

Minutes of the Monthly Council Meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 1st November 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: 6 members of the public and Cllr Woodford

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the PCSO.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Session

It was discussed that the Christmas tree lights would be turned on Friday 2nd December at 6.30pm. There will be carol singing and the mince pies will be provided by Cllr Smith.

A resident asked if the planning application for the Solar Farm had been commented on by the Parish Council. The Parish Council had facilitated a meeting between the residents and the developers, so residents could make their own decision. The developers have made it easy for the application to be supported, by people from all over the country and comments have been made that Swale Borough Council should do "Their Bit" for the environment, but there are already three solar farms within a five-mile radius of Lower Halstow. This application is for a colossal solar farm which will have a negative impact visually, it is too big in the wrong place and Natural England have raised serious concerns about the impact on the environment.

Basser Hill Farm are seeking retrospective planning permission to increase the number of lorries that they can keep on that site. Stickfast Lane and degradation of the road is of concern.

It was raised that developments are taking place on agricultural land along Halstow Lane, between Lower Halstow and Upchurch.

Logs in the play area have been taken out and the ground has sunk, which is a trip hazard and a request was made for more benches around the village.

Upchurch have had their village sign repainted and Lower Halstow's sign could do with the same treatment.

Vehicles coming along Sheerness Road and turning into Vicarage Lane cannot see round the bend, as the hedge is too tall, it needs cutting so that pedestrians can be seen.

4. Visitors:

a. **KCC**

No report

b. **SBC**

The dog waste bin in Vicarage Lane has been replaced with a larger one. Funding is being made available from the Swale Western Area Committee group for youth work group which will be coming out to the villages, there should be three visits to engage with the young people to see what facilities they would like. The organisation will try to put in place different outreach things into villages. There will be another update after the next meeting in December.

c. **PCSO**

The PCSO furnished the following report: There were no crimes of note but on 20th October there was a dog on dog attack. The owner has been spoken with and the issue referred to the dog warden to take further action.

- d. **Friends of the Brickfields**
Apologies received. There have been some notices put on the seawall to say that the Coastal Walk is being re-routed.
5. **To resolve the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th October**
a) It was resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th October 2022 Parish Council meeting are a correct record and were signed accordingly.
6. **Matters arising**
a) The Village sign. Cllr Smith will ask Upchurch Parish Council who they used to repaint their sign.
Action: Cllr Smith
b) Overgrown footpath between Curlew Avenue and The Green. It needs to be cut back. The Clerk will report this to KCC via their website.
Action: Clerk
c) A Raft Race will be organised for the 1st July 2023 in the morning to coincide with the high tide and music will be provided at the school in the afternoon. There is concern over the maintenance blocks, but it was discussed that there should not be a problem if the race occurs at the time of the high tide. The Yacht club will provide the water safety and there are volunteers to provide first aid. The barge owners will need to be informed.
d) Roman Republican sumenicia coin update. The finder of the coin has contacted both the Parish Council, the Finds Liaison officer at Maidstone and the British Museum and sent some information regarding the find. Before it goes to the British Museum for display, the Parish Council agreed that it would be nice, if possible for the Finds Liaison Officer could bring it along to a Parish Council meeting for residents and councillors alike, to see before it is sent to London. Information will be put on the Parish Council website and sent to the Village News.
e) Thames Sailing Barge Ethel Maud. Unfortunately, the owner is unwell and is no longer able to keep the barge at Lower Halstow. The Parish Council agreed to dissolve the contract under the circumstances. Proposed by Cllr Szabo, seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will write to inform the owner of the Parish Council's decision.
Action: Clerk
7. **To discuss and agree response (if any) for the following Planning Application:**
22/504728/FULL – 8 Vicarage Cottages, Vicarage Lane, Lower Halstow. Erection of a single storey rear extension. It was agreed that the application fits with the Village Planning Strategy, it is in keeping and appropriate. The assessments will be put on the website and sent to Planning at Swale.
Action: Clerk
8. **Any applications received between producing the agenda and this meeting.**
None received.
9. **To receive reports on the following:**
a) Parks, Leisure and Planning:
The holes at the play area will be looked at. It was suggested that it could do with new equipment and something for older children, together with lines painted for the baseball hoop. A new committee would be needed to fund raise.
b) Footpaths, hedges, Burial Ground and allotments:
Cllr Portman has cut down some of the vegetation around the old graves and planted some spring bulbs in Westfield Car Park. The holly trees in the Burial Ground have had crown lifts as per the planning permission, previously granted.

The blue and brown bins are still not being emptied. Cllr Portman will complain, again.

Action: Cllr Portman

c) Parish Highways Plan

There is little to report, nothing has been finalised, as yet. It looks as if it will be a 40mph limit from Basser Hill to Vicarage Cottages and Breach Lane from the crossroads to the corner of Westfield Cottages will be 40 mph, the rest will be 20mph. The final cost is still awaited.

d) Brickfields and the Seawall.

Cllr Portman has chased the Environment Agency and received a reply to say they have delayed repairing the seawall due to archaeological and environmental assessments, which is very disappointing. Cllr Portman will contact Gordon Henderson to see if he can do anything and there should be an update next month. The concern is that the seawall may not survive another winter. Letters have been sent asking residents to cut back their hedges, which in the main have been done, there are a couple that will be followed up. Cllr Portman will lay a wreath at the Memorial Wood at the service on the 11th November and Mrs Swift will lay a poppy wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Church service on 13th November.

Action: Cllr Portman

10. To receive the Clerk's report:

The payments received this month for the car park total £475.00 and the allotments £570.00. The Parish Council are currently two councillors short of a full complement and recruitment notices have been put on the noticeboards, the Village Facebook page and the Parish Council website.

The two faulty street lights have been looked at by an engineer. The fibreglass door on column 29 (School Lane) had been forced off and this has now been refitted in a more secure manner.

The bank balance as at 31 October 2022 was £75,840.79

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

11. Items for information only:

- a) Items for the Village News and website: Roman coin and Seawall update
- b) To receive agenda items for next meeting: None.

The meeting closed at 19.50pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6th December 2022

Payments October 2022

| Payee | Description | Gross Amount £ | VAT £ | Cheque No/Bank Payment |
|------------------------------|---|----------------|-------|------------------------|
| DCK Payroll | Payroll Services Invoice: | 36.00 | 6.00 | 77540470 |
| Mr M Tidy | Village Cleaning | 114.00 | | 46619942 |
| Mrs A I Smith | Clerk's Salary and Expenses 25 th November 2022 | 970.56 | | 534814887 |
| Lower Halstow School PTA | Sponsorship of Scarecrow Trail | 50.00 | | 890571406 |
| Arthur J Gallagher Insurance | AJG Community Scheme Insurance | 1433.53 | | 830697082 |
| SLCC | Membership Fee Invoice: MEM240939-1 | 171.00 | | 136394727 |
| L Stevens & Sons | Rental of land at Westfield Cottages 11/10/22 - 10/10/23 | £200 | | 513931912 |
| Streetlights | Lighting repairs Invoice: 13267 | 49.50 | 8.25 | 173012249 |

Multipay Direct Debit - 09/11/22

£43.80

EDF – Direct Debit - 17/10/22

£349.62

Date:

Signed:

**Cllr. K Howard-Challis
Chair**