

Minutes of the Monthly Council Meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 2nd November 2021

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

In attendance: 16 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Baldock and the PCSO.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Session

A resident asked for an update on the dock repair. The Chair replied that the repair will start on the 4th or 5th November.

4. Visitors:

a. KCC Councillor

No report.

b. SBC Councillor

Double yellow lines have been repainted at Westfield Cottages. Cllr Szabo raised the point that double yellow lines had been requested for the other end of Westfield Cottages. Cllr Woodford will make enquiries regarding this. Cllr Baldock had asked Cllr Woodford to let the Parish Council know that Swale West meeting is being held at Hartlip Village Hall on Monday 15th November. The local plan consultation is open and the deadline is Monday 29th November at 5.00pm. All the information is on the Swale website. The planning application for Home Farm, Breach Lane, is going before the committee on 11th November and will be held on Microsoft Teams.

c. PCSO Lee Fennell sent the following report:

Crimes of note:

A report of hair-coursing was attended by a patrol. No-one was found at the scene, but this is still being investigated.

A resident was bitten by a neighbour's dog – this is being investigated.

Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

A report from a residence in Burntwick Drive which was at first classified as a burglary has since been re-classified as a non-crime incident.

Two people were seen metal-detecting on private land, but moved off after being challenged.

A horse was reported being loose in the village, but the informant managed to find the owner before police could attend.

d. Friends of the Brickfields

Photos have been supplied regarding the fencing at the "Lookout" which is in need of repair.

5. To resolve the Minutes

It was resolved that the Minutes of the 5th October meeting are a correct record and were signed accordingly.

6. Correspondence

a. Email received regarding the speed monitoring. This will be discussed at item 8a

- b. Email from 7 residents (including one with a petition) commenting and objecting on planning application for Old Mill and the Community Orchard. This will be discussed at item 9a.
- c. Email from FoB Chair regarding missing parts and rotting fence at the "Lookout". Cllr Smith will look into this.
- d. Request from FoB Chair to flail the fire break this winter. The Fire break is flailed every year. The Clerk will check to see if this is already undertaken within a contract for the ground maintenance provider.

Action: Clerk

7. Matters arising

- a) The Parish Council want to bring to the attention of the KCC Councillor the damage to footpath outside the Three Tuns caused by Southern Water. Southern Water have repaired a small part of the pavement that they have taken responsibility for. Cllr Woodford will take some photos in daylight.

8. Finance

- a) To discuss and agree payment for the 20 mph zone costs for Lower Halstow. Cllr Smith reported that the 20 mph zone has been agreed throughout the village. It will be from the Chapel through the village along The Street and all the roads leading out of it, to Neptune Bungalow. Wardwell Lane from Newington to Vicarage Lane; Cllr Smith is awaiting an answer regarding where it will start in Breach Lane. There will not be speed humps, but road markings and signs. There will be a buffer zone of at least 600 metres of 30 mph before the 20 mph zone starts, as the speed limit cannot go from 60 mph to 20 mph. KCC will pay for the speed survey. The cost to implement will be about £7000.00. It was proposed to agree to pay the costs by Cllr Szabo and seconded by Cllr Portman. Agreed unanimously. Cllr Smith will contact KCC to let them know.

Action: Cllr Smith

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

- b) The Parish Council to make a decision regarding the proposed Community Orchard at Gibbs Amenity Area. Cllr Szabo re-capped what the Parish Council had agreed at previous meetings; The Parish Council have agreed to the amended planning permission, which is the orchard removed. Due to the stream being moved back to its original position and encased in brickwork, plant machinery is unable to gain access to the top end of the garden from the front of the property for landscaping. The Parish Council has agreed to allow a gap in the brambles on Gibbs amenity land to be cut to allow access for the plant machinery to carry out the landscaping work. The applicant has agreed to inform the Parish Council when plant machinery is due on site with all risk assessments done and recommendations carried out with the use of weight distribution boards, so they don't damage the ground underneath too much. The Gibbs land is not the property of the Parish Council as per the agreement between E. L Gibbs and the Parish Council of 1988 and as such the Parish Council cannot give permission for the orchard. The Parish Council will publish a statement on their website.

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

None received.

11. To receive reports on the following:

- a) Parks, Leisure and Planning:
The roundabout will be repaired and a date is still awaited, for it to be done.
- b) Footpaths, hedges, Burial Ground and allotments:
Letters have been sent out to residents regarding overgrown hedges and shrubs on footpaths. An application has been made to Swale Borough Council to raise the crowns of two trees in the Burial Ground as it is in a conservation area. Three of the allotments have changed hands. Cllr Portman has planted a new tree on the recreation ground to replace the damaged one. Two new dog waste bins have been

ordered, but they have not arrived, yet. The dog waste bags at Heron Close are being removed at an alarming rate, so this will not be replenished for a while. The School have been given some seeds and watering cans for the gardening club they are starting.

c) Parish Highways Plan:

No further report.

d) The Dock

The repair will be started at around 5th December to make it safe for the public. Progress will be reported on the Parish Council website.

e) Brickfields and Seawall:

The Brickfields are continuing to be looked after by the Friends of the Brickfields. There is a 150 metre stretch of the sea wall that is eroding quite badly. In September Cllr Portman wrote to Gordon Henderson, the local MP and he made a visit and subsequently has written to the Environment Agency who have replied, but not to any satisfaction. Cllr Portman will write back to invite the Operations Manager to come and have a look at the evident erosion. It will only take two or three storm surges and the sea wall will be gone, the salt water will kill everything and what is currently a listed conservation area with a lot of red listed birds will become a dead area. The Environment Agency's policy is not to interfere with it and it is not to be maintained. However, when it breaks through the sea wall will have to be repaired. It is much cheaper to do it now than wait until it has broken through and would argue that the Environment Agency's policy is wrong. Cllr Portman will continue to lobby the Environment Agency.

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

a) KALC Rep

Cllr Howard-Challis and Cllr Smith attended a recent meeting

b) Memorial Hall Rep

No report.

13. To receive the Clerk's report:

It has been a busy month for receipts as it is the start of Lower Halstow Parish Council's allotment year. The total amount paid in this financial year, so far, for the allotments is £690.00 and £1755.00 for Westfield Car Park. Most payments have been received by bank transfer, but there have been a few cheques and one cash payment. Currently, there is no-one on the waiting list for allotments. There is a half plot available at the Memorial Hall.

The Clerk has attempted to reclaim the VAT this month, however, the bank statement is still showing the old address and this has proved a stumbling block for the form that has to be completed to accompany the claim.

The bank balance at 31st October was £124,055.80

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

14. Items for information only:

a) Items for website and Village News

A statement will be prepared and published as discussed at item 9 a)

b) To receive agenda items for next meeting:

None at this time.

The meeting ended at: 19.55pm.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7th December 2021

Payments November 2021

Payee	Description	Gross Amount £	VAT £	Cheque No/Bank Payment
Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)	Membership	144.00		263692298
L Stevens & Sons	Rent for Westfield Car Park and Westfield Allotments	200.00		175797397
Commercial Services	Quarterly Grounds Maintenance Invoice LS201580	619.72	103.29	975524917
Business Stream	Water Supply – Allotments Invoice 14	77.74		434701363
ATS	Herras Fencing Invoice for 26 fencing panels. 27 th September 2021	260.00		Cheque 300016
Peter Froggatt	Invoice for Poppies and Wreaths	110.00		625965222

Other payments:

15th October EDF Energy Direct Debit

£199.28

25th November 2021 Standing Order

Clerk's Salary - £644.60

Date:

Signed:

**Cllr. K Howard-Challis
Chair**