



## **Minutes of the Meeting of Lenham Parish Council**

**Held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7:30pm at Lenham Community Centre**

**PRESENT** Cllr. J Britt, Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. M Cockett, D Garland, K Hammond, Mic Lowe, Mike Lowe, M Michaelas, M Ballard, K Hammond, N Osborne, A Ratcliffe & A Walmsley

J Bate RFO, 8 Members of the public.

### **Public participation**

A member of the public had noted that the Parish Council had agreed a reporting arrangement with the Downs Mail and wondered if this meant that the deliveries of Downs Mail to households would now resume. The Chair responded that home deliveries were no longer possible, however the newspaper could be picked up at a number of outlets in the village including the Co-op, the Village Stores, the public houses, the Chequers fish bar, Saxon Pharmacy and other places would come on stream as the need arose.

A member of the public enquired about the pollarding of the lime trees in the Square. It was agreed to get a quote for works and discuss at the first available Finance and General Purposes Committee once these had been received.

MBC Cllrs. Janetta and Tom Sams sent their apologies and this report from them was included after the meeting:

***We apologise for not being able to attend this evening as we are at other meetings:***

- ***Other the last few weeks we have been working with LPC and SOHL attending council meetings and demonstrations outside the town hall and talking to the press and asking officers and councillors questions regarding Heathlands and Lenham Railway station.***
- ***The recent village litter pick was very well attended, heartening to see so many people including children. This event was brilliantly organised and run by Lisa and assisted by Deborah. It was appreciated by all those attending and the many residents we spoke to during the event whilst out picking.***
- ***We have been working on our response and the petition against the suggested boundary change and will be speaking at the full council next week, asking MBC to withdraw their suggestions to the Boundary commission***
- ***Many residents have written excellent individual submissions to the Boundary commission, making very important points.***
- ***We were very grateful that John attended the Harrietsham Parish Council meeting to explain the LPC response which got much support.***
- ***We hope to be meeting with the nursery manager and fundraiser and look forward to working with residents, charities, parish council and the allotment group to move forward this community venture.***

The reporter from the Downs Mail introduced herself and confirmed that the notes from the council meeting would appear in the 17 April edition of the newspaper.

There being no further input from members of the public the meeting commenced at 19:50h

### **21/172 Apologies for absence received:**

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. P Culver and S Heeley, as well as L Westcott (Clerk) all of whom are away with family (Easter).

### **21/173 Declarations of interest:**

Cllr. A Ratcliff made a declaration relating to item 12 (Lenham Nursery) and Cllr K. Hammond has a standing dispensation (relating to SOHL).

### **21/174 Notification of intention to film, photograph or record items**

There were none.



#### **21/175 To sign as correct the minutes from the Parish Council meeting 2 March 2022**

Cllr. D Garland proposed, Cllr. M Lowe seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022** are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

#### **21/176 Progress of resolutions:**

21/163 – Heathlands consultation: Cllr K Hammond gave a summary, Cllr J Britt discussed the email from Ms A Broom, CEO at Maidstone Borough Council, on 15 March and the response had been circulated but as yet no reply. ACTION: Cllr J Britt to email Ms Broom and ask for a reply or some idea of when the Parish council might expect one.

#### **21/177 Finance:**

- a. Responsible Financial Officer Report (by J Bate):
  - It was noted that the Council's closedown balance was higher than expected although there are some outstanding invoices. J Bate will provide a summary to F&GP (20 April) to include the audit timetable, a detailed financial breakdown (end of year), details of the national salary scale increases and cost of pay in lieu of holiday for RFO.
  - The VAT refund has been lodged, this amounts to £32,433.05, which is higher than originally discussed. This refund covers the period to the end of February 2022. A single refund will be lodged for the month of March 2022, there after claims will be made quarterly
  - It is noted that all future invoices need to be directly addressed to LPC – an explanation of the detail behind this will be provided at F&GP in April.
  - All suppliers are notifying cost increases.
- b. To authorise payments and note income (Details of payments and income to be tabled):

	Date	Transaction Type	Amount
<b>Amiga Fire and Security Limited</b>	31/03/2022	Closeout Bill	108.00
<b>Castle Water</b>	22/02/2022	Monthly Water Bill for Allotments and Cemetery	93.71
<b>Dave Flisher Roofing</b>	09/03/2022	Emergency roof repairs to the Lockup	140.00
<b>Down To Earth Garden Maintenance</b>	31/03/2022	Monthly Grounds Maintenance	410.00
<b>Furniture Hire UK</b>	31/03/2022	Jubilee Furniture Hire Costs	788.03
<b>Knights Solicitors</b>	22/03/2022	Legal Fees	5,318.40
<b>Nathan Beale</b>	31/03/2022	Litter Picking and waste removal around Lenham	660.00
<b>Nigel Turner</b>	27/03/2022	Cemetery Tidying and Rabbit hole filling	90.00
<b>Running Imp</b>	09/03/2022	Jubilee Coin Costs (part recovered by Market Donation)	1,645.19
<b>Running Imp</b>	17/03/2022	Samples for above	20.84
<b>S&amp;B Car &amp; Van Hire</b>	15/03/2022	Minibus Hire for MBC Heathlands tour	95.00
<b>Shell Garages</b>	15/03/2022	Minibus Hire for MBC Heathlands tour - Fuel costs	20.00
<b>Sound Dynamics</b>	31/03/2022	PA system for Jubilee	269.10
<b>The Flag Shop</b>	29/03/2022	Union Jack Hand Flags	179.25
<b>Tree Pro Ltd</b>	31/03/2022	Emergency Tree Cutting in WPF - £600 less £50 deposit	550.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>£10,387.52</b>



Cllr. A Walmsley proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make these payments.  
Cllrs. N Osborne and D Garland to authorise the payments on-line.

