

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 September 2018 in the Memorial Hall, Lower Halstow.

Present: Cllr Rob Smith (Chair); Cllr Keith Howard-Challis (Vice-Chair); Cllr Allyson Beerstecher; Cllr Steve Gates; Cllr Steve Parker; Cllr Dewar-Whalley and 13 members of the public were in attendance.

1. Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone. Apologies were received from: Cllrs Dadson, Stokes and Whiting.

2. Declarations of Interest

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

b) Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interests

None

3. Public Session

The Parish Council were asked if they would look into a devolved Parish Council agreement in respect of the verge cutting in Lower Halstow.

There was a complaint in respect of the cigarette ends and lack of maintenance outside the shop.

A resident spoke requesting the support of the Parish Council for development of small bungalows in Lower Halstow that would allow residents, who wish to stay in the village, to downsize.

A resident raised the issue regarding the trampoline in the play area that has been vandalized and the springs are missing. The Parish Council are aware, it has been made safe and will be taking action to get it repaired. The same resident also informed the council that there are large weeds in the alley between Burntwick Drive and Cumberland Drive. Land South Side of School Lane is looking a mess at the side of the road. In respect of the town crier requested for the World War One commemorations had the Parish Council thought of asking for a volunteer from the village? Councillor Gates will look into it.

Another resident raised the problem of parking on the grass verges. The PCSO advised that Swale Borough Council could issue tickets for cars parked on grass verges. Cllr Dewar-Whalley suggested writing to Swale Borough Council, Customer Services.

Friends of the Brickfields have raised money for the two "There but not there" Tommies that will be placed at the War Memorial.

A further resident wanted to bring the to the Council's notice that the weeds in the stream near the Three Tuns are choking it. He was informed that the Parish Council have this in hand.

Presentation by Mr M Drury – Proposed Planning Application

A year ago Mr Drury submitted a planning application on behalf of the landowner, Mr Kemsley, on land behind the recent new development in School Lane. Swale Borough Council declined it. One of the concerns was that the application was not subject to a bone fide survey, which would have lent support to the proof of demand. To address that, Mr Drury has commissioned a survey of a prepaid card, sent through the letterboxes of Lower Halstow residents, with one simple question – Would you be interested in a retirement bungalow in the village if someone built it? 32 residents were very keen. The results have shown that there would be three residents interested in each of nine bungalows. Mr Drury is seeking to know if the Parish Council would be minded to support another application. At the time of the original application the four houses recently built were not there, that development is now finished. All the services were put in with the capability of serving a small development of nine bungalows. Mr Drury suggested that local residents would be offered first refusal within the first twelve months after they were completed, after that if the uptake were not complete, they would be offered wider. Each bungalow would have it's own parking space on the plot or immediately

at the front and there would be nine visitor parking spaces. To prevent any suggestion that this is a stalking horse for anything bigger a community orchard or a little woodland would be planted around it, paid for by the residents of the bungalows but it would be under an agreement with the Parish Council, or someone else, so that the development cannot creep beyond its boundaries. The sustainable drainage system would be extended for the extra nine bungalows. Being single storey they would tuck into the landscape.

Mr Drury thanked the Parish Council for their time.

4. Visitors reports or comments

- a) Cllr Dewar-Whalley had nothing to report, as August was a quiet month.
- b) KCC Councillor - No report.
- c) PCSO Cork reported that crime has been low in Lower Halstow with no reports of anti-social behaviour. Reporting is easy: residents can ring 101 or report online. Discussions on Facebook don't count!
- d) Friends of the Brickfields reported progress with the firebreak. A photographic competition held has resulted in more recruits. Work parties will be held during September, October and November. A project in mind is for an interpretation board for the entrance.

5. To agree Minutes of the July meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on 3rd July 2018 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis and seconded by Cllr Gates. All were in favour. The minutes were duly signed.

6. To discuss and agree action on the following:

- a) To vote on Co-option of new councillor.
Notice of a vacancy had been posted and no election had been called, the Parish Council can co-opt a Member to fill the vacancy. An application has been received from Mr E Stiles and has been circulated to Councillors. Mr Edward Stiles was proposed as a Lower Halstow Parish Councillor by Cllr Beerstecher and seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis. Carried unanimously.

Councillor Gates left the meeting before item 6b was discussed.

- b) Car Park proposals for Westfield/Allotments:
 - i) Termination notices for particular allotments:
Further to a survey held for residents of Westfield and Club Cottages and the receipt of a letter from the landowner giving permission for change of use of some of the allotments at Westfield, a year's notice to quit with an expiry date of 29th September 2019 will be sent to the allotment holders of plots: 19; 20; 20b and 21.

Action: Clerk
 - ii) Preliminary enquiry concerning planning permission.
The Clerk will contact Swale Borough Council to ask for preliminary advice in obtaining planning permission for change of use of allotments to a car park.

Action: Clerk

7. Correspondence - To discuss and agree action on the following:

- a) Parish Councillors Allowance.
A policy for payment of the Parish Council Allowance will be developed at the next Finance sub-committee meeting. Cllr Beerstecher proposed to pay ex-councillor Sue Hartfree the Parish Councillors allowance, seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis. Carried unanimously.

