

Minutes of the Monthly Council Meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 1st March 2022

Present: Cllrs: K Howard-Challis (Chair); M Szabo (Vice-chair); A Groves; T Portman; A Smith and Mrs A I Smith (Clerk)

In attendance: PCSO Kirsty Linge and 10 members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Woodford.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Session

A resident from Heron Close acknowledged the hard work being done regarding a permanent repair to the sea wall, however, it was suggested that a temporary repair using gabions, which is relatively cheap could be done with the villagers help. The Cllr Howard-Challis explained that this could cause difficulties with the Environment Agency (EA) as anything done needs their approval. Cllr Portman is worried that if a temporary solution was put in place that the EA would not follow up with a permanent solution. It was discussed that pressure will be raised to get the seawall repaired; saltwater has breached areas not seen before. The EA are due to inspect again in the coming week.

A resident queried the mobile home that has been put on Neptune Orchard. No planning application has been seen by the Parish Council and Swale Borough Council Planning Enforcement will be contacted.

It was acknowledged that a brilliant job had been done on the dock repair, but there is now a drop that requires attention. The Parish Council will be dealing with this in "Phase Two".

4. Visitors:

a. KCC Councillor

No report.

b. SBC Councillor

No report.

c. PCSO

PCSO Kirsty Linge introduced herself to the Parish Council and submitted the following report:

Crimes of Note; Reports of unidentified male loitering on the green area in the mornings looking into people's windows while they are getting dressed. A report has been taken; male is yet to be identified.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note; The Street, a suspicious male came to the informant's front door asking where the A3 was. Informant advised nowhere near here. The male looked to be possibly high on drugs. When the male was asked where he was heading he couldn't answer and then left. There was a second male in the car, but he did not get out. Male was gone before patrols were called. No further reports were made.

Kent Police have introduced an email system of communication called "My Community Voice". It will be relevant to Lower Halstow and can be signed up to by residents.

d. Friends of the Brickfields

Sent apologies.

5. To resolve the Minutes

It was resolved that the Minutes of the 1st February 2022 meeting are a correct record and were signed accordingly.

6. Correspondence

a. Email regarding damage to kerbs caused by Southern Water.

This was reported to KCC Highways reference:620837. The Clerk checked the website and it is showing that has been reported to others. The Clerk will ask Cllr Woodford if she can look into this.

Action: Clerk

- b. Email regarding storm damage to Old Mill fence. This has now been dealt with and the resident now has access to repair his boundary fence. However, the work has uncovered a tree that will need some maintenance in the near future.

7. Matters arising

- a) Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Village Hall Committee have agreed for events to take place without charge. Arrangements are being made for the Beacon to be lit and other events through the holiday weekend. Cllr Portman has applied for two grants and a part closure of School Lane has been requested. Letters will be sent to the residents to inform them of the arrangements.

- b) Plaque for tree planting.

Cllr Portman plans to plant a couple of red oak trees and would like to order a plaque to commemorate the event.

- c) Picnic Bench for the play area. A grant for £300 and £90 in donations have been received, so far. A donation from the Parish Council would be very much appreciated. The balance is £722.00. It was agreed that the Parish Council will donate the shortfall of £332.00. Proposed by Cllr Szabo and seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis.

- d) Fence uncovered in the Burial Ground. A complaint was received from a neighbour that part of their garden has been exposed by the hard cutting back of the hedge. This was not the intention. The hedge has been difficult to maintain as about 2 or 3 metres of the hedge was covering the graves. Cllr Portman has responded to the complaint.

8. Finance

- a) To appoint an internal auditor. The Clerk is continuing to make enquiries and progress is being made.

Action: Clerk

- b) Quotes for ground maintenance. It was agreed to appoint David Pascoe to cut Gibbs Amenity and the Recreation ground. Proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis and seconded by Cllr Smith. It was agreed to continue the contract with Treecraft. Proposed by Cllr Szabo and seconded by Cllr Smith.

