



PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THE 4th DECEMBER 2019 7.30pm AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT Cllr. R Greenwood, Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. M Ballard, J Britt, M Cockett, K Hammond, M Lowe, N Osborne, A Ratcliffe,
P Scrivens & A Walmsley.

Cllr. E Powell representing Harrietsham PC. M McFarlane (Clerk & RFO) 7 Members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(7.30pm – 7.50pm)

The Community Warden reiterated the importance of locking vehicles and not leaving valuables in view. He gave details of the Kent Trading Standards telephone nuisance calls blocking service and also requested that if anyone had any concerns that their elderly vulnerable neighbours needed help during the cold weather, please contact him. Cllr. M Cockett warned of a recent card cloning operation at a Bearsted cash machine which successful withdrew money from the card holders account.

A parishioner wished to be considered for co-option for the vacancy in the North Ward, he wanted to be more involved in the village and being semi-retired he had the time to contribute to parish matters.

A resident queried the date of LPC notices in the Focus and requested improved communications between the council and the magazine. He confirmed all the lights were working along the Groom Way footpath.

A representative from the Save Our Heath Land (SOHL) group reported on future plans of how the group will ensure the message to object to the 'Garden Village' will be communicated to MBC, KCC, LPC, County & Borough Cllrs. and the voice of the parishioners will be presented with evidence based factual correspondence, which will be widely publicised and available on the SOHL website & social media.

Borough Cllr. J Sams reported a motion will be presented to MBC at the meeting on the 18th December which will call for a temporary suspension of the analysis of all 330 plus sites in the recent call for sites. Concerns relating to the impact on health, air quality, infrastructure provision, open spaces and climate change will be presented along with a request for local MPs to challenge the government's position on housing numbers. The Maidstone Area & KALC feel there is reason to challenge the numbers and to take a more holistic approach to future development. Borough Cllr. T Sams recommended all the individual action groups in the borough unite people behind the cause and the parish council groups work together.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. E Powell from HPC and the members of the public for attending this evening. The meeting opened at 7.56pm.

19/105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED

The Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllr. M Michaelas and County Cllr. S Prendergast.

19/106 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS

Declarations of Interest on Agenda items. No declarations received.

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

Requests for dispensations. No requests received.

19/107 TO REQUEST NOTIFICATION

The Chairman requested notification of intention to film, photograph or record any items.

No notification received.



19/108 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 6th NOVEMBER 2019

Cllr. M Ballard proposed, Cllr. A Walmsley seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 6th November 2019** are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

19/109 PROGRESS OF RESOLUTIONS (For information purposes only)

The skate park equipment has been fully demolished, minute 19/93. A thank you card will be sent. Regulation 16 will be submitted to MBC w/c Monday 16th December minute 19/95.

Cllr. M Cockett will report progress of the new LPC web-site minute 19/96.

Cllr. M Ballard will report on the progress of the Paddocks deed of grant minute 19/97.

Cllr. M Ballard will report on the order for the skate ramps minute 19/99.

19/110 WCs IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Cllr. A Ratcliffe presented the options for refurbishing/rebuilding the WCs. MBC have provided three versions with various amendments to modernise the building as it stands.

Healthmatic suggested an upgrade with access control to three individual units which can be an inbuild or provide completely new facilities. The question is what we do with the unused space?

It could be used as storage or the land could be sold and the capital used against costs. The advantage of providing units which have access control is less vandalism which historically has been a problem, the building would be opened and closed remotely. On-going maintenance will be considered. The ballpark figure for the build in option is £86,000 and the new build £113,000.

A meeting with MBC to discuss the lease/freehold of the building will be organised.

19/111 NEW LPC WEB-SITE PROGRESS REPORT

Cllr. M Cockett confirmed the test site was set up with the LPC & NHP minutes uploaded.

Cllr. contact details will be on the site with photographs of each Cllr. There will be a hyperlink to the MBC planning tracker. Once the final NHP documents are ready they will be uploaded on the new site, which should be w/c 16th December. An operating manual will be provided.

Social media availability will be added once the site is fully live. A communication committee will be set up to oversee the web-site progress, Cllrs. M Cockett, J Britt and A Ratcliffe will take responsibility for ensuring the site is ready to go live, hopefully before Christmas.

19/112 THE PADDOCKS DEED OF GRANT UP-DATE

Cllr. M Ballard gave a brief history of the access path from the Paddock development over council land. Southern Water have produced a 150 page document with fundamental errors. There are concerns about possible drain blockage and the requirement to use the nearest water course. The council solicitors Halletts are pressing for the deed in correct form to be presented, the developers will be paying the Parish Council legal costs. Cllr. M Ballard will report on progress to Cllrs.

19/113 REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT FOR WILLIAM PITT FIELD

The proposed sale of the strip of land to widen Old Ham Lane will change the dimensions of the skate park area. Cllr. A Ratcliffe will provide a drawing of the site measurements and we will review the equipment requirements once the final dimensions from the Countryside engineering drawings have been received. The project is on hold at present.



19/114 WILLIAM PITT FIELD HEADS OF TERMS DETAILS

The final heads of terms regarding the sale of the strip of land adjacent to Old Ham Lane will be presented to full council. Cllr. R Greenwood reported more technical details relating to utility services and the proposed bell-mouth are required. Once all the details are finalised and agreed at full council a meeting with Lenham Wanderers Football Club will be organised.

