

Minutes of the Monthly Council Meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on Tuesday 3rd March 2020 in the Memorial Hall, Lower Halstow.

Present: Cllr K Howard-Challis (Chair); Cllr R Smith (Vice-Chair); Cllr A Groves; Cllr T Portman; Cllr A Smith; Cllr E Stiles; Cllr M Szabo; Mrs A Smith (Clerk); PCSO Lee Fennel and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apology were received from Cllrs Woodford and Whiting.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary Interest

Cllr A Smith declared a pecuniary interest in 8(b).

3. Public Session

The Parish Council were given an update on the progress of the VE75 event programme and were asked if any of the Parish Councillors would volunteer as stewards for the Beacon Lighting.

Lower Halstow Surfers Against Sewage requested permission to do a litter pick on the Brickfields on the 25th or 26th April 2020.

Regarding the Notification of Appeal for planning proposal 19/500764/OUT, it was stated that in the opinion of Borough Council planners and KCC Highways, parking will not be an issue as there are, including garages, 41 spaces for 10 properties and that the widening of the road will benefit the traffic flow, local residents and access to and from the site.

Concerning the England Coast Path consultation, it was related that there is a lot of support to get the road safety issues identified by Kent Highways addressed and in particular, 20 mph signage for the stretch of road from Basser Hill down into Lower Halstow.

It was reported that the culvert at the bottom of Chapel Hill has not been cleared resulting in flooding in the Cricket field. There is also a large puddle at the bottom of Basser Hill and at the Stray, so any culverts in those areas also need clearing.

The Parish Council were asked if they had a plan regarding the Covid-19 coronavirus outbreak and they do have an Emergency Plan in existence.

4. Visitors reports or comments

a) The meeting was given a presentation from George Chandler regarding Broadband Voucher Scheme and possible improvements to Broadband in the village, followed by a question and answer period. Research will be done to see how much interest there is in the village to form a group so that this can be investigated further.

b) Report from KCC Councillor Mike Whiting:

The discussions about the A2 closure by SGN continue, and I have got assurances from the Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott that a dedicated police resource is to be allocated to work through the traffic management and enforcement plans with SGN and with KCC, which is a massive step forward. As members will know, there will be an HGV ban along the A2 and lorries are already banned, except for access, through the lanes and village either side of the A2. It's up to the police to enforce that.

Also, KCC has said it will visit the lanes to check on things like hedges to make sure they are properly cut back, and your councillors requested some yellow lines in The Street to improve sightlines and reduce the risk of traffic jams when the roads are busier because of the A2 closure.

c) SBC Councillors:

No report

d) PCSO:

There was a report of a loose dog, but there were no injuries to dogs or people. The Police do not deal with dog on dog attacks. An abandoned vehicle was reported, but it was not left in a dangerous place or causing an obstruction. This will be dealt with by the local council and will be removed within 14 days. Some youths who were using ramps as jumps for their bikes were advised to move to a safer position, away from the road.

e) Friends of the Brickfields.

No report, apology received.

5. To agree Minutes of the Meetings held

It was resolved to agree the Minutes for the meeting held on 4th February 2020 and they were duly signed.

6. Correspondence

- a) Consultation Highways England M2 J5.
Noted.
- b) Have Your Say on Phone Box Removal – consultation Swale Borough Council
Noted.
- c) England Coast Path - The Parish Council can only raise an objection regarding their own land and it was resolved they will not make a representation to Natural England regarding residents land.

7. Matters Arising

- a) Repairs to step from sea wall down past reed bed on the Brickfields site. Awaiting quotes.
- b) Work to be done on access points to the Brickfields at Heron Close. Awaiting quotes.
- c) Supply and fit handrail at entrance point to the Recreation Ground at the School Lane entrance point. Quote to be sought.

Action: Clerk

- d) Planting trees on Gibbs amenity land. Cllr Portman will do further research and will aim to plant in October or November 2020.

