

Minutes of the Monthly Council Meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 7th September 2021

Present: Cllrs: K Howard-Challis (Chair); M Szabo (Vice-chair); A Groves; T Portman; A Smith; E Stiles; P Miller;

In attendance: Cllrs M Baldock and C Woodford, Richard Asbury (NHV) and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Roger Clark and Mrs Ann Smith, the Parish Clerk.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary Interest

Cllrs Howard-Challis and Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11a. Cllr Miller declared a pecuniary interest in item 10c.

3. Public Session

No-one spoke in the public session.

4. Visitors: Reports from:

a. KCC Councillor Mike Baldock:

The full council meeting was cancelled for September and the October meeting has been postponed to November. Cllr Baldock has been appointed to two committees; Transport and Environment and the Regulation committee which deals with investigations into illegal waste. Cllr Baldock commented that Lower Halstow's poetry festival was a success.

b. SBC Councillor Corrie Woodford:

Lovely to see everyone again. There have been some problems with the Biffa contracts and the bin collections, there should be a collection this week. Cllr Woodford or Swale Borough Council can be contacted if there is anyone who has bags of refuse still left to be collected. As reported in the news the problem was driver recruitment and retention although Swale Borough Council has been in a slightly better position than some other councils. The situation will continue to be monitored. Following the poetry festival some residents had asked if there could be further activities organised for Christmas celebrations.

c. PCSO

The PCSO submitted the following report:

There was a report of a car that had been scratched and milk bottles being taken. There had been a dog attack and although dog on dog is a civil matter PCSO Fennel had been in touch with the dog warden and spoken to the person whose dog was attacked. The dog warden would take the lead as they have more powers and this is ongoing. The dogs are now ok but it was a bad attack and the PCSO will update the council with any further information. There have been some catalytic converter thefts and this is prevalent on 4x4s.

d. Friends of the Brickfields

No report.

e. Neighbourhood Watch Richard Asbury

There have been a few meetings. Issues that have been raised are the 20's Plenty campaign and CCTV coverage. Cllr Smith reported that surveys have been requested to be carried out by KCC as soon as possible in respect of the 20 mph speed limit.

5. To resolve the Minutes

It was resolved that the Minutes of the 6th July meeting are a correct record and were signed accordingly.

6. Correspondence

- a. Bottle Digging in the sea wall. The Parish Council are aware that bottle digging is going on and Cllr Portman has taken on the particular concern of the sea wall and its likely collapse in the near future, if nothing is done.

Action: Cllr Portman

- b. Email from solicitor regarding chasing for contract for purchase of Land adjoining the Brickfields.

The offer has been accepted for the purchase of land adjacent to Heron Close, but unfortunately contracts have not been forthcoming. The Clerk will chase yet again.

Action: Clerk

- c. Emails regarding padlock and chain on Brickfields gate.
There had been some difficulty in operating the padlocks. This has now been dealt with.

- d. Email regarding the seawall. Cllr Portman is dealing with this matter.

Action: Cllr Portman

7. Matters arising

- a. KCC Consultation - KCC Household Waste Recycling Centres Booking System.
This was a booking system brought in to deal with Covid-19 and making sure that they were not oversubscribed. There are benefits as this has reduced queueing. The Parish Council will not comment. However, residents can log onto the website and make comments.
- b. Duct Route for Open Reach via the Recreation Ground.
There has still been no response and the Clerk has not been able to communicate directly with Open Reach, so far, only with the contractor. The Clerk will continue to try and get answers to the Parish Council's questions.

Action: Clerk

8. Policy

- a. To discuss policy for requests to use the wharf/dock.
This will be shelved until the dock is repaired and safe to use.
- b. To review the Emergency Plan and in particular the contact details.
Cllr Szabo will update the contact details and the Emergency Plan will be reviewed again when the dock is repaired.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Szabo

9. Finance

- a. Quote received from Shaun Branchett –To dismantle and recycle back as chips the dying willow cluster at the end of the avenue in the Brickfield £280 + £90 for Sallows.
It was proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis and seconded by Cllr Portman to accept this quote. Agreed unanimously.

Action: Clerk

- b. Renewal of Insurance Policy due 1st October.
This will be renewed as the Parish Council have an agreement until September 2022.

