to allow the Lengthsman to come and remove the trees and vegetation encroaching onto the wall. The area next to the wall will be cordoned off.

Possibility for an insurance claim due to the damage done, to rectify the issues.

Following the PAT testing and 5-year hardwire testing, the electrical report has highlighted several issues to resolve for safety and regulatory compliance reasons. The Chairman called for a vote, **resolved** that the Council obtains two quotes and proceeds with the work.

To note hall complaints received: LVHMC Chairman explained that the committee had been bombarded by vexatious complaints from a member of the public, which has caused a great deal of work to the committee to handle appropriately. If the harassment continues the LVHMC will seek appropriate legal advice.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks and confidence in the Village Hall Chairman and their committee.

42/25 To Discuss the Langold 100 Year Celebration Events 28th Jun to 28th Sep 2025

Mrs Walker advised that the walk was very successful. The hill top event is coming up next and then the LVHMC will be working with Agewell for an event. The Legion are holding a street party in August.

43/25 To Receive District & County Councillors Reports

Dist Cllr Freeman: Provided an update on the latest news from Bassetlaw Council. Cllr Walker advised that he has sent complaints to Bassetlaw Council regards the state of the communal areas on Knott End and Dyscarr Close, Bassetlaw have advised a replacement bench is to be installed shortly. Cllr Walker has also asked Bassetlaw the question of who will be providing any new public litter bins on the new housing estates.

County Cllr John: Did not attend and Cllrs have been advised that the controlling Reform UK party are not holding any Notts County Council meetings until September. The Chairman has emailed and phoned Cllr John several times regarding various Notts County Council issues in the parish, including speeding issues/traffic calming measures, potholes, parking issues and pollarding overgrown Notts County Council owned trees.

➤ Adjournment – (15-Minute Maximum) Public Forum

None.

44/25 To Approve Apologies for Absence

Cllr Walker **Proposed**, Cllr Bowker **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the apologies of Cllrs Smith & Perkins.

45/25 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed

None

46/25 To Approve the previous meeting Minutes

After discussion, Cllr Walker **Proposed**, Cllr Wilkinson **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the minutes. The chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting following an amendment that Cllr Hamilton voted against item 40/25.

47/25 To Receive an application for the office of Parish councillor and to potentially Co-opt a candidate to fill an existing vacancy

After discussion, the chairman called for a vote, all in favour, **resolved** to co-opt Mel Morris. The candidate signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms, and will complete the 'registration of interests' online form on Bassetlaw District Council's website. **Action**, the Clerk to inform Bassetlaw District Council.

48/25 To discuss an update on Langold Cemetery Matters

Babies Memorials – At the last meeting Cllr Coe explained about the locations of the babies and stillborn children in unmarked graves. Half are located in half of the triangle (Section K) with the small rowan tree on it, with the babies' memorial the other side of the path from the triangle.

The other half of the burials are located section J, in a 2 mtr area against the back bottom fence at the bottom of cemetery near the wood.

The above were the communal graves where families between 1932 and 1965 buried their young children and babies for 5 shillings. Elsewhere in the older sections of the burial ground, section H for example, there are private graves which hold children and babies with no memorial stones on them and occasionally there are some child graves as late as the 1980s with no memorial on them.

In order to honour and recognise the lives of all those babies and children with no memorial stones, the parish council would like to add an additional inscription to the baby's memorial to say:

"This stone remembers all babies and children buried throughout Langold Cemetery without individual memorials."

Cllr Walker **Proposed**, Cllr Bowker **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to spend up to £600 on amending the babies' memorial inscription and to also plant some bulbs and flowers in the area of the communal children/baby burials.

Older Pre-Sold Unused Plots – At the last meeting it was agreed for the clerk to write to the ICCM for advice regards plots sold, but never used from over 40 years ago. In several cases, the plot purchaser has died and is already interred within another plot in the cemetery or has died and been buried elsewhere.

The advice received was that the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order of 1977 allows the parish council, as the burial authority, may end any grant which is 75 years old or order by serving 6 months' notice in writing, therefore the PC can write to the last known address and serve notice, or if it knows the current address of the next of kin, write there for any which were reserved prior to 1950.

For those which are unused and the owners are deceased, but dated 1950 to 1985, the parish council would be able to check these by tracing the deceased owners next of kin and offering to buy back the plot for the original fee (in most cases £2 or £6) and then if the relative signs their consent stating that they don't require the plot, the Council can refund the amount and the reuse the plot for future interments. There are currently 8 reserved plots from the years 1956 to 1984 unused and 3 unreserved plots from before 1950.

Additionally, there is a plot from 1991 where the purchaser is buried in another plot, and a plot reserved in 2019 which the purchaser has since been died and buried near Doncaster. Thirteen Plots in total.

Cllr Walker **Proposed**, Cllr Bowker **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to serve notice on the three 1950 and earlier plots, and re-allocate these for future burials, to write to the 1950 to 1985 reservations and offer to buy back these plots if they are no longer required, and to write to the post 1985 reservations to reconfirm that they are still needed and that the locations are correct.

