

**Minutes** of the Monthly Council Meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

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

In attendance: 8 members of the public

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Groves.

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary Interest**

Cllr Smith declared an interest in item 9a.

**3. Public Session**

A resident referred to item 7a) ii) on the agenda the Beacon lighting. A risk assessment has been completed which will be sent to the Clerk. Liability insurance is held by the Parish Council and will cover this event. Stewards and first aid cover will be required. A piper has also been arranged for this event. The Beacon will be lit at 21.45.

Mr Asbury, in attendance on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch applied for a grant in December which has been successful with a view to providing an all-inclusive activity picnic bench in the play area on the Recreation Ground. The budget for it is £720.00 and the grant is for £300.00. Would the Parish Council agree to the siting of the bench and also would they be able to make a donation towards it?

A resident enquired if the Fun Day event being held on the Recreation ground requires insurance. The Public Liability insurance held by the organisations involved will cover it.

A resident re-iterated a request that the Parish Councillors support residents requiring the reduction in the speed limit to include the stretch between Church Path and the bottom of Basser Hill, following a meeting last Saturday with Borough and KCC Councillors.

**4. Visitors:**

- a. KCC Councillor  
No report.
- b. SBC Councillor  
No report.
- c. PCSO  
No report
- d. Friends of the Brickfields  
No report

**5. To resolve the Minutes**

It was resolved that the Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 meeting are a correct record and were signed accordingly.

**6. Correspondence**

- a. Request to install signs at the Brickfields Gate for Bird Wise. It was resolved to allow the signs.

**Action: Clerk**

- b. It was resolved not to pay for membership for Rural Kent Action with Communities.

**7. Matters arising**

a) Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- i) Street Party. A committee has been formed and a meeting will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> February. It is proposed to close School Lane. Cllr Portman will be attending the meeting and is looking at obtaining some grants.

**Action: Cllr Portman**

- ii) Lighting of Beacon. As discussed above.

**8. Finance**

- a) It was agreed to keep the street light in Breach Lane that had been vandalised. An invoice will be requested from the contractor for the repair that they have already carried out.

**Action: Clerk**

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

- a) Highways Act 1980 Proposed Diversion Public Footpath ZR39 Lower Halstow, Kent.  
It was resolved to support this proposal.

**Action: Clerk**

- b) Planning consultation 22/500239 FULL15 Burntwick Drive Lower Halstow Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7DX

It was resolved to support the application in line with the Village Planning Strategy.

**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:  
Repairs for the roundabout are being done this week. Cllr Smith commented that there are plans for 135 houses on farmland on the A2 at Newington.
- b) Footpaths, hedges, Burial Ground and allotments:  
Cllr Portman has asked some landowners if they could trim their hedges, a couple of requests have not been complied with and follow up correspondence will be sent. Some of the hedge has been trimmed around the noticeboard, but would like to ask the contractor to come and cut the rest of the hedge. In respect of the Burial Ground and the Brickfield Cllr Portman walked around with the new PCSO and looked at where the bottle diggers have been digging and at where some rubbish has been dumped in the Burial Ground. The PCSO is going to look at legislation regarding the bottle digging.
- c) Parish Highways Plan:  
Cllr Ssmith is waiting for the concept design and cost estimate for the 20 mph zone. It is expected by the end of February but Cllr Smith will chase this up.
- d) The Dock  
The dock repairs are coming on nicely and is nearing completion.
- e) Brickworks and Seawall.  
Cllrs Howard-Challis and Portman met with two members of the Environment Agency along with Cllr Baldock. The meeting was productive. Photos were taken of the erosion along the sea wall. The Environment Agency will complete an independent assessment of the sea wall, probably in April. Part of that assessment will be looking at repairing the sea wall, if the cost is high they will come back to the Parish Council and the village for a consultation. It was suggested that the Parish Council may wish to approach Southern Water for assistance towards any future costs once an assessment has been provided by the Environment Agency. Cllr Portman has also spoken to the Head teacher at the school about how they can help with raising awareness of the erosion of the sea wall.

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

- a) KALC Rep  
No report
- b) Memorial Hall Rep  
No report.

**13. To receive the Clerk's report:**

The Clerk has been in touch with Swale Borough Council regarding the bins for the Burial ground and finally it was agreed that they would supply a brown bin, the annual charge is £50, paid on the credit card, as this was too small an amount for them to send an invoice. A blue bin will also be supplied as requested.

Statistics have been supplied from the Village Facebook site regarding the 20 mph zones. The post was seen by 1200; there were 64 comments in favour and 36 likes; there were no comments against. The Clerk received 62 emails and 1 letter, they were all in favour. The Parish Council have had some interest in respect of the litter picker/handyman advertisement that was placed in the Village News.

The bank balance as at 31st January 2022 was £82,475.50

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  
None.

**15. To receive agenda items for next meeting:**

- a) To agree the siting and possible donation towards the All-inclusive Picnic bench for the play area.

The meeting ended at: 19.23pm.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Payments January 2021

Payee	Description	Gross Amount £	VAT £	Cheque No/Bank Payment
Business Stream	Water services charges	50.50		
ATS	2"x Electric Power for Dock Inv 28/1/22	281.00		

Other payments:

25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Standing Order

Clerk's Salary - £644.60

**Date:**

**Signed:**

**Cllr. K Howard-Challis  
Chair**