

Minutes of the Monthly Council Meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 4th July 2023.

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, Police Officer Jez Chittim and Cllr Lloyd Chapman

1. To receive **Apologies for absence.**

None.

2. To receive any **Declarations of Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary Interest**, and any Applications for Dispensation on Agenda Items. (Requirement of the Localism Act 2011.)

None.

3. **Public session.**

A resident offered thanks to everyone involved with the Raft Race and Rave event held on the previous Saturday, it was a brilliant day.

4. **Visitors.** Reports or comments from:

a) KCC Councillors;

None.

b) SBC Councillors;

Cllr Chapman arrived later in the meeting and introduced himself when the meeting was over.

c) Police Officer

PC Jez Chittim introduced himself to the meeting. He is based in Sittingbourne; there is a process to introduce PC's into all the wards previously covered by PCSOs. There are currently nine, two of which are on maternity leave; as yet, they are not fully staffed. If there are any issues then PC Chittim will try to deal with them and include any other departments necessary. He has 17 years of experience and is open to suggestions as to what the Parish Council would like brought to the meeting. If there are any events that they would like him to attend, to let him know as soon as possible, to allow getting them into the diary. There have been seven calls in for the last month for Lower Halstow. There have been environmental nuisances, two nuisance bikes and nitrous oxide canisters found, where people passing through may have left them. He will keep an eye out for this and if it continues, it is not people passing through. Nuisance bikes and nuisance quads are a common problem, on pavements and in the fields, no helmets, no registrations. If it is known who they are, PC Chittim would like their names, so that he may go and have a chat with them and their parents. Video evidence would enable the police to deal with the traffic offences and to seize the bikes, potentially. He has spoken to the rural team about the use of drones to capture evidence that way. To contact PC Chittim please use email.

d) Friends of the Brickfields

Talks and walks are being organised on the brickfields looking at the wildlife. Dates will be published in the Village News. There is a nationally rare and protected moth found at the seawall called the Fiery Clearwing. The Environment Agency have been asked not to cut the vegetation at the seawall until September, when the breeding season is over. Cllr Portman is looking into trying to get some protection for the wildlife on the brickfields.

5. **To resolve Minutes**

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Monthly Parish meeting held on Tuesday 6th June 2023 are a correct record and were signed accordingly.

6. **Matters arising:**

a) Cllr Portman has contacted Swale Borough Council because the fence at the Burial Ground is in a conservation area and is awaiting a response. Proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis and seconded by Cllr Smith, subject to SBC's response, to make the repair. All agreed.

b) The 80th Anniversary of D Day 6th June 2024. There are plans to light the beacon and a fish and chip supper.

c) Bottle Digging.

A resident showed a recently discovered area on the beach, under the foliage near the seawall about 2 metres wide and half a metre deep, to Cllr Portman. Natural England and Border Force has been looking at some security in this area. Cllr Portman will have a chat with PC Chittim about this problem. It has been suggested that Sea Buckthorn is planted there as a deterrent.

7. To Discuss planning applications received:

- a) Application No: 22/506000/FULL Proposal: Section 73 – Application for Removal of Condition (ii) agricultural occupancy condition pursuant to application SW/91/456 for – Minor Alternations to previously approved design of the house (SW/90/992). Location: Callum Park House, Callum Park Basser Hill, Lower Halstow.
The decision by Swale Borough Council has already been made and this item was not discussed.

8. To Discuss any planning applications received between producing the agenda and this meeting.

There were none.

9. Finance:

- a) Quote for renewal of section of pipework at Memorial Hall Allotment site. The Parish Council agreed to accept the quote for £425.00 + VAT. Proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis and seconded by Cllr Portman. All agreed.

10. Correspondence:

- a) KCC Tree Plan. It was agreed to register an interest.

Action: Clerk

11. Policies:

- a) To review the Village Planning Strategy. Due to the planning structure at Swale Borough Council changing shortly, the Parish Council agreed to review this policy in November.

12. To receive reports on the following:

- a) Parks & Leisure & Planning (MS). The play park check by RoSPA is taking place in July. The report should be available for the September meeting.
- b) Footpaths and Hedgerow maintenance, Burial Ground.
The paths between Cumberland Drive and Westmoreland Drive have been trimmed by the handy man. There is also a large Buddleia, which is half-dead at this location. Cllrs Portman and Groves will cut it back, as necessary. The footpath between The Green and Curlew Avenue is very overgrown. Cllr Portman has taken some pictures and the Clerk will report it to KCC PROW. The footpath between Egret Court and Westfield Cottages is also in need of attention; the Clerk will also report this.

Action: Clerk

c) Allotments

Cllr Groves has taken over the responsibility from Cllr Portman, who has kindly shown Cllr Groves around the sites. Cllr Groves will introduce herself to the allotment gardeners gradually.

d) Parish Highways Plan.

The plan is edging forward.

e) Brickfields and Seawall

The Friends of the Brickfields Chairman has met with Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board to look at the reed bed, which is drying out. A bund is required on the South and East side to hold the water in. The Environment Agency has given consent for it. Swale Borough Council has some environmental grants available. To help the reed bed, it is possible that some trees may need felling, but the FoB Chairman has some plans in mind regarding this and Cllr Portman will keep the Parish Council updated.

13. Clerk's Report

Payments received during June total £542.78.

I am pleased to report that the vacant plot at the Memorial Hall allotment has been taken. Unfortunately, the other tap there is now spraying water.

I have had an enquiry regarding an ashes interment for the Burial Ground, but the next of kin has not made any firm decisions yet.

The inspection of the play area by RoSPA will take place this month.

The bank balance as of 30th June 2023 is £72,683.19

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

Information regarding the Fiery Clearwing Moth.

Cllr Smith has been in touch with the sign writer for the Village Sign and it has taken him longer than thought, as it was larger than anticipated. It is expected to be finished by the end of July.

The meeting closed at 19.34pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19th September 2023

Payee	Description	Gross Amount £	VAT £	Cheque No/Bank Payment
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust	Hall Hire – 2/2/2023 Invoice: 37	21.25		246142298
Mrs A I Smith	Clerk's Expenses and Salary 25/6/2023	1074.69		936115381
Mr M Tidy	Village Cleaning – 166.72	208.40		43302788
Intelligent Facility Services	CCTV SIM Service Invoice: 08176	30.00	5.00	347914967
DCK Payroll Solutions	Payroll Process Invoice: P4241	36.00	6.00	52282995
R H Parker	Installation of outside lever tap Invoice: 0908	150.00	25.00	740468164
Futurform	King Charles III Bench Seat and delivery Invoice: 215274	622.80	103.80	197365720
Kent County Council	Fee 20mph Scheme Invoice: 900173424	10,171.61		637209500
HMRC	PAYE Tax April – June 2023	65..37		431977632
Councillor Allowances	To be paid following confirmation from Payroll	2035.80		Awaiting confirmation from payroll
Citizens Advice Bureau	Donation	50.00		767417564
Tiller & Wheel	Donation	50.00		Awaiting bank details

Other Payments:

Multipay Direct Debit - 9/07/23
 Unity Trust Bank Service Charge 30/6/23

£3.00
 £18.00

Date:

Signed:

**Cllr. K Howard-Challis
 Chair**