Trees – In 2018 the law changed which via a legal case, Whitley Parish Council Vs Cavanaugh, the case law precedent was set that all local authorities who have trees in publicly accessible areas must have professional inspection reports produced, and carry out those actions within the timescales set, in addition, for the insurance of the parish council to be valid these trees must also be inspected and any remedial surgery works undertaken within the required timescales. Notts County Council have now included Langold Cemetery onto their annual inspection programme and provided a report to the Parish Council. This has identified the regular pollarding of approximately 18 lime trees, removal of dead wood, severing of ivy and felling of 3 trees. A very competitive quote of £1,495 net of VAT has been provided by Toparia Environmental Ltd to undertake all of these works.

Cllr Walker **Proposed**, Cllr Bowker **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept this quote and have all the works undertaken by the required timescales. That Toparia be asked to chip all the wood which the Lengthsman can then use for the flower bed gardening works across Langold.

Memorial Inspections to be added to the next Agenda.

49/25 Finance:
Payments & Receipts

After discussion of the Financial Information, circulated by email before the meeting, the council unanimously **resolved** to accept them as a true and accurate record and the Chairman signed the bank reconciliations and statements.

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Post Office Ltd	Postage Documents to County Archives	£22
Rent-A-Cut Ltd	Cemetery Maintenance & Liaison Officer Apr	£1,480
Rent-A-Cut Ltd	Cemetery Maintenance & Liaison Officer May	£980
Rent-A-Cut Ltd	Grave Topping Plots G112 & D207	£144
Rent-A-Cut Ltd	Inter Ashes A161 Wallhead	£193.80
Rent-A-Cut Ltd	New Grave H23 Carrick	£405
Lili Waste Services Ltd	Direct Debit Cemetery Bin Service May	£92.89
ICO	Annual Information Commissioners Fee	£47
Cllr Walker	MG Glass Ltd – Cemetery Noticeboard Toughened Gladd	£43.34
Cllr Coe	B&Q Cemetery Flowers and Bench Varnish	£56
M. West Roofing & Building	CIL – V Hall Disabled Ramp	£2,400
Zurich Insurance	Insurance Renewal	£1,578.12
Banner Box Print Solutions	Village Hall Flagpoles & Installation (Gross Cost)	£2,796.07
123Reg.com	Website Domain Fee	£15.59
Lengthsman Services	Expenses for May – Postfix, Bench Materials, Weedkiller etc	£590
Total Payments		<u>£10,843.81</u>

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
G.Ward Memorials Ltd	New Memorial Plot G146	£250
Dolby Funeral Services	Interment Ashes Existing Plot A45 & Transfer EROB	£340
Hopkinson Funeral Services	Interment Ashes, New EROB & Memorial Fee	£1,350
Priest Funerals Ltd	Interment Full, Transfer EROB Plot I17 & EROB Transfer C120	£880
Langold Village Hall	Donation - Net cost of Village Hall Flagpoles & Installation	£2,330.07
Unity Trust Bank	Interest	£470.86
Total Receipts		<u>£5,620.93</u>
<u>Unity Trust Bank</u>		
<u>Current Account</u>		£22,276.06
<u>Deposit Account</u>		£80,968.83
Grand Total All Bank Accounts		<u>£103,244.89</u>

Direct Debits (Cemetery Lilli Waste, Water Plus, Bank Charge) and Standing Orders for staff salaries including PAYE and Pension, previously **approved** unanimously.

Total Budgeted Planned for Running costs 2025/26 - £85,912.00

Ringfenced items:

• Christmas Lights	£8,809.17
• Cemetery	£17,174
• Total Earmarked Reserves	<u>£25,983.17</u>
• General Reserves & remaining budgeted Running Costs	£77,261.72
• Total	<u>£103,244.89</u>

50/25 To Review &/or Re-adopt formal documentation - Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

Since the previous meeting Cllrs Walker, Coe & Perkins reviewed the model templates. After discussion, Cllr Walker **Proposed**, Cllr Wilkinson **Seconded** that the Council **resolved** the adoption of the Financial Regulations with immediate effect. The Cllrs are still working on the Standing Orders, to add this to the next agenda together with the new IT Policy NALC have advised must be adopted.

51/25 To Note Dog Fouling Issues raised with Bassetlaw District Council

Cllr Batey read out a list of roads in Langold with no or very few litter bins and a list of roads with a lot of bins and recommended Bassetlaw be asked to reallocate bins, where possible in various locations. Cllr Walker asked Cllr Batey to email him the list advising which ones to be requested to be relocated. This will then be sent to Dist Cllr Freeman and Bassetlaw Environmental Services to request the changes.

52/25 To Note any Planning Responses via the Scheme of Delegation

Since the previous meeting the parish council responded via the scheme of delegation as follows and also discussed the following at today's meeting:

- None.

53/25 To note closure of outstanding complaint from a local resident

Cllr Walker advised that he had spoken with the resident next door to the village hall, resolved the complaint and sent a covering email to the resident.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 6:40pm.