

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on Tuesday 1 May 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 Mike Whiting and 3 members of the public were in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Cllr Hartfree, Cllr Parker, and Cllr Stokes.

2. Declarations of Interest

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Gates declared a pecuniary interest in item 10a - Tutt's Allotments

b) Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interests

None

3. Public Session

No comments..

4. Visitors reports or comments

a) SBC's - No report

b) Report from KCC Councillor Mike Whiting:

Doctor's Surgery, High Street, Newington^{SEP} This has moved one step closer. The application by Dr Adigwe for a change of use from a hairdresser to a medical facility has been approved, and I have had confirmation from the NHS that the funding is in place. The plan is for the surgery to open in July and Dr Adigwe will be publicising how residents can get onto his list in due course.

Grants - My KCC grant pot has been refilled and I have already told you clerk I am willing to put something toward the Halstow Dock repairs. If any groups in the village need funding then please ask them to email me at mike.whiting@kent.gov.uk.

Other than a few residents' issues, which I am dealing with direct and in confidence, it has been a relatively quiet month in the Parish.

I hope this is helpful, however, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance in these or any other matters.

MIKE WHITING^{SEP} Member serving Swale West

c) PCSO:

Report from the 01/04/2018 to 29/04/2018

Vehicles have been parked up in Heron Close making a noise

Patrols have been conducted in the area and no vehicles have been seen in the area

No reports of any nuisance bikes.

d) Friends of the Brickfields - No report.

5. To agree Minutes of March meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on 3 April 2018 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis and seconded by Cllr Beerstecher. The minutes were duly signed.

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

a) Bench for Play Area on the Recreation Ground – email 7/4/18.

It was agreed to investigate and obtain quotes for a bench.

Action: Clerk

b) Re-location of slow worms from land opposite Westfield Cottages to Brickfields Site – email 11/4/18

Councillors felt unqualified to make a decision and recommended that Mr Tress seek professional advice.

c) Government Consultation. Unauthorised developments and encampments – email.11/4/18

Cllr Smith and Cllr Howard-Challis will be attending a meeting on this subject this month and will report back.

d) Hedge in Breach Lane opposite Westfield Cottages – email. 17/4/18

It was proposed that the clerk asks the owner of the land to reduce the height of the hedge to aid visibility.

Action: Clerk

- e) Little Wild things seeking permission to use Brickfields – email 24/4/18
It was agreed that a further meeting would be needed to discuss the finer details of the request.

7. Planning Applications

- a) 18/501742/FULL. Conversion and extension to existing garage to form a new 2 bedroom dwelling. 64 School Lane, Lower Halstow, Sittingbourne, Kent.

No comments.

8. To discuss and agree action on the following:

a) Brickfields

The Friends of the Brickfield requested permission to erect two “Tommy Silhouettes” at the War Memorial mounted on two low plinths.

Cllr Beerstecher proposed permission be granted, seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis. Carried by four votes to one.

b) Parks and Leisure

It was agreed not to proceed with the Fields In Trust deed of dedication on the grounds that it did not provide the Brickfields with any more protection than was already covered in the covenants on the area. Proposed by Cllr Beerstecher, Seconded by Cllr Gates. Carried unanimously.

Negotiations are on-going in respect of the possible re-routing of the stream.

c) Docks and Barges

Quotes have been requested from two companies in respect of repairs to the Dock West Wall. Quotes have also been requested for fencing off the damaged area and will be circulated when received.

d) Burial Ground and Allotments

No report.

e) Footpaths Highways and Lighting

It was agreed that the contractor would be contacted to start the trial of new LED streetlights in an area where the light has been reported as not working.

f) Planning

No report.

g) Handyman

The gate at the recreation ground has been painted yellow and reflector strips put on it, to make it more visible after a recent accident. The Chair thanked Cllr Dadson for the work he carried out on this and for providing and installing the boards in respect of the dog waste bag dispensers.

h) General/Miscellaneous Topics

Many events are being organised in the village as a commemoration of the end of World War 1, with a focus on those that returned. A planning application has been sent to Swale Borough Council in respect of the Beacon on the Brickfields site.

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

a) KALC Rep

The next meeting is on 28th June 2018.

b) Memorial Hall Rep

No report.

10. Finance

a) Review of rents for Allotments

It was proposed by Cllr Beerstecher and seconded by Cllr Dadson that the rents for the allotments are raised as from 1st October 2018 as follows:

Memorial Hall Site from £21.00 to £25.00

Westfield Site from £16.00 to £20.00

Tutt's Site from £11.00 to £15.00

The motion was carried 3 in favour and 1 abstention.

b) Review of rents for Westfield Car Park

It was proposed by Cllr Dadson and seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis that the rents for Westfield Car Park are raised as from 1st June 2018 from £40 to £50.00
Carried unanimously.

c) Assertions for external audit

The clerk read out the assertions from section 1 of the annual governance statement, part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18, for the councillors to acknowledge, in respect of the external audit to be carried out by PK Littlejohn. The Chair and Clerk duly signed it.

11. Clerks Report:

a) Swale Borough Council has paid in the precept and lighting grant to the bank account.

The Clerk has paid £59.75 in allotment rents. All allotments are now taken except for two at the Tutt's site.

The bank balance is £67,130.67p

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

12. Items for information only:

Items for Village News/Website.

To place a correction in the Village News that the gentleman who cleared the roads of snow was Shaun Bearup.

Best Front Garden Competition.

13. To receive agenda items

Women's fitness group on the Recreation Ground

13. Date of next meeting; 5 June 2018

The meeting closed at 21.25 hrs.

Cheque List

Payee	Description	Amount £	Cheque No.
Sittingbourne Calor Centre	Calor Gas Heater	90.00	100360
Swale Borough Council	Planning application for Brazier on Brickfields (WW1 commemoration)	231.00	100361
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust fund	Hire of Hall 6 March 2018 Invoice 097	24.00	100362
DCK Accounting Solutions	Quarterly payroll fee Invoice P0838 - £42.00 Payroll Year End fees Invoice P0889 - £53.40	95.40	100363
Kent Association of Local Councils	Subscription 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 Invoice 6616	£403.30	100364
Mr D Greene	Refund of Brickfield Key deposit	£20.00	100365
Mr R Hogben	Refund of Brickfield Key deposit	£20.00	100366

Date:

Signed:

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