



Minutes of the Meeting of Lenham Parish Council

Held on 5th October 2022 at 7:30pm at Lenham Community Centre

PRESENT Cllr. J Britt, Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. M Ballard, K Hammond, S Heeley, N Osborne & A Ratcliffe

J Bate RFO, L Westcott Clerk

4 Members of the public.

Public participation

1 member of the public reported a tree clocking a lamppost on the footpath to the community centre. He also wanted to make an observation that as the MBC local plan was suspended due to evidence submitted late, shouldn't the MBC officers also be suspended?

The Community Warden reminded everyone about "Kent Together" advice on cost of living - MBC are running events this week. He has met with the Youth Worker Rob Yorke who wrote an article for the Lenham Focus, Cllr. J Britt reported that he also met with Rob to show him the new housing estates and the recreational areas in Lenham. Lenham Library has been put forward as an idea for a "warm space". PCSO numbers are reducing.

MBC Cllr. J and T Sams reported:

- they will be attending the Alms Houses birthday celebration,
- the food bank continues with 4 volunteers collecting food from the co op every other week,
- Thanks to the Lenham Meadows Trust for a wonderful Apple pressing event.
- thanks to organisers of the Cross rededication service, the information board and plaques are brilliant.
- Local Government Boundary Commission consultation has ended and local people once again feel attacked by MBC's response proposing a new boundary along the A20. Cllr. J Britt reported that LPC have made a response to this suggestion.
- Thanks to LPC and SOHL for excellent representation at MBC local plan inspection. MBC's actions are embarrassing. The KALC representative was also not helpful as KALC are supporting the plan making submissions on behalf of local parish councils, but not consulting parish councils on the responses. KALC have said no substitutes are permitted at meetings, T & J Sams to check this with Harrietsham PC.

1 member of the public couldn't attend but asked L Westcott to thank Cllr. A Ratcliffe for his answers to various questions about the nursery, he also asked if LPC were content with the Focus article and to send him comments, the member of the public continues to be in regular contact with allotment holders regarding the nursery proposals.

22/72 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECIEVED

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. M Cockett, M Michaelas and A Walmsley

22/73 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS

Declarations of interest on Agenda items, Cllrs. N Osborne and A Ratcliffe made a declaration relating to Lenham Nursery school.

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

Requests for dispensations. No requests received.

22/74 NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ITEMS

There were none.

22/75 TO SIGN AS CORRECT THE MINUTES FROM THE PARISH COUCIL MEETING ON 7th SEPTEMBER 2022

Cllr. M Ballard proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 7th September 2022** are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.



22/76 PROGRESS OF RESOLUTIONS

Wednesday 7th September 2022:

- No new members of the public have come forward to be co-opted, L Westcott to check how close to elections in May 2023 Cllrs. can be co-opted.
- Warren Lands – court "Stop" notice has been issued by MBC to occupiers.

22/77 VOTE ON COUNCILLOR CO OPTIONS FOR NORTH WARD

No interested members of the public attended the meeting, further advertisement is required.

22/78 FINANCE

a. Responsible Financial Officer Report by J Bate:

Balance in account at 30/09/2022 £235,926.57, income = £2112 (from cemetery)

- Report on External Audit Findings – All required information sent in May two weeks before deadline. The audit is now complete and published.
- Budget – work has begun budget for 23/24, bill rates are changing, so utilities are difficult. J Bate, L Westcott and Cllr. N Osborne to begin looking at details. All Cllrs. must send J Bate the information relating to planned projects. Final agreement of the budget will be needed at F&GP in December.
- To note payment for rat survey – an emergency payment was made to allow for completion of a survey for rats in the churchyard.

b. To authorise payments for October – tabled below:

Name	Frequency	Description	Date	Amount
Arthur Gallagher Insurance Brokers	Annual	Parish Council Insurance policy	03/10/2022	2722.57
Chequers Fish Bar	One off	Cross Rededication ceremony	06/09/2022	193.95
CPS Management Service	One off	Re-surfacing of the skate ramp (WPF)	04/10/2022	6992.40
Down to Earth Maintenance	Monthly	Grass cutting at churchyard, SID work, remove tree at Ham Lane footpath	30/09/2022	664.00
KALC	One off	Finance Conference	05/10/2022	72.00
Landmark Chambers	Ad Hoc	MBC Local Plan inspection legal fees (James Neill)	03/10/2022	8400.00
Lenham Community Centre	Quarterly	Room Hire	30/09/2022	178.00
Nathan Beale	Monthly	Litter Picking and dog bins	30/09/2022	695.00
PJF Littlejohn	Annual	External Audit fees	27/09/2022	960.00
Clerksroom	Ad hoc	MBC Local Plan inspection legal fees (Simon Bell)	01/09/2022	2820.00
Clerksroom	Ad hoc	MBC Local Plan inspection legal fees (Simon Bell)	04/10/2022	11220.00
South East Water	Quarterly	Office wastewater and clean water bill	16/09/2022	61.99
TOTAL				34979.91

Payment for Castle Water has been removed – **ACTION** Cllr. N Osborne and L Westcott to check what this is for.

