

Minutes of the Monthly Council Meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 7th June 2022

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

In attendance: Cllrs Baldock and Woodford and 9 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Groves.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Session

Mr G Diddams introduced himself as the owner of the barge Ethel Maud and thanked the Parish Council for allowing the barge into the dock.

A resident from Cumberland Drive gave thanks to Cllr Portman and the team for the hard work in organising the events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

A resident from Sheerness Road also thanked everyone for the wonderful weekend and also enquired about the planning application regarding the entrance to Callum Park.

A resident from Westmoreland Drive asked about the replacement of the logs at the Gibbs Amenity area, requested more storage at the Village Hall for events and enquired if an archive could be provided for the exhibition and historical documents for display.

It was suggested that the owner of the Old Chapel was approached by the Parish Council to lease it, or give it to the Parish Council, for that purpose.

A resident of Lapwing Drive enquired regarding the planned purchase of the land at the Brickfields and the extent of where that land starts in the region of the main gate.

A resident from Vicarage Lane brought to the attention of the Parish Council the constantly overflowing dog waste bin at the junction of Vicarage Lane the private road leading to Elm Farm. Would it be possible for a second bin or more regular collections?

The damage to the new gate at the Brickfields was also brought up, and had been reported to the PCSO.

4. Visitors:

a. KCC

Cllr Baldock reported that KCC have a policy that if you live more than 3 miles from a secondary school you can get help for transport. However, for Lower Halstow, if the child goes to Borden this help is only available as far as Westlands, which discriminates against a large number of people. It is not the case in Medway as those children who have a place at grammar school get help for transport to the nearest grammar school and Cllr Baldock believes awareness should be raised to stop what is effectively discrimination.

Age UK want to do more in the rural areas and would like to liaise with Parish Councils.

The bus subsidies have been cut and Cllr Baldock suggested that with co-operation between several villages that perhaps a minibus rota could be set up to get from the villages to the A2 to then connect with the main bus service. Meetings would be helpful to find out what kind of service is needed.

The pond warden will be attending the Swale Western Area meeting in September.

b. SBC

The grass verge outside Bell Cottages has been cut, but not well and Cllr Woodford is following this up. Regarding the damage to the gate to the Brickfields, if there is repeated incidents of anti-social behaviour in a particular area, to let Cllr Woodford know as CCTV linked to Swale Borough Council could be looked into.

c. PCSO

The damage to the gate at the Brickfields was reported by a resident. There was a report of potential drug dealing from a white Vauxhall Astra in Cumberland Drive. A

dog on dog attack was reported at Egret Court. PCSO Linge was at the School checking on vehicles, this will continue. Patrols will also take place at the Brickfields. A Games Trailer is available for hire together with sports equipment, which could be used in Lower Halstow, in the summer holidays. The Parish Council agreed that this would be a good idea and will arrange for it to be booked for two dates in liaison with PCSO Linge

- d. Friends of the Brickfields.

A quiz night has been held which raised £305.00 for the Friends of the Brickfields.

5. To resolve the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May

It was resolved that the Minutes of the 3rd May 2022 Parish Council meeting are a correct record and were signed accordingly.

6. To resolve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 3rd May 2022 Annual Parish Council meeting are a correct record and were signed accordingly.

7. Correspondence

None received.

8. Matters arising

- a. Discussed above under 4a
- b. Discussed above under 4a
- c. It was resolved that the appointment of a Harbour Master was not necessary, at this time.

9. Policies

- a) The councillors have considered the risk management policy and agreed that it requires no change.
- b) Cllr Szabo will draft an Equal Opportunities Policy.

Action: Cllr Szabo

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

- a) Application: 22/502094/FULL PROPOSAL: Section 73 - Application for Minor Material Amendment to approved plans condition 2 pursuant to 21/506826/FULL for - Alterations to first floor with new roof structure to provide enlarged bedrooms and an en-suite. ADDRESS: Elm Lodge Wardwell Lane Lower Halstow Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7ER.
It was agreed that this application complied with the Village Strategy.
- b) 22/502148/FULL PROPOSAL: Proposed new stone wall and electric gates to entrance. New field access gates. ADDRESS: Callum Park Basser Hill Lower Halstow Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7TY
It was agreed not to comment at this time.
- c) 22/502264/FULL PROPOSAL: Erection of a two storey front extension and single storey side and rear extension, including link to existing detached garage. Conversion of garage to from new office/study. ADDRESS: 25 Westmoreland Drive Lower Halstow Kent ME9 7EL
It was agreed this application complied with the Village Strategy
- d) 22/502340/OUT PROPOSAL: Outline application (all matters reserved except access) for the erection of a single detached self-build dwellinghouse and carport/garage. ADDRESS: Land Adjacent Westfield Cottages Breach Lane Lower Halstow Kent ME9 7AA
It was agreed that this application complied with the Village Strategy.