19/115 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING

Cllr. J Britt proposed, Cllr. A Walmsley seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to agree the sum of £500 grant to the Lenham Christmas Lights Committee.

Cllr. R Greenwood proposed, Cllr. J Britt seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to agree the sum of £274 to cut back tree branches overhanging the lamp posts on Groom Way footpath.

Cllr. A Walmsley will produce the communication which confirms the access boundary to the Ham Lane allotments will remain unchanged.

Cllr. M Cockett proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations contained in the report of the meeting of the **20th November 2019** be approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of F & GP Committee.

19/116 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Platts Heath project to implement the extension of the 30mph zone is progressing, Cllr. A Walmsley will chase KCC for the final cost details.

Following planning enforcement enquiries, it was confirmed Sandway woodyard does comply with the plans. We await a response from the enforcement team regarding the movement of spoil on land at Highfields, Faversham Road (north). It appears work has stopped at the present time.

Cllr. A Ratcliffe has provided an Excel table for Cllr. comments regarding the recent call for sites. Cllr. E Powell confirmed HPC have met with MBC and rejected 14 of the 16 sites submitted. Cllr. M Cockett recommended the council respond to the call for sites after the NHP has been submitted to MBC. It was agreed there will be a two-prong approach, with advice from the NHP consultant, a draft letter will be prepared giving reasons why we reject all the sites which are not already identified on the Regulation 16 NHP documents and a meeting with MBC will be organised.

Cllr. J Britt proposed, Cllr. M Cockett seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations contained in the report of the meeting on the **20th November 2019** be approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

19/117 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT

Regulation 16 will be submitted to Maidstone Borough Council for consultation w/c 16th December.

19/118 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL SPOKEPERSONS INCLUDING OUTSIDE MEETINGS

Cllr. P Scrivens voiced his concern that the Maidstone Road car park drainage issues have still not been resolved, at present three spaces are lost on a regular basis because of flooding issues.

Cllr. R Greenwood confirmed discussions with RB Plant are progressing to extend the car park.

Cllr. P Scrivens also raised the problems of the tree root damage to the footpath from Ham Lane to Maidstone Road. Cllr. M Ballard confirmed communication with our insurance providers, the KCC and the primary school is ongoing to confirm KCC responsibility for footpath repairs following the removal of the trees next year.



PARISH COUNCIL

19/118 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL SPOKESPERSONS CONTINUED

Cllr. M Lowe confirmed the VE Day celebrations will be on the 8th, 9th, & 10th May 2020. Two subgroups have been formed to present the events in the Square and at the Community Centre. The refurbishment of the Red telephone box will be discussed further at the next meeting. Cllr. J Britt attended the KCC Highways Parish Seminar, a meeting in the new year with the Director of KCC Highways will be organised. Cllr. J Britt also reported the maintenance team will start work on the Cross early next year. (weather permitting) Cllr. M Ballard reported on the KALC AGM which he and Cllr. K Hammond attended. Subscription fees will increase next year as extra staff are being recruited. Issues discussed included housing numbers, air quality targets, Travellers and the adoption of the wider use of 20mph zones. Cllr. M Ballard attended the HPC meeting and reported large numbers of holiday homes in the parish do not produce precept income. HPC are having the same problems with the call for sites as LPC. Cllr. N Osborne as Chairman of the Community Centre reported concerns relating to the appalling dangerous state of the Old Ashford Road which is in dire need of complete resurfacing. Cllr. K Hammond representing SOHL met with CPRE. At the KALC Parish Group meeting the Egerton NHP was considered a good format. Cllr. K Hammond highlighted problems with large lorries using a site at the end of Rose Lane, the site and lorry movements will be monitored. Cllr. A Ratcliffe visited the woodyard to discuss the large tree trunk which will be made into a bench for the picnic site, Cllr. R Greenwood will speak with Aspen Tree Services to help move the trunk.

19/119 FINANCE

a) To authorize payments (Details of payments to be tabled).	Cheque no:	Amount
David Parfitt Landscape Consultant. NHP amendment work.	5144	445.00
Lenham Square. Web-site set-up.	5145	990.00
M McFarlane. Office and planter fees November.	5146	338.37
Mr C Hill. Down to Earth landscape work November.	5147	610.00
Nathan Beale. dog bins & litter picking work November.	5148	630.00
Amiga Fire & Security Ltd. Monthly maintenance. November.	5149	54.00
PMC Planning. NHP consultancy work November.	5150	3,600.00
Mrs A Ratcliffe. NHP proof reading payment	5151	60.00
Mrs S Greenwood. NHP proof reading payment.	5152	60.00
Lenham Christmas Lights. Grant application.	5153	500.00
Salaries & expenses detailed as Appendix A and are filed with a signed copy of these minutes.		

b) To note receipt of income (Details of income to be tabled)	
Cemetery fees	£330.00
c) Bank statements 31 st October 2019	
NatWest Current account 64590402	£200.00
NatWest Business Reserve account 33531242	£236,941.23

Cllr. R Greenwood proposed, Cllr. M Ballard seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make the payments. Cllrs. M Cockett and N Osborne signed the cheques on behalf of Lenham Parish Council.

19/120 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (For information only)

Concerned residents have reported to the police regular anti-social off road bikers causing problems on the Pilgrims Way close to the Cross.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