Invoice for PMC Planning will be covered by external funding.

Cllr. S Heeley proposed, Cllr. K Hammond seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make these payments.

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

22/79 TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS AND MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION MEETINGS 26th SEPTEMBER

Cllr. P Culver proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the reports and minutes of the P&I meeting held on Monday 26th September 2022 are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the P&I Committee meeting.



- a. MBC Local Plan Update – Cllr. J Britt reported that Harrietsham Parish Council are now legally represented by Simon Bell and LPC will use James Neill. **ACTION** Cllr. J Britt to request a summary / projection of costs.
- b. Road Safety Improvements outside Alms Houses – Cllr. N Osborne reported that vehicles are parking directly outside one of the new alms houses and options need to be considered to deter parking here. It was decided that LPC would support an application to restrict parking, the Alms Houses need to submit the application.
- c. To approve insurance cover for 22/23 – Cllr. P Culver proposed and Cllr. A Ratcliffe seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to pay insurance cover at £2722.58.
- d. Local Government Boundary Commission – Cllr. J Britt reported that he has submitted the agreed response from LPC. There has also been incorrect information provided by MBC Cllr. Cooper at the recent MBC council meeting, **ACTION** Cllr. J Britt to write to Cllr. Cooper to correct report made at MBC council meeting.

22/80 TO CONSIDER RESULTS FROM RAT SURVEY AND THE COST OF TREATMENT IN CHURCHYARD AT £660

Cllr. M Ballard proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to pay £660 to permit treatment for removal of rats in the churchyard.

22/81 TO CONSIDER GRANT APPLICATION OF £500 FOR LENHAM CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Cllr. K Hammond proposed, Cllr. P Culver seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the grant for £500 for the Lenham Christmas Lights Group.

22/82 TO CONSIDER GRANT APPLICATION OF £1000 FOR ST EDMUNDS CENTRE AT PLATTS HEATH

Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. M Ballard seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the grant for £1000 for the St Edmunds Centre in Platts Heath. This is larger amount than has been accepted for any grant before, but is a one off as part of ongoing plans to make the centre more energy efficient and it will also benefit a large proportion of the parish.

22/83 TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR ARCHIVING THE QUEEN'S CONDOLENCE BOOK

L Westcott reported that KALC have advised on two options for archive – contact MBC or send to the Kent Archive Centre. All agreed for it to be sent to the Kent Archive Centre. **ACTION** L Westcott to make contact and send the book.

22/84 LENHAM SWIMMING POOL UPDATE

Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that he met with the headmaster of the Lenham School. They are keen to engage with the community, but cannot provide funding. The swimming pool presents a H&S risk due to the deep water. There are not enough teaching spaces on the site and this is a higher priority at present.

22/85 RECREATIONAL /PLAY AREAS – ACTION PLAN

The action plan will be reviewed at F&GP in line with budget proposals for 23/24.

- a. Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. P Culver seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to purchase a surface repair kit for £255 for Ham Lane play park damaged safety surface.

22/86 TO CONSIDER PURCHASING WINTER PANSIES FOR VILLAGE PLANTERS UP TO £500

Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. P Culver seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to purchase winter pansies up to £200.

22/87 TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS UPGRADE IN SANDWAY

All agreed no objections.

22/88 PROJECTS UPDATES

- a. The Nursery – Cllr. N Osborne reported that the nursery is holding a fundraising quiz night on 19th November.
- b. The Cross – Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that he is working with a member of the public on a publication.
- c. Remembrance Day – Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that a church service will be held at 10:15 with a procession to the cemetery and a programme will be publicised. Three wreaths are needed for LPC. **ACTION** L Westcott to order wreaths.



22/89 CORRESPONDENCE

L Westcott has been contacted by Amiga to ask if we wish to pursue with CCTV assistance. All agreed to not pay £100 to download data, but review options for upgrading the system in 23/24 budget.

L Westcott reported that a You Tube channel called Phoenix History have requested to film the Lock Up. All agreed this will be okay, but further information is required on how much would need to be removed from inside.

The meeting closed at 22.05

Signed as a true record on this day 2nd November 2022.....

Chairman of Lenham Parish Council