

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 July 2018 following the Annual Council Meeting in the Memorial Hall, Lower Halstow.

Present: Cllr Rob Smith (Chair); Cllr Keith Howard-Challis (Vice-Chair); Cllr Allyson Beerstecher; Cllr Steve Gates; Cllr Rod Dadson; Cllr Ben Stokes; Cllr Dewar-Whalley and 4 members of the public were in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Cllrs Parker and Whiting.

2. Declarations of Interest

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

b) Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Gates declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6e.

3. Public Session

A resident has contacted KCC in respect of the grass verges in The Street to find try and find out when they will be cut. There is supposed to be five cuts a year with the first cut in July but it has been left for far too long and it is a mess giving an overall bad impression of Lower Halstow.

Another resident commented about parking on the pavement and grass verges.

A resident asked if there had been any consultation from Swale Borough Council regarding the naming of the new development in School Lane.

There were complaints about the verge cutting in Wardwell Lane, Boxted Lane, Breach Lane and The Street. It had been done very erratically; some bits were cut very close taking out hedges, including the roots and soil, in other places were missed altogether. Damage had occurred to residents' property.

4. Visitors reports or comments

a) SBC Councillor Ben Stokes gave an update on the problems at the culvert by the Three Tuns and will try to arrange a site meeting with KCC councillors and Peel Ports.

SBC Councillor Dewar-Whalley reported that he has agreed grant funding towards the laptop for the use of the Clerk and for the WW1 Battles's Over events.

b) Report from PCSO John Cork:

Theft of motor vehicle. Knife found by resident and booked into property for destruction. Brickfields and surrounding area patrol in the evening no problems to report.

c) KCC report from Cllr Mike Whiting:

It has been a very quiet month, which in many ways is a good thing!

I have met with residents in Breach Lane regarding vehicle priority for traffic between the A2 and the village in the narrowest sections of the road. I am working with Highways engineers at KCC to see what may be done to improve things.

KCC is currently consulting on its Public Rights of Way improvement plan and documents can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/rightsofwayimprovementplan. The consultation is open until 12 September.

KCC is also holding two meeting regarding subsidised bus services. The Big conversation meeting will be held at UK Paper, Avenue of Remembrance in Sittingbourne at 7pm on 18 July. Consultation documents are also available on line at

www.kent.gov.uk/bigconversation or in hard copy from FREEPOST BIG CONVERSATION.

This is about how we can maintain or improve local rural bus services such as the 326/7 and I would urge everyone to get involved. The Parish Council will also be invited to a Parish Meeting in Maidstone, organised through KALC.

d) Friends of the Brickfields

No report.

5. To agree Minutes of June meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on 5th June 2018 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Beerstecher and seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis. All were in favour. The minutes were duly signed.

6. Correspondence – To discuss and agree action on the following:

- a) Highways England – Operation Stack Listening Exercise
Cllr Beerstecher will look at this.

7. To discuss and agree action on the following:

- a) Debris at rear of 65 School Lane
Noted.
- b) Traffic Flow: Speed Limit/Speedwatch
Volunteers will be required for a speedwatch campaign.
- c) Fly tipping Crouch Hill Court/Vicarage Lane
Cllr Gates has reported this to Swale Borough Council.
- d) Cutting of Verges
The verges are in a bad state and Cllr Gates proposed that the Parish Council instruct KCC to forget about the daffodils planted so that the verges are cut regardless, seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis. All were in favour. Cllr Gates also reported to the meeting damage caused by erratic verge cutting and that enforcement is required in respect of parking on the grass verges and fly tipping.
- e) Exercise class on Recreation Ground
Noted.
- f) Minutes Production
Cllr Gates requested that the draft Minutes are produced in a timely fashion.

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

None at the time of producing the agenda.

9. To discuss and agree action on the following:

a) Brickfields

Cllr Beerstecher, seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis, proposed that the Friends of Lower Halstow Brickfields Constitution be signed. All were in favour and it was duly signed. Cllr Smith gave thanks to everyone involved.