Action: Clerk

- b) Letter requesting 4 trees to be planted on the Recreation Ground.
It was agreed that Cllr Beerstecher would investigate through Friends of the Brickfields and report back.

Action: Cllr Beerstecher

- c) Letter requesting hedgerows between Vicarage Lane and Neptune bungalow to be cut and re-surfacing of Church Path.
The Clerk will pass this request to KCC Highways

Action: Clerk

- d) Consultation from Swale Borough Council – Swale Cycling and Walking Policy Framework 2018-2022
Deferred until the next meeting.

8. Finance

- a) Landscape Services quote for tree inspection:
It was proposed to accept the quote received from Landscape Services for £977.00 by Cllr Beerstecher, seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis. Carried unanimously.

Action: Clerk

- b) To discuss donation to Pensioners Christmas Party:
It was proposed by Cllr Beerstecher to donate £100 to the over 60's Christmas Party, seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis. Carried unanimously.

Action: Clerk

- c) To discuss charge for Brickfields car park usage for Ad hoc groups:
It was proposed by Cllr Beerstecher that donations towards St Margaret's Church, Lower Halstow, to be sent to the Clerk, are requested from ad-hoc users of the car park. Cllr Howard-Challis seconded it. Carried unanimously.

- d) To discuss quotes for repair of boundary fence on land opposite Three Tuns.
It was proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis and seconded by Cllr Beerstecher that the estimate to replace the broken wooden boundary posts for £246.00 from Ransley Projects Ltd be accepted. Carried unanimously.

- e) To discuss purchase of latest edition of Charles Arnold Baker publication (11th edition).
It was proposed by Cllr Beerstecher to purchase the 11th edition of Charles Arnold Baker and seconded by Cllr Parker. Carried unanimously.

Action: Clerk

- f) It was agreed to write to Mr Gransden to arrange a meeting.

Action: Clerk

- g) To discuss the Poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday 2018.
It was proposed by Cllr Beerstecher and seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis to purchase the type G civic wreath from the Royal British Legion for £50.00. Carried unanimously. Cllr Smith will lay the wreath at the Church service on Remembrance Sunday.

9. To discuss and agree response (if any) to the following Planning Applications:

- a) 18/503080/FULL Bell Grove Stud Farm, Lower Halstow Lane, Upchurch.
It was agreed to object as follows: There is no sight line on exiting the property. An unacceptable increase in traffic on already busy, narrow country lanes, which will include horseboxes and trailers arriving and departing at unpredictable times. Although this site is outside of the Lower Halstow boundary, it is just on the boundary and will adversely impact on the residents by creating disturbance and noise. The footpaths around this site have been illegally closed. Proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis and seconded by Cllr Beerstecher. Carried unanimously.

- b) 18/503381/FULL Kaynes Farm, Breach Lane, Lower Halstow ME9 7PA

No comments. Proposed by Cllr Beerstecher, seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis.
Agreed unanimously.

10. To discuss and agree action on the following:

- a) **Brickfields**
No report.
- b) **Parks and Leisure**
The trampoline has been boarded over. A repair will be investigated.
Action: Cllr Howard-Challis
- c) **Docks and Barges**
Cost for repairs – research is on-going.
- d) **Burial Ground and Allotments**
No report.
- e) **Footpaths Highways and Lighting**
The insurance company have requested photographs and formal quotes of the missing light in Burntwick Drive.
Action: Clerk
- f) **Planning**
No report
- g) **Handyman**
No report.
- h) **General/Miscellaneous Topics**
Due to a litter problem brought up at the beginning of the meeting it was agreed to arrange a litter pick in October, requesting volunteers via the Village News.

11. To acknowledge Reports on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council:

- a) **KALC Rep**
Cllr Howard-Challis reported that Central Government is intending to implement 20 mph in parishes all over the Country and speed watch is no longer favoured due to the volunteers being threatened.
The next KALC meeting is next week.
- b) **Memorial Hall Rep**
No report.

12. Clerks Report:

The Clerk has paid in £5.00 for a brickfield combination code and the bank balance is £63485.98 as of 31 July 2018.

It was proposed by Cllr Beerstecher and seconded by Cllr Parker that the invoices are authorised for payment (Cheque List below). Carried unanimously.

13. Items for information only:

Items for Village News:
Litter pick

14. To receive agenda items

Devolved Parish Agreement with KCC in respect of verge cutting.
Formation of a Planning sub-committee

Date of next meeting; 2 October 2018

The meeting closed at 22.10 hrs.

Cheques September 2018

Payee	Description	Amount £	Cheque No.
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust	Hire of Hall 3 July 2018 Invoice: 31	24.00	100384
Edwin Ward	Work to fence (Dock Wall) Invoice date: 5/8/18	816.00	100385
Commercial Services Trading Ltd	1 st half yearly charge as per contract Grounds Maintenance 2018-08-30 Invoice: LS189452	1492.98	100386
JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dispenser dog glove refill waste bags Invoice: 18595	118.92	100387
KALC	Courses: 2 x Councillors Conference Invoice: 6848	144.00	100388
Mrs A Beerstecher	Reimbursement of expenses National gift cards for Best Front Garden Competition	£90.00	100389

Date:

Signed:

**Cllr. R. Smith.
Chair.**