



**Minutes of the Meeting of Lenham Parish Council**  
**Held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7:30pm at Lenham Community Centre**

**PRESENT** Cllr. J Britt, Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. P Culver, D Earl, M Michaelas, N Osborne, A Ratcliffe, D Turner & A Walmsley

J Bate RFO, L Westcott Clerk

5 Members of the public.

**Public participation**

1 parishioner reported/asked:

- a. Are Harrietsham PC (HPC) and Lenham PC going to attend each other's meetings again - Cllr. J Britt stated that HPC are here tonight to work jointly going forward.
- b. Lenham Market won gold for the best market at the Taste of Kent awards.
- c. There are plans to close all railway ticket offices.
- d. Isn't it more important to refurbish the public WC's instead of installing a toilet in 1A High Street? Cllrs. responded that the WCs was a much bigger project for which grant money was being sought.

Cllr. C Roots from HPC reported that Harrietsham are having 30mph average speed check cameras installed on the A20 and they would no longer need to carry out speedwatch checks. He asked if LPC can take back the equipment and all agreed this can be stored at the office. Cllr. Roots will drop the equipment off.

MBC Cllr. J Sams reported the following:

- a. It was disappointing news about the WC's and nursery CIL bid applications not being successful.
- b. The Lenham Festival Group is organising an Abba concert with money raised going to Lenham Nursery.
- c. The KCC Community Warden public consultation begins on 12<sup>th</sup> July until October.
- d. MBC licencing sub-committee will meet on 13<sup>th</sup> July to decide on the appeal made by Frankie & Finns for their refused street traders licence application. Cllr. J Britt stated that he would be attending.
- e. The charity bike ride on Sunday raised over £1700.

Cllr. E Powell from HPC lead discussions on how HPC and LPC paid for separate representation at the recent stage 2 hearings of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan Review, as the messages are similar, going forward a working relationship with LPC will be beneficial. All agreed to meet HPC and work together once the inspector's letter has been received.

1 parishioner introduced himself and stated he wishes to join LPC.

The chair opened the meeting at 20:15.

**23/37 Apologies for absence received.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. K Hammond and S Heeley.

**23/38 To receive declarations**

Declarations of interest on Agenda items. Cllr. A Ratcliffe declared a conflict of interest with item 23/44.

Declarations to changes to the Register of Interests. No declarations received.

Requests for dispensations. No new requests received.

**23/39 To request notification of intention to film, photograph or record any items.**

There were none.



**23/40 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

Cllr. M Michealas proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023** are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

**23/41 Progress of resolutions from 7<sup>th</sup> June meeting (for information purposes only)**

Cllr. J Britt reported on the social media interest on a post from Frankie and Finns about their street trading licence application. It was noted that the discussion is all one sided and some of the information is not correct or balanced. It is felt that the public are signing a petition based on misinformation. All agreed to post an LPC statement on the website stating the correct facts.

**ACTION** Cllr. J Britt will draft a statement for agreement ASAP.

**23/42 To consider nominations received to fill the vacancies in North Ward by co option**

Cllr. M Michaelas and Cllr. D Earl seconded and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to co-opt Mr Anthony Goodliffe as a member for the North Ward. The declaration of acceptance was signed by Anthony Goodliffe and witnessed by the clerk. The chairman welcomed Cllr. A Goodliffe to join the council as a representative of the North Ward.

**23/43 Maidstone Local Plan Review – a summary of process/discussion on the way forward**

Discussed under public participation.

**23/44 Finance**

- a. Responsible Financial Officer Report including payments circulated to cllrs. and attached as Appendix A.
- b. Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed and Cllr. P Culver seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the report from the Internal Auditor and to sign the authorised version of the minutes from May 2022.
- c. To update on revised bank authorities – J Bate has asked the Internal Auditor for recommendations.
- d. To update on the payment card application – J Bate has found that the original application was terminated and he has submitted a new one – this should take approximately 2 weeks.

**23/45 To sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023**

Cllr. A Walmsley proposed and Cllr. D Turner seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the F&GP meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 are a true record and along with the proposed payment list were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the F&GP Committee. Cllrs. J Britt and N Osborne to authorise payments online.

- a. Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed and Cllr. A Walmsley seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to delegate to the F&GP committee to consider the details for employing a parish handyman.
- b. Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed and Cllr. D Earl seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote for up to £3000 for the upstairs toilet facilities to be installed in 1A High Street. **ACTION** N Osborne to instruct plumber.

**23/46 To sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Planning and Implementation Committee meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed and Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the P&I committee meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the P&I Committee.

- a. Cllr. A Walmsley reported that the proposed costs for the design of the pavement on the High Street is actually £1086 not £326 as originally told. MBC/KCC want to look at installing the disabled bay and reconfiguring the pavement at the same time, but are awaiting outcome of disabled bay appeal.

**23/47 KALC AGM – notes from meeting**

Cllr. K Hammond is not present to report, Cllr. J Britt reported that there is no change in the chair of Maidstone KALC.



**23/48 To consider parish celebrations for 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day**

Cllr. A Ratcliffe is keen to celebrate the anniversary and recent guidance was circulated. One option is granting REME with the freedom of the parish. Event planning will be included in the budget for 24/25.

**ACTION** Cllrs. A Ratcliffe and M Michaelas to discuss with Festival Committee.

**23/49 Project Updates**

- a. Cllr. P Culver reported on the meeting at the school to discuss the extension plans, the designs are still being drawn up.
- b. Cllr. D Earl asked about the defibrillators in the village, Cllr. N Osborne stated that the Community Centre pay for theirs to be serviced. It is not known who owns and is responsible for the Dog and Bear one.
- c. Cllr. J Britt reported that he and Cllr. A Walmsley are meeting with Countryside on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

**23/50 To report Correspondence received.**

- a. L Westcott has received an email regarding the condition of Swadelands Park, this has been reported to KCC.
- b. L Westcott reported that the insurance questionnaire has been received. Cllr. N Osborne will assist in reviewing this.
- c. L Westcott reported that 20-30 people are attending the youth Group each week with the majority of people being from Lenham.

**23/51 Notice of items to be discussed at the next meeting**

- a. Cllr. N Osborne asked for trees at the cemetery to be included, he will provide a report.
- b. Cllr. A Ratcliffe wishes to propose LPC branded gazebo is bought.

**23/52 To confirm dates of the next meetings**

Planning and Implementation – 19<sup>th</sup> July

Finance and General Purposed – 24<sup>th</sup> July

Full Council – does not meet in August, next meeting will be 6<sup>th</sup> September.

**The meeting closed at 22:15**

Signed as a true record on this day 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023.....

Chairman of Lenham Parish Council