

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 March 2015 at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall, Lower Halstow.

Action

Present: Cllr Steve Gates (Vice Chair); Cllr Chris Mayes; Cllr Steve Parker; Cllr Nigel Randell; Cllr R Smith; Cllr Barry Tucker and Parish Clerk Mrs C Fordham. Borough Councillor Ben Stokes and County Councillor Lee Burgess.

5 members of the public

1. **Apologies** Cllr Mick Drury (Chair) (Business) and PCSO Link, apologies were accepted

2. **Public Question Time**

Concern was expressed about the dog fouling problems in Church Path.

The Council were informed that the Friends of the Park had now officially disbanded and the remaining funds were given to the Council. Thanks were expressed for all their hard work on behalf of the village in fund raising for the new equipment *Clerk*

3. **Declarations of Interest**

a) **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

None

b) **Disclosable Non Pecuniary Interests.**

None

4. **Minutes of the February Meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr Mayes, seconded by Cllr Tucker that the draft minutes of the February meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council be accepted as a true record; all Councillors were in favour and the minutes were duly signed,

5. **Matters Arising**

6. **Visitors**

a) **Report from Borough Councillor** Cllr Stokes apologised for missing meetings recently, but he had had to attend Planning Committee meetings. He had been dealing with complaints about parking at the Three Tuns and over hanging bushes. **He advised that he still had £100 in his member grant fund, which the Council were welcome to apply for.** *Clerk*

b) **Report from County Councillor** Cllr Burgess advised that he had been investigating the provision of sandbags in Swale and had been disappointed to find that the Borough had not made any provision. **The Parish Council had also made enquiries of vulnerable properties and owners had expressed interest in having sandbags. He agreed that the Council could bid for funding for a salt bin.** *Clerk*

c) **Report from PCSO Link** PCSO link had advised that there had been criminal damage to a car in Landrail, but there had been no other incidents.

7. **Decision / Actions / Proposals**

a) **Emergency Plan**

Cllr Randell asked Councillors to comment on the latest draft by the end of the week. He advised that there were no longer any KCC snow plough attachments in Lower Halstow; they were held in Upchurch and Newington. *All Cllrs*

It was not possible to use the School as an emergency centre but the owners of the Three Tuns had agreed to let their premises be used.

b) **CCTV**

There were two quotes to upgrade the CCTV £450 plus VAT and £310 plus VAT, which included upgrading the cabinet. **It was proposed by Cllr Mayes, seconded by Cllr Tucker that the quote for £310 be accepted; all were in favour.** *Clerk*

c) **Funding/Project Working Party**

It was agreed that draft terms of reference for the Working Party be drawn up for consideration at the next meeting. Cllrs Drury, Gates, and Tucker were interested in being part of the Working Party. *Clerk*

8. **Correspondence**

- a) KALC of 4.2.15 – No Capping on Parish Council precepts.
- b) Lee Burgess of 4.2.15 – Enquiring whether there was any requirement for Sandbags in the village? The Chair had consulted affected residents. *Chair*
- c) J Tutt of 4.2.15 - Copy of Dunkirk Council's reply to SBC statement of Intent
- d) SBC of 5.2.15 – Application for Disabled bay outside 5 Bell Cottages.
- e) KALC of 6.2.15 – Suggested Training policy. **The Clerk was asked to draw up a policy for consideration by the Council.** *Clerk*
- f) SBC of 6.2.15 – Nominations Paper available from 16.2.15
- g) SBC email of 23.2.15 – Inside Track funding ideas.
- h) SBC email of 23.2.15 – SAC agenda for 2.3.
- i) SBC email of 23.2.15 – JTB agenda
- j) SBC email of 26.2.15- Election arrangements
- k) Carnegie Trust email of 26.2.15 – Lost playing fields.
- l) SBC of 27.2.15 - Swale Trustee Event on 19.3.15
- m) KCC of 27.2.15 – KCC Employment Law update
- n) Resident of 24.2.15 – complaint about not knowing about the Swale Rural Forum Meeting.

9. **Planning**

- a) The Clerk informed Councillors that Gladman Development has submitted an outline application for 300 homes at Pond Farm Newington. The Council were concerned about the lack of facilities in the area, the additional traffic this would create and the extra pressure this would have on local services. **The Clerk was asked to submit the Council's comments to the Planning Department.** *Clerk*
- b) SBC Planning Application 14/504464. The Planning Officer had asked for an extension on the deadline to decide the application for the occasional car park on the Brickfields. Councillors agreed. The deadline would now be 13 March. *Clerk*

10. **Clerk's Report** There were no additional items to report.

11. **Finance**

Payee	Description	Amount £	Cheque No.
Information Commissioners Office	Annual Data Protection Registration	35.00	100138
Action With Rural Communities	Annual Subscription	35.00	100139
Branchett Ltd	Grass mowing 2014	3250.00	100140
	Weedspraying	60.00	
	Hedge trimming	435.00	
	Burial Ground and prunus tree	295.00	
	Total	4040.00	

Under the Local Government Act 1972 (Sch 2) the signing of the cheques, was proposed by Cllr Mayes, seconded by Cllr Gates; all Councillors were in favour and the cheques were duly signed.

It was proposed by Cllr Mayes, seconded by Cllr Smith that Cllr Randell be authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Parish Council; all were in favour.

Clerk

It was proposed by Cllr Mayes, seconded by Cllr Parker that Cllr Gates be authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Parish Council; all were in favour.

Clerk

12. Reports from Members

a) Memorial Wood

The plaque was still awaited. There would shortly be a FOTB working party. The future cutting arrangements for the Brickfields area needed consideration

All Cllrs

b) Memorial Benches

On discussion it was agreed that the Council would accept donations towards the cost and upkeep of benches on the Brickfields, but there would be no memorial to individuals on the benches at all. A bench was needed in the Memorial Wood, and other benches would be sited by the council as and when they decided. A minimum donation of £200 would be required; a record of donations would be kept. It was noted that the bench in the Burial Ground needed replacing.

The Clerk would draft a policy on Memorial Benches.

Clerk

c) Footpaths Highways and Lighting.

The light outside 6 Cumberland Drive wasn't working properly. The Dog Warden would be asked to visit the Church Path area to deal with owners who were not clearing up after their dogs.

*Clerk
Clerk*

The Street needed resurfacing and there were problems at the bottom of Basser Hill.

Clerk

The sight lines at Crouch Hill court were still obstructed and the Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Engineer again

Clerk

Concern was expressed about the uneven nature of the paving slabs outside the shop. The Clerk was asked to contact the owners.

Clerk

d) Burial Ground

Signs were needed for the new bins

Clerk

e) Allotments

f) KALC

Cllr Smith had attended the Swale Area Committee. There was no feedback on the School Parking problems. Items had been raised about loss of Hedgerows and lack of Bridleways in the area. There had not been any progress on the SBC Statement of Intent. There had been talk from a Community First Responder.

g) School Governor

h) Play Area and CCTV

i) Mobile Phone Reception.

Cllr Randell would include an article in the Newsletter about how to boost a mobile phone signal in your house.

Cllr Randell

j) **Newsletter**

Mobile phones, Working party, dog fouling and elections.

k) **Brickfields**

i) General Matters

ii) Edith May

iii) Car Park

iv) Westmoreland it was understood that the initial funding bid would be submitted in March

13. **Any Other Business**

The provision of recording equipment was still under consideration

Clerk

The Annual Assembly would be held on 7 April; the only additional item for the agenda for far was the Emergency Plan.

14. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 7 April, immediately following the Annual Assembly of the Parish which was due to start at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Date:

Signed:

Cllr M Drury
Chair