Action: Cllr Portman

- e) Planting trees on Recreation Ground. Cllr Portman will do further research with an aim to plant two trees in October or November 2020

Action: Cllr Portman

8. Finance

- a) It was proposed by Cllr A Smith, seconded by Cllr Szabo to approve funds for difference between spend budget and grant offered from Swale Borough Council for VE75 events. Agreed unanimously.
- b) It was proposed by Cllr R Smith, seconded by Cllr Szabo to approve the quote for £1760 for the knee rail for the car park at Westfield Car Park. Agreed unanimously.

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

- a) None received.
- b) Notification of Appeal lodged with the Planning Inspectorate. 19/500764/OUT.
Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved except access) for the demolition of former farm buildings/garage and erection of 10 no. two, three and four bedroom dwellings with garages, associated landscaping and parking, together with new access and part widening of Breach Lane.
Location: Land adjoining Westfield House, Breach Lane, Lower Halstow.
Noted.

10. To discuss and agree action on the following:

a) **BRICKFIELDS & PLANNING**

Due to the two really bad storms recently there are about 20 trees fallen. A clean-up operation has begun. It was resolved to allow Surfers Against Sewage to do a litter pick of the Beach in April or May.

b) **PARKS & LEISURE**

Nothing to report.

c) **DOCKS & BARGES and CAR PARKS**

Contractors for the welding in respect of the work on the floating dock has been held up because of the weather. There has been response from contractors regarding the Parish Council's request for tenders by the end of March for the dock repairs. A local Civil Engineer has volunteered to do limited project management for the Parish Council in respect of this work. Cllr R Smith has started looking at alternatives to a bank loan. The existing car park at Westfield has had work done to repair the surface and the bay numbers will be re-painted. The planning application has now been put onto Swale Borough Council's portal.

d) **FOOTPATHS HIGHWAYS LIGHTING and HEDGEROW MAINTENANCE**

The road signs at Vicarage Lane have been cleared from the hedgerow and are now visible.

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

a) **KALC Rep**

The quarterly Swale Area Committee meeting is on Monday 9th March. Cllr R Smith will also be attending the Workshop on Section 106.

b) **Memorial Hall Rep**

Nothing to report.

12. Clerks Report:

The Parish Council has received a further payment of £200.00 from Raybel Charters regarding the floating dock moored next to the Edith May. Cllr Portman and the Clerk attended the Burial Ground Management and Law Workshop. The noticeboard at Britannia Green has been blown down by the wind and was cleared away by the handyman. The defibrillator is due to be serviced on Friday 6th March.

The bank balance as at 31st January 2020 is £77235.78

13. Items for information only:

A report from Mr Drury regarding the planning application for nine bungalows off School Lane and the draft legal agreement was read to the meeting.

Cllr Szabo gave his apologies for the next meeting

14. To receive items for Village News and the Website:

An item regarding the Broadband Scheme will be placed.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7th April 2020

The meeting closed at: 8.55 pm

Bank Payments March 2020

Payee	Description	Amount £	Cheque No/Bank Payment
Defibshop	Batteries for Defibrillator Invoice 81446 - £78.00 Annual AED Service Invoice81962 - £198.60	276.60	Bank Payment
Swale Borough Council	Planning Application: 20/500638/FULL	117.00	300004
Mr M S Norris	Payment for materials for New Noticeboard at Britannia Green	702.00	Bank Payment
Lander Planning	Services rendered Invoice: 202004	501.24	Bank Payment
DCK Accounting	Quarterly Payroll Fee Oct – Dec 2019 Invoice: P1644	49.80	Bank Payment
Brian Fitzell	Lower Halstow Dock – Quay Wall Remedial Design Scheme Invoice: 10/2/2020	£600.00	Bank Payment
Kent Association of Local Councils	Workshop – Development and Infrastructure: Section 106 Agreements and Community Levy Invoice: 1258763867	£72.00	Bank Payment
ATS Resurfacing Specialist	Machinery, Materials & Labour at Westfield Car Park Invoice:25/2/2020	975.00	300006
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust Fund	Hall Hire 7 th January 2020 Invoice: 21	25.20	Bank Payment

Other payments:

25 March 2020 Standing Order – Clerk’s Salary - £448.66

Date:

Signed:

**Cllr. K Howard-Challis
Chair**