

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th March 2016

In attendance were Cllrs McCully, Taylor, Moore, the Clerk and three members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Markes and Miss Grundy

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

2. **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record subject to correction of the spelling of Cllr Markes in the attendance.

Item 3i Finance Payments: Receipt of a written request from the Hon Treasurer of the PCC for a grant for both Churches to be put towards the upkeep of the Burial Grounds.

3. **Finance Matters**

(i) The following invoices were approved for payment

HMRC - Paye	£	40.80	Reduced payment due to overpayment
Parish Clerk	£	24.74	Expenses & Stationery

(ii) **Community Space/Play Area:** In her absence, Cllr Mrs Markes provided a written update. Rebecca Booth, the CCC officer dealing with open spaces advised that the money set aside from her budget does not have to be applied for before the end of this financial year. It has been ring fenced for us and should be available when we need it. Cllr Markes has also spoken to Andrew Smith, CCC officer responsible for Parish Capital Grants and is optimistic about our application for a grant towards the new play area.

We are still awaiting signed return of the leases but we understand that the current lessee has passed the paperwork to his solicitor. Although it has been made clear from the start that the Parish Council will only foot the bill for the necessary legal documents to be drawn up as previously quoted for, but will not pay for any extra legal costs incurred by the current lessee and the owner. It was agreed that this should be conveyed to our solicitor.

(iii) **Website:** The clerk was provided with a disc of the selected photographs to be placed on the website, with copyright to Mike Taylor. Members thanked Cllr Taylor who also provided a brief history of the Parish for the website/

(iv) **Information re Smaller Authorities Audit:** Due to the changes in the annual audit from 2017/18, various options have been put forward by the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA), the body set up to replace the Audit Commission. Each Council has the choice of opting-in to the SAAA scheme or opting-out dependent on turnover. By opting-out a council will be responsible for finding and providing its own suitable auditor and for all expenses incurred. By opting-in to the SAAA scheme, very few councils with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25k will be required to undergo a limited assurance audit review or pay any audit fee. All authorities will, however, need to complete and publish an annual return in accordance with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. They will be required to complete an annual exemption form and submit this to SAAA or an auditor specified by them. By completing this form the council certifies that under the Regulations there is no requirement for a limited assurance audit review for the financial year in question. It was therefore proposed and seconded that Lower Hardres and Nackington Parish Council opt in to Group three. (Authorities with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25K).

(v) **Public Contracts Regulations 2015 – Impact on the standing orders and financial regulations adopted by Councils.** The clerk advised that there are new Financial Regulations, one of which shows a change in Contract Regulations, the clerk to adjust our Standing Orders accordingly and any others she feels necessary and bring them to a future meeting for consideration.

(vi) **Workplace Pensions:** The clerk is waiting for the Kent Pension Fund Scheme (LGPS) to contact her. In the meantime Cllr Taylor to make enquiries with another company.

- (vii) Members approved the Draft Level of Reserves below and payments sheet as of 13.02.16. The clerk advised that although at this time the Parish Council has only spent a little over £5000.00 there is well in excess of £3000.00 February Payments to be added to this figure which is likely to leave us with an end of year balance in the region of £9000.00. The clerk is also in the process of claiming VAT payments for the year 2015-2016.

Opening Balance 01.04.15		9844.71
Income Received to Date		
Precept	6103.00	
Concurrent Functions Funding	1841.07	
Bridge Speedwatch Payment 2015	90.00	
NS & I	53.38	
Total	8087.45	
Total Income & Reserves		17932.16
Less expenditure to date		5429.23
Balance		12502.93
Bank Balances as at 12 th Februry 2016		
Lloyds Account sheet 37		5332.69
National Savings Account		7170.24
Balance		12502.93

4. Planning Matters

- (i) Nackington Solar Farm. No further information
- (ii) Bygones Site: It was noted that two of the three caravans had been moved from the site today, However we are advised by the CCC Enforcement Officer that the planning application they are awaiting has not yet been submitted. As there are concerns in the Parish that work seems to be carried out without any information of what is actually planned for the site, and the slow progress of the production of a planning application, it was agreed that we write to the Planning Authority to enquire why the owners of the site are being allowed to carry out work without an application and with no public knowledge of what is proposed.