Action: Clerk

- c) EDF quote for unmetered electricity supply. The forecast on part of the quote received was extremely inaccurate and the Clerk will contact EDF for a revised quoted.

Action: Clerk

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

Cllr Smith drew the attention to a retrospective planning application for a car park at Ransoms Motors at the end of Breach Lane and although this is not in the Parish of Lower Halstow it was proposed that the Parish Council submit a comment to support the application to Swale Borough Council's portal for safety reasons and on the understanding that vehicles will no longer be parked in the road. Agreed unanimously.

Action: Clerk

With regard to the static caravan that has appeared at Neptune Orchard this will be reported to Swale Borough Council enforcement.

Action: Clerk

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

None were received.

11. To receive reports on the following:

- a) Parks, Leisure and Planning:

The roundabout has been repaired.

- b) Footpaths, hedges, Burial Ground and allotments:

Permission has been received to crown lift the holly trees in the burial ground and a quote has been sought for the work.

c) **Parish Highways Plan:**

Work is in progress to get a 20 mph zone in the village which will be paid for by the Parish Council. Correspondence has been received from KCC to say that they have issues with having enough staff to do the work required and they are prioritising the work with a new team. Currently no-one is dealing with the 20 mph zone for Lower Halstow at KCC. Cllr Smith will keep chasing and will contact Cllr Baldock.

Action: Cllr Smith

d) **The Dock**

Phase one repairs are now virtually finished and the Parish Council will move to phase two.

e) **Brickfields and the Seawall.**

The next work party will take place on 12th March 2022 and the AGM for the Friends of the Brickfields is on the 8th March 2022, which will include a talk by George Peters on "Barges and Bricks". There will be a small charge which will be split between the Friends of the Brickfields and the Church and it will be advertised. There is some concern regarding the last storm regarding the flooding on the brickfields. The water has run down to the reed bed from the birch trees. Mrs Telford had asked if the ground could be raised slightly around the draw dock where there is a pile of spoil, that came out of the dock, beside it which could do the job, and if so, will not be a big expense. It is not known whether EA approval will be required. Cllr Portman will have a look at it and report back.

Action: Cllr Portman

12. To receive the Clerk's report:

Mr Tidy has been appointed as the handy person/litter picker for the village.

The defibrillator service has been booked for 1st April and the Clerk has let the landlord of the Three Tuns know.

The Clerk will be attending the SLCC Conference at Carrow Road, Norwich on Friday 25th March.

Letters will be sent out to residents shortly, regarding the closure of School Lane for the Queen's Jubilee Big Picnic Lunch event taking place on Sunday 5th June 2022.

The bank balance as at 28 February 2022 was £81,726.40

It was agreed that Cllrs Howard-Challis and Szabo will authorise the payments, as per the payment list below, via internet banking.

13. Items for information only:

- a) Items for website and Village News
None.

14. To receive agenda items for next meeting:

None

The meeting ended at: 19.51hrs

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5th April 2022

Payments March 2022

Payee	Description	Gross Amount £	VAT £	Cheque No/Bank Payment
ATS	Hire of Herras Fencing Dock Area Invoice: 27/2/22	424.00		Cheque 300020
Imperative Training Ltd	Defibrillator Service Invoice: 1000080521	198.60	33.10	402210433
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd	Repair and maintenance work to roundabout at play area Invoice: SIN045003	3011.21	501.87	49369884
Streetlights	Lighting Repair Invoice: 12732	390.00	65.00	414261626
S & R Parker	Remedial Work to Dock Invoice 28/2/22	20,000.00		878902134
SLCC Norfolk County Branch	SLCC Conference 25 th March 2022	39.00		160672836
Mr M Tidy	Village Cleaning 9 Feb – 25 Feb 2022	114.00		631123543

Other payments:

25th March 2022 Standing Order

Clerk's Salary - £644.60

Date:

Signed:

**Cllr. K Howard-Challis
Chair**