



Minutes of the Meeting of Lenham Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 7:30pm at Lenham Community Centre

PRESENT Cllr. J Britt, Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. M Cockett, P Culver, K Hammond, S Heeley, N Osborne, A Ratcliffe & A Walmsley

J Bate RFO, L Westcott Clerk

5 Members of the public.

Public participation

1 member of the public asked if the toilets project would still be completed following the election of a new council in May. Cllr. J Britt explained that the decision has already been made to refurbish the toilets and a new council would have to honour this. They also asked if the elections would be parish or parish wards, and Cllr. N Osborne confirmed it is an election of the parish. They also asked to see the breakdown of the costs for each band of property for the considered precept options – J Bate provided this. They also asked why Harrietsham PC and LPC do not attend each others meetings, Cllr. J Britt explained that HPC found it difficult to Cllrs. who could attend LPC but are in regular contact with HPC over various issues.

MBC Cllrs. T & J Sams had the following to report:

- They were disappointed with the MBC press release regarding the inspector's letter following stage 1 of the local plan review, there was nothing about the proposed garden villages.
- The food bank at the church is going well, volunteers and Martin Sherwood are helping people use it.
- The warm space is working well and includes Hub club members. MBC will provide LPC with money towards it.
- This year is the first year at elections that photographic ID will be required. Please remind everyone.

1 member of the public from Ham Lane Allotments Association reported that their AGM will be held on 21st February. Brian and Jo Llong are stepping down from the committee and a card is being held in the parish office for allotment holders to sign – thanks to LPC for facilitating this. They requested that LPC notify them of any issues that need raising at the AGM as landlords, Cllr. A Walmsley will confirm.

1 member of the public asked if other parish councils were contributing to the costs in the fight against Heathlands as LPC have allocated a lot of funds. Cllr. T Sams stated that HPC have also allocated funds for legal costs.

The chair opened the meeting at 20:10.

22/139 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECIEVED

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. M Michaelas.

22/140 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 new requests received. Cllr. K Hammond has an existing dispensation in relation to the MBC Local Plan.

22/141 NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ITEMS

There were none.

22/142 TO SIGN AS CORRECT THE MINUTES FROM THE PARISH COUCIL MEETING ON 4th JANUARY 2023

Cllr. P Culver proposed, Cllr. K Hammond seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 4th January 2023** are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

22/143 PROGRESS OF RESOLUTIONS

Cllr. J Britt contacted the MP, KCC Cllr. and police regarding the Pilgrim's Way issues. The response has been circulated.



22/144 VOTE ON COUNCILLOR CO OPTIONS FOR NORTH WARD

CHAIR SUSPENDED RELEVANT STANDING ORDER TO ALLOW MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

A member of the public introduced himself and provided information about his background, he would like to put himself forward to be a Cllr.

Cllr. J Britt proposed and Cllr. M Cockett seconded and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to co-opt Mr Darren Earl as a member for the North Ward.

22/145 FINANCE

- Responsible Financial Officer Report – current bank balance at £142,212.82, income for January = £3371 from S106 funds and cemetery fees.
- To authorise payments for December – tabled below:

Name	Frequency	Description	Date	Amount
BT Group	Monthly	Telephone and Wifi for office	03/01/2023	89.42
Nathan Beale	Monthly	Emptying bins and litter picking	31/01/2023	695.00
Down to Earth	Monthly	Yew Tree work in cemetery and allotment tidy up - brambles and trees	31/01/2023	300.00
Parish Clerk expenses	Ad Hoc	Fast hosts website and host and domain, receipt book, paper and office wall planner	31/01/2023	180.56
Paul Waring	Quarterly	Mowing and strimming – various locations (October – December 2022)	23/01/2023	262.74
PMC Planning	Ad Hoc	MBC LPR work	27/11/2022	7200.00
PMC Planning	Ad Hoc	MBC LPR work - credit note	16/01/2023	-7200.00
PMC Planning	Ad Hoc	MBC LPR work - credit note	16/01/2023	5200.00
Printerland	Ad Hoc	Printer ink for parish office	31/01/2023	277.01
The Play Inspection Company	Annual	Annual Full safety Inspection of playground equipment	23/01/2023	262.62
TOTAL				7267.35

Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. A Walmsley seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make the payments tabled.

Cllrs. N Osborne and J Britt to authorise the payments on-line.

Cllr. S Heeley arrived.

22/146 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING 18th JANUARY 2023

Cllr. A Walmsley proposed, Cllr. K Hammond seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the F&GP meeting held on Wednesday 18th January 2023 are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the F&GP Committee.

- All voted in agreement to formalise the hosting of LPC emails for £150 per year.
- L Westcott summarised the circulated report on play park inspection and maintenance options along with information on what other parish councils are doing.
ACTION L Westcott to request details of a contract with Safeplay and likely hourly rates and costs for repairs.
- L Westcott is waiting for a comparison quote to Wicksteed's, another one from Safeplay can be sought for an idea on how much their repair works will cost.

ACTION L Westcott to also ask Safeplay for a quote on current works required for comparison.

22/147 TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS AND MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 9th JANUARY 2023

Cllr. P Culver proposed, Cllr. S Heeley seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the reports and minutes of the P&I meeting held on Monday 9th January 2023 are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the P&I Committee meeting.



Cllr. A Walmsley reported that there had not been many planning applications recently. There has been a number of properties within the conservation area that are having their windows replaced. It was suggested that a letter could be sent to residents in the conservation area to highlight the conservation area requirements.

ACTION Cllr. A Ratcliffe to draft a letter to send to all properties in conservation area.

- a. MBC Local Plan Update Cllr. J Britt summarised the advice received from legal representatives.

22/148 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL 18th JANUARY 2023

Cllr. P Culver proposed, Cllr. A Ratcliffe seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the council held on Wednesday 18th January are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

22/149 TO CONSIDER QUOTE OF £2600 FROM DOWN TO EARTH TO CREATE NEW CREMATION PLOTS AT THE CEMETERY

Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. P Culver seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to instruct and pay £2600 to Down to Earth for the creation of new cremation plots at the cemetery.

22/150 COUNCIL INFORMATION EVENTS

L Westcott reported that the council information events to be run in an effort to recruit new Cllrs. will be held on Saturday 4th February 10-12noon and Wednesday 8th February 7-9pm. Cllrs. K Hammond and J Britt will attend on the Saturday and Cllrs. N Osborne and A Ratcliffe will attend on the Wednesday.

22/151 PROJECT UPDATES

- a. Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that Ian George has finished the booklet about The Cross. This will be available to buy for £3 at the parish office. L Westcott stated that Ian had offered the council to receive percentage of the sales, all agreed this was not necessary as the proceeds were going to charity.
- b. Cllr. A Walmsley reported that permission for the planned tree works along the Ham Lane footpath is expected. L Westcott will put up closure notices during the works.

22/152 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. L Westcott has received a quote for grounds maintenance from S Waring – this will be reviewed at F&GP.
- b. A resident near Maidstone Road car park has asked if the tree has been assessed. L Westcott will respond to say it is part of an ongoing review and LPC have had other priority trees to deal with.
- c. L Westcott has received the printed copies of the QPJ Brochure.
- d. Cllr. J Britt reported on an email received regarding EV Charging points and this is something to consider with the extension to Maidstone Road car park.

The meeting closed at 22:00

Signed as a true record on this day 1st March 2023.....

Chairman of Lenham Parish Council