5. Planning Decisions Granted by CCC

- (i) CA/15/02690/FUL Cooks Farm, Tapleys Hill Lower Hardres.
Proposed double garage.
- (ii) CA/16/00020/FUL The Old Stables, Cooks Farm, Tapleys Hill, Lower Hardres
Proposed rear extension and addition of skylights.
- (iii) CA/16/00062/FUL 7, Faussett Hill, Lower Hardres
Proposed two-storey side extension with new porch and relocated parking area
- (iv) CA/15/02703/FUL & CA/15/02725/LB Little Catts Farm, Catts Wood Road, Lower Hardres.
Demolition of barn and erection of a two-storey linked extension to dwelling.
- (v) CA/15/02695/FUL Cooks Farm, Tapleys Hill, Lower Hardres.
Erection of Stables/hay store and change of use from agricultural grazing land to land for grazing and keeping horses.
- (vi) CA/15/02742/FUL 4, Whitehill Close, Lower Hardres.
First-floor extension to the rear, over existing extension and single-storey rear extension with balcony over.

During the next item the meeting was suspended to allow a member of the public to speak

6. Highways

- Following complaints from residents of Butts Court that they received an eviction notice from East Kent Housing to remove their caravans from the lower car park, the clerk has spoken with the officer responsible for this area and was advised that EKH has received three complaints from other

residents over a six month period that they are unable to park in the top car park after 4pm. EKH advised that no one – irrespective of whether they have a car or caravan is entitled to park without written permission. They further advised that they intend to number all the spaces in the top car park and any visitors or overspill will have to use the lower car park, so they envisage that more use will be made of the lower park. Hence the eviction notice to remove the caravans. The owner of the broken vehicle has also been given notice to remove that vehicle.

A long discussion then took place during which a resident claimed that whilst CCC were responsible for their housing stock there had been no problem with parking but EKH has recently taken over and served the notices without discussion with tenants or residents. She also advised that she has lived at Butts Court for 15 years and parked her vehicles without objection.

It was agreed that the Parish Council write to EKH, Canterbury City Council and our Ward Members, explaining the past and current situation.

- Following our letter to KCC Cllr John Simmonds, the clerk has received a reply explaining that he intends to meet with Highways the following week.
- Lorry Watch: The Speedwatch Co-ordinator has agreed to carry this out but does appear to have some concerns as (1) the Kent Gateway Planner is simply a route map which identifies unsuitable routes due to height and width restrictions.(2) Who decides which routes are unsuitable 3) As 90% are foreign lorries how are they told which are unsuitable

7. Broadband

The Chairman has spoken with two operatives of Openreach who advise that the wires relating to the Petham exchange will be up in March but not commissioned until July.

On the matter of cabinet 35 Canterbury connection there is no news, but we should have something to report at the Annual Parish Meeting on 12th April.

8. Correspondence, Publications and Other Matters of Importance

- There is to be a Parish litter pick on Sunday 20th March from 10.30am to 12 noon ending at the Granville. The Chairman to email all those residents who have helped in the past.
- The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator attended a police meeting and was introduced to the new rural police. It was noted that many burglaries taking place at the moment are farms.
- It was brought to the attention of the meeting that two gas bottles have been dumped in the layby at the end of Bridge Road which neither CCC/Serco nor the Police will move.

Circulation Folder

Map of Electoral Review of Electoral Review of Kent

Clerks & Councils Direct

Letter and coin to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday.

9. Confirmed the date of the next Parish Council Meeting as 12th April 2016 7.00pm to be followed at 8pm by the Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed.....Date.....