There was a discussion relating to the format of the payment schedule, Cllr. A Ratcliffe will produce a pro-forma for agreement at April F&GP to cover the details required and agreed with all service providers for the new financial year.

#### **21/178 and 21/179 Planning and Implementation:**

Cllr. N Osborne proposed, Cllr. M Lowe seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the reports and minutes of the P&I meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the P&I Committee.

Actions arising:

- LPC responded to a request from Harrietsham PC to comment on the proposed development of 109 homes off the A20 – this had been submitted.
- There was a discussion regarding the lack of progress regarding the sale of a strip of land at WPF, the S106 document and related matters – this was referred for a discussion and recommendation from April F&GP

#### **21/180 Finance and General Purposes:**

Cllr. A Walmsley proposed, Cllr. D Garland seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes and reports of the F&GP meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the F&GP Committee.

#### **21/181 Sports and Recreation group:**

Cllr M Lowe provided a PowerPoint presentation. There was a discussion relating to details of the possibility of making seed-funding available via granting the Group a budget. This will be discussed at April F&GP with a recommendation at April full council.

#### **21/182 Boundary Commission Consultation:**

Cllr J Britt had circulated the final version of LPC's response to the LGBCE consultation. This has been uploaded onto the LGBCE website. The parish council's response has also been discussed and supported by Harrietsham and Headcorn PCs. Cllr J Britt to load the response onto the LPC website.

Petitions against the MBC proposal which would place the land south of the commuter Railway within the Headcorn boundary have been generated and signatures obtained. This will allow LPC, The Borough Councillors, and SOHL to argue against the MBC proposal in committee.

#### **21/183 Lenham Nursery:**

Cllr. N Osborne presented a summary of a paper, previously circulated, and it was resolved to adopt Option 3 in the paper. The reporting of progress towards this will be through P&I.

It was resolved that the parish council's representatives would be Cllrs. N Osborne and A Walmsley. Cllr. A Ratcliffe declared that he had agreed to support the emerging new organisation through to the next stage of the process. A summary of costs was discussed and it was generally agreed that this needed to be honed down as part of this process.

#### **21/184 Response to planned closure of Old Ashford Road:**

It was agreed that this was concerning as it would affect those using the bus to attend the surgery and or the Community Centre if the Road was really to be closed for the whole 12 weeks. It was resolved that the Parish would correspond with the developer to express concerns, confirm exactly where the road closure would be (the drawing showing between Groom Way and the Burnside Cottages) and to secure an agreement that all heavy traffic to and from the site would continue to avoid the village, using the Old Ashford Road / A20 junction. Cllr. A Ratcliff will endeavour to secure confirmation from the developer.



#### **21/185 Project updates:**

- Jubilee celebrations - The Cllrs. M and Mic Lowe presented PowerPoint slides of the arrangements to date. The beacon will be lit in the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> June just above the Cross. The main celebrations would take place in the Square where there have been 350 “bookings” for table space for the elderly and children. Due to safety issues there will be no more seating available. The day before signs would go out requesting no parking in the Square during the event and Faversham Road will be partly closed between the High Street and the Co-op.
- Renovation of public toilets – a ball park figure of £60,000 has been received which gives an idea of the potential cost. An application for CIL funding will be made to MBC once the process for the new financial year opens.
- Lenham Cross – Cllr. A Ratcliffe confirmed that there is a meeting of all interested parties scheduled and this will be reported back to April F&GP.
- Cherry Downs – some potential intruders had been spotted on a couple of occasions, it was noted that close attention would need to be paid over the coming period.
- Parish Noticeboards – Cllr. D Garland reported that a temporary fix to the notice board at Morrison’s had been made but it would have to be replaced. The board at Lenham Heath will require the permission of the property owner – this needs following up.
- 20mph zone – Cllr A Walmsley reported that an amended area had been received from KCC. This was accepted. There was a discussion about including the advisory 20mph zone along Ham Lane, but it was agreed to pursue this separately with KCC in light of the emerging support for 20mph zones from MBC
- Planters – Cllr D. Garland reported that he would need to replace one planter and that the geraniums were now on order for delivery on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **21/186 Lime Trees in the Square**

This was discussed during public participation.

#### **21/187 Correspondence:**

The parish council had received a request for advice and support from a parishioner – the Parish Clerk to follow up on her return from leave.

The meeting closed at 22:05h