

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2019

In attendance were Cllrs McCully, Miss Grundy, Taylor, Moore, Beaumont and the Parish Clerk.

1. **Apologies for Absence** There were no apologies for absence
2. **Declarations of Interest and Update to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Register**
Cllrs Beaumont and Taylor declared an interest in item 7i Highways
3. **To Approve the Minutes of the last Meeting and Matters Arising**
The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.
Item 3 Reclamation Yard: The Clerk was informed by Planning Enforcement that the use of the mobile home on site is there for security purposes and is occupied for that purpose. A Planning Contravention Notice has been issued to establish the facts and to ensure that the purpose for the mobile home is for what is stated.
The communication further advised that as far as the Council is aware the future use of the land is for an architecture salvage yard as per planning permission.
Item Highways: The Clerk reported the overgrown vegetation from opposite Bridge Road to Gardeners Cottage Heppington, but by the time it was inspected by Highways the farmer had carried out the work.
4. **Financial Matters**
 - (i) To consider request from PCC for grant toward upkeep of Burial Ground
A communication was received from the PCC requesting a grant of £1000.00 towards the upkeep of the Burial Grounds to be shared equally between the two Churches in the Parish. We were also asked if we would consider an increase in the funding for 2020-2021. It was proposed and seconded that we grant £1000.00 for the current financial year and agree to consider an increase at our budget meeting in November.
 - (ii) The following invoices were approved for Payment

Parochial Church Council	£1000.00	Grant towards upkeep of Burial Ground
Mike Harris	£ 316.54	Website Management 01.09.17 - 31.03.19
HMRC	£ 54.80	PAYE - February
Parish Clerk	£ 30.37	Expenses & Stationery

On the matter of payment for Website Management a member asked whether we should be expanding the website. The Clerk pointed out that due to new transparency legislation the government funding we received was purely for the setting up of a Parish Council website. However, as it has now been up and running for over three years she could see no reason not to increase information on the site. Members to give some thought to this.
 - (iii) To note and acknowledge receipt of legacy left to the Parish Council and to give consideration to a project on which to spend the money.
Members very much appreciated the legacy of £1000.00 bequeathed to Nackington Parish Council by a past resident. The Clerk has written to a family member thanking her very much for the cheque and for carrying out the wishes of her stepmother.
In the accompanying letter we were informed that the family were particularly involved with Nackington Church and that her parents ashes are interred in the graveyard. Also enclosed was the relevant page of the will.
Members then discussed how the money should be spent and all agreed that it should reflect the Nackington area of the Parish. Two suggestions were made both of which will be followed up.
 - (iv) Members noted receipt of £52.56 NS&I interest
 - (v) To approve the Draft Level of Reserves as at 29th January 2019

Draft Level of Reserves 29th January 2019

Opening Balance 01.04.18		9566.33
Income Received to Date		
Precept	6681.65	
Concurrent Functions Funding	1786.90	
NS&I Interest 2018-2019	52.56	
Total	8521.11	
Total Income & Reserves		18087.44
Less expenditure to date		6056.75
Balance		12030.69
Bank Balances as at 29 th January 2019		
Lloyds Account sheet 7		4730.82
National Savings Account		7299.87
Balance		12030.69

5. Planning Matters

- (i) CA/19/00055/FUL Ivy Lodge, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres
Proposed single-storey side extension to existing garage.
No objection

6. Planning Decisions

- (i) 18/02404 Linden, Langton Lane, Lower Hardres.
Proposed two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension together with associated roof alterations and 3 no. rooflights following demolition of existing single-storey side extension. Granted by CCC
- (ii) 18/02091 Ridgeway House, Bridge Road, Lower Hardres
Two-storey extension to front and side elevation including balcony and rooflight following demolition of existing garage extension and single-storey extension to rear. Granted by CCC
- (iii) Notice Of Proposed Work To Trees In A Conservation Area.
Village Green at the Junction of School Lane and Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, Application No: 18/00392 Proposal: Blue Atlas Cedar Tree - 30% crown reduction and 20% crown thin to re-balance. Removal of major deadwood from crown and pinch back lower lateral boughs. As the Clerk has been unable to make contact with the tree surgeon to see if he had managed to progress the application with Planning it was agreed to ask him to carry out the works for which we do have consent and to provide a revised quote.

7. Highways

- *To report on the outcome re Letter to some Whitehill Close residents relating to overgrown vegetation on the bank in Faussett Hill*
Having enlisted KCC Cllr Northey's assistance to act as intermediary between the residents and Highways, Cllr Beaumont was asked to provide answers to a large number of questions, following which he was advised that KCC Highways had made a mistake in their assumption that the land outside of their rear boundary was the responsibility of the residents whose dwellings back onto Faussett Hill. As a result there is no case to answer. A formal letter of apology was then received by all affected residents, from the Head of Kent County Council Highways Division. The letter also stated the work Highways will carry out on the bank which include;
 - Fell and treat small self-seeded tree/shrub species that are encroaching the footpath and property boundaries.
 - Re-coppicing of all previously coppiced trees.
 - Removal of the lower branches on individual/specimen trees to a maximum height of 4 metres.
 - Severance of ivy on all retained trees.
 This work to be completed by the end of February 2019
Cllr Beaumont was thanked by the Parish Council for his involvement in dealing with this issue

- *To note reply from KALC re lorries through the village*
Following our letters to KALC asking if they can assist us with the HGV problems in the Parish, the Chief Executive responded that the use of unsuitable roads being used by HGVs is a key issue to KALC. They have lobbied Kent MPs and have held meetings with Kent County Council, who have set up a working group, including KALC and the freight industry to consider potential options for lorry movements and to assess what is required to deliver these options. A pilot scheme is being introduced in the Maidstone area to evaluate. A final report will be presented to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation in October 2019. In the meantime KALC states that if we still experience HGV problems we should continue to report them to Kent Highways or the police, depending on the issue.
- *To consider email from Highways re Pavement in School Lane*
A communication from Kent Highways reported that the Highway Inspector identified a section of footway in very poor condition in School Lane, and being mindful of the cost of maintaining the path given the usage and rural location, Highways are considering removal of this section of footway and restoring the verge to grass. During discussion of this item it was pointed out that School Lane needs to retain a pavement as there are a number of dwellings including the Parish Church in the area and the pavement is used for access to all these premises. Also as the road is used by heavy agricultural vehicles pedestrians would have to side step onto the grass verge should the pavement be removed. The Clerk is instructed to report that the Parish Council strongly object to removal of the footway and ask that it is repaired and maintained.

8. Broadband

Unfortunately due to his wife's illness, the Head of KCC BDUK is unable to attend our Annual Parish Meeting but will try to obtain the services of a colleague, but if that is not possible he will supply a written report to be read at the APM.

9. Correspondence, Publications and Urgent Matters of Importance

- The Clerk reminded members that Local Council Elections will take place in May and members should give some thought as to whether they intend to stand for election.
- Cllr Taylor advised that he has now heard from the team prepared to carry out training in the use of the defibrillator and suggested that they select a date – in the meantime Cllr Grundy is to check available dates in the village hall diary.

10. Confirmed the date of the next meeting as 12th March 2019 5.00pm

The meeting closed at 6.25pm

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