



Minutes of the Meeting of Lenham Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 7:30pm at Lenham Community Centre

PRESENT Cllr. J Britt, Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. M Ballard, M Cockett, P Culver, K Hammond, S Heeley, M Michaelas, N Osborne & A Walmsley

J Bate RFO, L Westcott Clerk

5 Members of the public.

Public participation

1 member of the public asked when the WCs would be reopening, Cllr. J Britt explained that the refurbishment is subject to receiving funds from MBC CIL monies, the decision for which has been postponed. The member of the public explained that the stage is in the way when retrieving the market signs from the lock up. An update has been requested from MBC.

1 member of the public raised the issue of unauthorised vehicles using the Pilgrims Way. This has been discussed at length before. The noise from the last weekend was awful and the mess made at the Cross on 12th December caused a lot of distress to LPC and the public. The member of the public suggested the only way to stop the noise is changing the status of the Pilgrims Way from a BOAT (Byway open to all Traffic). Cllr. J Britt will write to MP, KCC Cllr. and the police.

MBC Cllr. J Sams had the following to report:

- The food bank in the church is working well with a lot of uptake. The £1500 donated by KCC Cllr. Shellina Prendergast is being used by volunteers to restock. Vouchers from the Co op are also being well received.
- Hotspot at the social club has opened, but it is early days to report on its success. The Hatch charity have donated money to the social club.
- Highways Issues continue to be reported regularly.
- Golding Homes - a meeting was held with them and communication is improving.
- LPC Budget – Cllrs. T and J Sams support the proposed LPC budget and feel it is very disproportionately unfair on LPC who have to use so much money to fight Heathlands, other parishes do not have to bear this weight.

1 member of the public was present to observe.

The chair opened the meeting at 20:05.

22/121 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECIEVED

No apologies received.

22/122 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS

Declarations of interest on Agenda items, Cllr. N Osborne made a declaration relating to Lenham Nursery school project.

Cllr. K Hammond has a dispensation in relation to the MBC Local Plan.

Declarations to changes to the Register of Interests. No declarations received.

Requests for dispensations. No new requests received.

22/123 NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ITEMS

There were none.

22/124 TO SIGN AS CORRECT THE MINUTES FROM THE PARISH COUCIL MEETING ON 7TH DECEMBER 2022

Cllr. N Osborne proposed, Cllr. S Heeley seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on

Wednesday 7th December 2022 are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

22/125 PROGRESS OF RESOLUTIONS

- Cllr. J Britt signed the certificate for the Civility and Respect Pledge



- b. All to respond to Community Governance Review survey by 23rd January, link as follows:
[Community Governance Review \(Parishes\) | Lets Talk Maidstone \(engagementhq.com\)](#)
- c. Cllr. J Britt has not drafted a letter regarding the changes to PCSOs, this will be discussed at the next KALC meeting and a response will be drafted following this.
- d. QPJ Brochure – the final version was circulated, comments must be made to L Westcott by Friday.

22/126 VOTE ON COUNCILLOR CO OPTIONS FOR NORTH WARD

No interested members of the public attended the meeting, further advertisement is required. Two recruitment events are planned for Saturday 4th February and Wednesday 8th February.

22/127 FINANCE

- a. Responsible Financial Officer Report – current bank balance at £153,941.32
- b. All agreed to make payment to KCC for 20mph scheme at £4,711.93 from CIL funds. Cllr. P Culver proposed and Cllr. M Cockett seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make payment immediately.
- c. To authorise payments for December – tabled below:

Name	Frequency	Description	Date	Amount
BT Group	Monthly	Telephone and Wifi for office	19/10/2022	64.63
Nathan Beale	Monthly	Emptying bins and litter picking	30/11/2022	695.00
Caloo	One off	Inspection and Service of outdoor gym equipment	08/12/2022	534.00
KCC	One off	Payment for 20mph scheme from CIL funds	15/12/2022	4711.93
Lenham Community Centre	Quarterly	Room hire	31/12/2022	180.00
Nick Osborne	One off	Latch for gate at WCs	03/01/2023	3.90
Parish Online	Annual	Parish Online software annual charge	11/12/2022	192.00
Tree Pro Ltd	One off	Deposit for planned tree works along footpath	08/12/2022	306.00
TOTAL				6687.46

Cllr. P Culver proposed, Cllr. K Hammond seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make the payments tabled.

Cllrs. N Osborne and J Britt to authorise the payments on-line.

- d. Budget – to agree budget and precept requirement for 23-24

J Bate summarised the recommendation from F&GP for a budget of £248,730 using £20,000 of reserve money resulting in a precept of £228,730. This would mean a 16% increase on the parish council precept on a band D property. The figures presented were discussed.

- e. Precept Requirement – vote on precept of £228,730:

Voted Yes: Cllrs. M Ballard, J Britt, M Cockett, P Culver, K Hammond, S Heeley, M Michaelas, & A Walmsley

Voted No: Cllr. N Osborne

All agreed that in order to remain transparent, the parishioners need to be aware of the reasons behind the rise in the precept. **ACTION** Cllr. S Heeley to begin drafting a statement.

22/128 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE FOR DECEMBER 2022

Cllr. A Walmsley reported on the planning responses from December, only the LPC response to 9A High Street has not been completed. Natural England have agreed for Little Dene to use nutrient credits from Pleasant Farm.

- a. All to note the change in the date of January's P&I to 9th January 2023.

22/129 TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING 21st DECEMBER 2022

Cllr. P Culver proposed, Cllr. M Cockett seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the F&GP meeting held on Wednesday 21st December 2022 are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the F&GP Committee.



22/130 TO CONSIDER PROPOSED TREE WORKS ALONG HAM LANE/ MAIDSTONE ROAD FOOTPATH

Cllr. A Walmsley summarised the works required along the footpath and he is also re-establishing a relationship with the residents of the Russells. Cllr. M Ballard proposed and Cllr. K Hammond seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £3060 and pay £360 deposit to TreePro to complete the works.

ACTION L Westcott to apply for S106 funds to cover the work.

ACTION Cllr. A Walmsley to instruct TreePro.

22/131 TO REVIEW SECURITY OPTIONS FOR THE CROSS

Discussed under public participation – ACTION Cllr. J Britt to write to MP, KCC Cllr. and the police.

22/132 COUNCILLOR RECRUITMENT DRIVE

In order to raise the profile of LPC and try and recruit Cllrs. information events are proposed to be held – these were decided to be held on 4th February and 8th February.

ACTION L Westcott to advertise the events.

22/133 PROJECT UPDATES

None to report.

22/134 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. L Westcott reported that Cllr. N Osborne had received a report of a leak on the tap at the cemetery, L Westcott has been trying to initiate assistance from SE Water to locate the stopcock. Once this is found, the tap will need repairing and the location of the stopcock will be recorded appropriately.
- b. Kent Wildlife Trust sent a newsletter proposing closer working relationships with parish councils.

ACTION Cllr. K Hammond will contact KWT.

The meeting closed at 21:55

Signed as a true record on this day 1st February 2023.....

Chairman of Lenham Parish Council