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

None received.

12. To receive reports on the following:

- a) Parks, Leisure and Planning:
All is well and good.
- b) Footpaths, hedges, Burial Ground and allotments:

The new Jubilee Oak tree has a plaque and has now been put in place with thanks to Cllr Smith. Photos will be sent to the editor for the Village News. At the Burial Ground the green bin is being continuously full of recycling waste and as a consequence Swale Borough Council will not empty it, so it has been removed. Cllr Portman will contact the contractor to crown lift the two Holly trees, in the autumn, for which the Parish Council has received planning permission. There is no update for fence repair. Cllrs Howard-Challis and Smith will look at this.

Action: Cllrs Howard-Challis and Smith

c) Parish Highways Plan:

The forms have been completed and returned in respect of the 20 mph zone with an amended copy for the plans.

d) The Dock

The Dock repairs have now been completed. A second lifebuoy will be obtained by the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk

e) Brickfields and the Seawall.

The repair to the seawall is due to be done in September. While visiting the school for the Street party, Cllr Portman was shown the reply from the Environment Agency, thanking them for all their letters and posters about "Save Our Seawall". These have gone on display at the Church. The Jubilee celebrations were fantastic, including the lighting of the Beacon and a Piper, organised by Mr S Gates for which there was a great turnout. Thank you to the local paramedic and first aider who attended the events, but would not accept a fee. Mrs J Swift offered a great big thank you to everyone involved in the Jubilee Celebrations from the village. There was lots of (unexpected) help from villagers. Thank you to the Stevens family who donated £100 to the Jubilee group. There was a really good sing-a-long session led by Mrs H Gates. The Scouts held their own event and raised about £215.00. Thank you to everyone in the Jubilee Team who worked so hard to make it such a success. A quote received for a new wooden gate at the Brickfields is £203.87. Proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis, seconded by Cllr Szabo. Unanimously agreed.

13. To receive the Clerk's report:

The Thames Sailing Barge Ethel Maud is due to arrive in Lower Halstow dock shortly, depending on suitable tides.

The Clerk has cancelled the Standing Order in respect of her salary, due to the change from quarterly to monthly pay.

All of the allotment plots at Tutt's and Westfield are now rented out and the only available plot at the Memorial Hall has a resident who is interested and will be shown it shortly.

An interment of ashes took place in the Burial Ground on 1st June 2022.

The bank balance as at 31 May was £76425.41

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:

Cllr Portman will write an item on the Jubilee for the Village News.

Cllr Baldock had received a request for a short summary of the Parish Council's discussions and decisions to be put in the Village News.

15. To receive agenda items for next meeting:

The meeting ended at 8:22pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5th July 2022

Payments June 2022

Payee	Description	Gross Amount £	VAT £	Cheque No/Bank Payment
Alex Burt	Piper for Queen's Platinum Jubilee	75.00		Cheque300021
DCK Payroll Solutions	Payroll May 22	36.00	6.00	95024753
Robin Goreham	Internal Audit for Year 2021-22	60.00		225802054
Kent Association Of Local Councils	Subscription	462.12	77.02	701145466
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust Fund	Hall Hire 5 th April 2022 Inv 63	21.25		168663467
Citizens Advice Swale	Donation	75.00		919818699
Julie Neville	Queens Platinum Jubilee Prizes	41.94		2421301
Richard Asbury	Queens Platinum Jubilee Prizes	59.94		593705692
Mrs A I Smith	Salary and Expenses Reconciliation April and May	362.95		379863241
Mrs A I Smith	Salary 25 th June 2022	TBC		
Mr M Tidy	Village Cleaning	228.00		145973185
ATS	Dock Repair – Phase 2	4850.00		Cheque 300022
Mrs Tina Portman	Reimbursement expenditure for Queen's Platinum Jubilee	227.01		140689171
Mr K Howard-Challis	Mileage Claim 14 Miles @ 0.45p per mile	6.30		889580801
Kent County Scouts	Hire of Climbing Tower Inv 2022195	225.00		684794254

Other payments:

Lloyds Multipay Direct Debit

£137.40

Date:

Signed:

**Cllr. K Howard-Challis
Chair**