10. To discuss and agree response (if any) including the following Planning Applications:

- a. Application No: 21/502910/FULL Location: 1 Westmoreland Drive Lower Halstow Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7EL Proposal: Demolition of shed and erection of single storey side and rear extension, with widening of existing drive to provide parking for two cars.
It was agreed to support this application in line with the Village Planning Strategy.
- b. Application Reference: 21/500173/FULL Proposal: Retrospective application for change of use of land from agricultural to animal rescue including new stock fencing and gates, mobile field shelters, small animal houses, shipping containers for storage, associated boundary treatment and stationing of a mobile caravan for use as a residential unit for staff. Location: Land East Of Hawes Woods High Oak Hill Iwade Road Newington Kent – Comments by 3 August.
No comments.

- c. Planning Application 21/501772/FULL The Old Mill, The Street Lower Halstow Kent ME9 7DY including the Community Orchard at Gibbs Amenity area.
Cllr Miller did not take part in the discussion or the votes taken.
The Parish Council has no objection to the planning application as it stands.
The Parish Council agreed to allow access over the Gibbs amenity area for the plant machinery, once risk assessments have been carried out and Health and Safety requirements are followed, to allow the landscaping works to be completed. It was agreed that a small section of the brambles can be cut down to allow access and to allow the applicant to install a gate, so the property can be secured.
The Parish Council will seek more information regarding the orchard.
Agreed by a majority decision, with one abstention.

11. Any applications received between producing the agenda and this meeting

- a. Planning application: 21/503928/FULL: 3 Little Acres Wardwell Lane Lower Halstow Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7ER
Cllr Szabo took over the chair for this item. Cllr Smith did not take part in the discussion. It was said that it would have been better had planning permission been sought in the first instance, rather than retrospectively, however there were no objections.
- b. Planning application: 21/504570/PNEXT14 School Lane Lower Halstow Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7ET.
It was agreed to support this application in line with the Village Planning Strategy.

12. To receive reports on the following:

- a. Parks and Leisure:
The goal nets are still up. The roundabout has been looked at and the bearings have disintegrated. A quote will be received shortly.
- b. Footpaths, Burial Ground, Hedgerows and Allotments:
The grass has been cut around the graves. Quotes will be sought regarding the hedge. A new brown bin has been requested. Cllr Portman has been given some bulbs to plant. There are two allotments that are overgrown and further letters may need to be sent. The tap appears to be leaking still. Two Eco dog waste bins will be ordered shortly.
- c. Parish Highways Plan.
The double yellow lines outside Club Cottages, Breach Lane need repainting.
Action: Cllr Woodford
- d. Docks, Barges and Sea Wall
A meeting with Messrs Gransden is to be held after this meeting.
- e. Car Parks and Brickfields
The Friends of the Brickfields have organised some work parties. Cllr Portman has requested a visit from local MP Gordon Henderson regarding the sea wall. Cllr Miller and Mr Van der Straaten have made a video which can be used on social media.

13. To acknowledge Reports on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

- a. KALC Rep
No report.
- b. Memorial Hall Rep
No report.

14. To receive the Clerk's report, include:

No report. Cllrs Howard-Challis and Szabo will authorise the payments as per the list (attached below) by internet banking.

15. Items for information only:

- a. Items for the next agenda:
Pavement Parking

- b. A vote of thanks to Mark Stevens from the Parish Council for cutting the hedge from the Old Social Club down to the houses in Breach Lane. He did this in his own time for the benefit of the village at no cost to the public purse.

The meeting ended at: 20.18 pm.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6th October 2021

Payments September 2021

Payee	Description	Gross Amount £	VAT £	Cheque No/Bank Payment
Business Stream	Water supply for allotments Invoice 26-08-21	47.65		359637727
Arthur J Gallagher (Came & Co)	Local Council Scheme Insurance 27-08-21	1169.34		323390823
Commercial Services	Grounds Maintenance Inv: LS200669	1361.32	226.89	545610740
H & K Services	Safety Report Invoice: 17575	180.00	30.00	225428682
Playsafety Ltd (RoSPA)	Play Area Annual Inspection Invoice: 57237	94.80	15.80	65822929
Eco Green Communities (Tikspac)	2 x Dog Dispensing stations and Dog Waste bags Invoice: 0199	336.00	56.00	675608634

Other payments:

25th September 2021 Standing Order

Clerk's Salary - £644.60

Date:

Signed:

**Cllr. K Howard-Challis
Chair**