There is a badly damaged tree at the entrance to the Memorial Wood. A quote will be sought to remove the branch.

It was noted that bottle diggers have started again.

Cllr Gates will present a draft of the Open Spaces Policy at a future meeting.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Gates

b) Parks and Leisure

A quote will be sought for the installation of a park bench at the recreation ground.

Action: Clerk

c) Docks and Barges

The damaged area at the dock will be fenced off in the next few weeks. A quote for a specification for repairs will be sent to the Parish Council shortly. Other quotes are also being requested.

d) Burial Ground and Allotments

The "leaky" pipe at the burial ground has been stolen. The chain link fence along the grassed area opposite the Three Tuns needs replacing.

Action: Cllr Smith

e) Footpaths Highways and Lighting

An overgrown hedge is consuming the streetlight in the turning circle in Crouch Hill Court. A letter will be sent to the landowner to request that it is cut back.

Action: Clerk

It has been reported that there is CCTV footage in respect of the streetlight that has gone missing in Burntwick Drive. This will be followed up.

Action: Cllr Smith

f) Planning

Two planning applications had been notified after the agenda had been produced, both are in Upchurch, but will possibly affect Lower Halstow residents. Cllr Howard-Challis will liaise with Upchurch Parish Council and an extension to the deadlines will be requested.

Action: Cllr Howard-Challis

g) Handyman

Nothing to report

h) General/Miscellaneous Topics

The winner, second and third place for the Best Kept Garden Competition was agreed, proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis. The winners will be notified and prizes awarded.

Cllr Gates circulated a report in respect of the WW1 steering group. The planning permission for the beacon is still awaiting a decision. The next meeting is in July.

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

a) KALC Rep

Cllr Smith reported that there was a very good speaker on the subject of 20 mph speed limits. A new secretary had been elected.

b) Memorial Hall Rep

No report.

11. Finance

- a) Bench for Play Area, recreation ground has been previously agreed and was discussed in item 9 b) above.

12. Clerks Report:

The Clerk has £100 to pay in for car park rents and £5.00 for a brickfield combination code. One car park space is being offered to the next resident on the waiting list.

The accounting statements have been posted to the noticeboards and website.

The Finance work party met on Thursday 28th June. It was discussed that the cost of the street lighting could be met by allowing for it in next two years precept. Forward planning for the dock repairs would be required and councillors are requested to consider the Edith May mooring fees for discussion at the September meeting.

The bank balance is £67058.51

- c) To Authorise Invoices-see cheque list below. Proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis and seconded by Cllr Beerstecher. Unanimous.

13. Items for information only:

Items for Village News: Best Kept Front Garden Results
What the Parish Council Does

14. To receive agenda items

None.

13. Date of next meeting; 4th September 2018

The meeting closed at 20.45 hrs.

Payee	Description	Amount £	Cheque No.
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust	Hire of Hall 1 May 2018 Invoice: 16	24.00	100371
Mr J Knott	Litter Picking and Check of Play Area April 2018 – June 2018	345.00	100372
Mrs A Beerstecher	Councillor Allowance	204.76	100373
Mr S Gates	Councillor Allowance	255.76	100374
Mr Howard-Challis	Councillor Allowance	255.76	100375
Mr S Parker	Councillor Allowance	255.76	100376
Mr R Smith	Chairman's Allowance	409.33	100377
Mrs A I Smith	Salary and Expenses	402.68	100378
HMRC	PAYE Tax	166.20	100379
Streetlights	Lighting Repairs Invoice: 9683	162.90	100380
Mr L Robbins	Independent Internal Audit 2017-18 Invoice: 2018/58	75.00	100381
DCK Accounting Solutions	Payroll Services Invoice: P0981	63.60	100382
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust Fund	Hire of Hall 5 June 2018 Invoice: 22	24.00	100383

Date:

Signed:

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