

Minutes of the Monthly Council Meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Present: Cllrs: K Howard-Challis (Chair); M Szabo (Vice-chair); T Portman; A Smith; A Groves
In attendance: Cllr Baldock; Cllr Woodford; 8 members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Clerk due to illness.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Session

A resident wished to comment and object to the planning application for 17 Heron Close (item 7a). The extension will completely block the natural light to the kitchen/diner of the resident's home. The proposed balcony and dormer window brings the back of the property out approximately 15 to 20 feet, so the back garden of the neighbour will be completely overlooked. This application has adverse effects on both of the neighbours' properties. Another resident commented on the same application. This further extension with the balcony will overlook the neighbour's property and will invade their privacy. The proximity of the proposed extension is too close.

A further resident also commented on this application who remarked that he empathised with his fellow neighbours to say that their objections were valid and that unfortunately, there had been no direct communication from the applicant, which would have been a neighbourly thing to do. On planning applications in general there are a lot of large applications in the area. The resident is going to ask the local authorities how many houses are there proposed in each development within a six-mile radius of Lower Halstow and proposes going to the housing minister to ask why we are looking at so many houses in this area when there is so much about a levelling up agenda nationally and the impact on the infrastructure. Any help that the Parish Council can give would be much appreciated.

Thanks was given for the really lovely Christmas tree and The Friends of St Margaret's Social Group is going to be launched at 7.30 pm Tuesday 24th January in the Memorial Hall. The speaker will be from the Hedgehog Rescue Trust.

A resident attended a meeting on 29th December regarding forming a group regarding the huge planning application at Bobbing. Members are needed to join the committee. It is early days at the moment.

4. Visitors:

a. KCC

It is coming to a crucial point with regards to the road infrastructure. The works on Stockbury roundabout and then Grovehurst roundabout, they only cater for houses in the current local plan which expires in 2028/29. Medway are putting houses right up to the Kent boundary, so even though this is not in our borough that has a huge impact on this area. Our highways are not coping at the moment and this is not going to get any better. Swale has paused the local plan as there is not room for another 11,000 houses, it is not sustainable. They have the evidence from previous consultations which shows where the problems are and the councils are waiting to see what will come from Central Government regarding levelling up and housing targets.

At KCC there is a £20m shortfall in the budget. Inflation is going up far more, this year, than can be budgeted for and next year KCC can only put the budget up 5%. There is a half a billion-pound backlog for road and drainage maintenance. Local Authorities have no choice but to cut back on services and this also goes for supporting Parish Councils.

b. SBC

There has been some communication regarding the Village Planning Policy. Following an email from the Clerk, Cllr Woodford had requested a road sweeper to

deal with the fallen leaves in the roads and blocking the drains, but as yet not heard anything. This will be followed up with KCC as well. There is a small amount of grant money left if needed towards the CCTV.

c. **PCSO**

No report.

d. **Friends of the Brickfields**

No report.

5. To resolve the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2022

- a) It was resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2022 Parish Council meeting are a correct record and were signed accordingly.

6. Matters Arising:

a) Plan for the proposed 20 mph speed limit TRO consultation:

The Parish Council have received an email regarding what is going to be covered, but nothing about where the extensions go or the what the speed limits are for the buffer zones. In Breach Lane from where the 20 mph zone is proposed to start to the crossroads of Holywell Lane and Boxted Lane, someone needs to look at that where the hedge has been cut, to see how dangerous that is. It needs to be changed to 30 mph. There is a sheer drop of 10 or 12 feet with no verge and is dangerous. Cllr Baldock recommended that photographs should be taken of the area in question. Cllr Howard-Challis proposed to go ahead with the 20 mph speed limit, seconded by Cllr A Smith. Agreed unanimously.

b) New noticeboard for The Green

Cllr Smith will ask the contractor to send drawings to the clerk for discussion at the next meeting.

c) Commando Sockets for The Green

Cllr Szabo has received an approximate quote of £170 plus VAT for each lamppost and a £5.00 commando socket wired in. Investigations are being made into the power already at the site to see if that is live and viable to light the restored village sign and future Christmas illuminations.

7. To discuss and agree response (if any) for the following Planning Application:

- a) Application: 22/505674/FULL PROPOSAL: Erection of single storey front and rear extensions, first floor side extension and rear dormer window ADDRESS: 17 Heron Close Lower Halstow Kent ME9 7EF.

It was proposed to object strongly to this application on the grounds of blocking light and invasion of privacy to the neighbouring properties, seconded by Cllr Portman. Agreed unanimously.

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

None received.

9. Finance

- a) Proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis to request the same precept at last year (£37740.00), seconded by Cllr A Smith. Agreed unanimously.

10. Policies

- a) Review Wharf Terms and Conditions and Rates

It was resolved to make no changes.

11. To receive reports on the following:

- a) Parks, Leisure and Planning:

No report

- b) Footpaths, hedges, Burial Ground and allotments:

There will be a follow up regarding some of the hedges that require cutting.

- c) Parish Highways Plan

Discussed above. No further report.

- d) Brickfields and the Seawall.

No report.

12. To receive the Clerk's report:

The Bank balance is £73,096.21. It was agreed that Cllrs Howard-Challis and Szabo will authorise the payments, as per the payment list below, via internet banking.

13. Items for information only:

- a) Items for the Village News and website:
Any items will be emailed to the Clerk.
- b) To receive agenda items for next meeting:
None.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7th February 2023

Payee	Description	Gross Amount £	VAT £	Cheque No/Bank Payment
DCK Payroll	Payroll Services Invoice:	36.00	6.00	60647289
Mr M Tidy	Village Cleaning	190.00		990664294
Mrs A I Smith	Clerk's Expenses and Backpay only. Salary TBC	608.02		21820450
D Pascoe Garden Services	Maintenance of the Rec & Gibbs Invoice: 37	2375.00		21820450
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust Fund	Hall Hire 1 st November and 6 th December Invoice 82	42.50		134187460
HMRC	PAYE	404.12		229889374
Mr M Szabo	Reimbursement for Christmas Lights batteries	25.97		619603611

Other Payments:

Multipay Direct Debit - 09/01/23

£3.00

Date:

Signed:

**Cllr. K Howard-Challis
Chair**