

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2019

In attendance were the Chairman Cllr McCully, the Parish Clerk and eight members of the public

Apologies were received from Cllrs Moore and Beaumont, Betty and Michael Munford, Scilla Wright, Carol Day and Betty Young.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018 – 2019

Welcome to all. Do not rush away at the end of this meeting because we have some light refreshments which we would like your opinion on!

What's happened in the past year in the Parish Council:

Planning Applications

17 Planning applications plus several communications concerning possible breach of planning, the most controversial being the Bygones site on which we have received a number of complaints. We have now been assured that the person living there is for security reasons and the only planning permission granted is for a small cafe and the site to be used as an architectural reclamation yard.

Governance Review

A governance Review by CCC has resulted in a boundary change in the Parish. We are losing the area behind the east side of Nackington Road from the A2 to the Kent Salads Site. But gaining the area from the western side of Nackington Road to Stuppington. All of Nackington Road will remain in our Parish

Finance

Due to rising costs and having to set aside funds in the sum of several hundred pounds for CCC's election expenses, we have had to increase the precept to £7480.00 for 2019-2020.

As usual we have granted £500.00 for each of our two Churches. We again granted £250.00 to Kent Environment Community Network towards the legal fees for a Judicial Review. This is all connected to the South Canterbury Development of 4000 dwellings.

On a good note we have been left a legacy of £1,000.00 by a past resident of Nackington, we are currently in discussions as to how best to use the money. We have also received nearly £1,000.00 VAT which all helps to fill the coffers.

The Defibrillator is in place at the Baker White Memorial Hall and a training session for anyone interested is arranged for Wed 29th May. It commences at 19.30 hrs. There will be light refreshments to follow.

Highways

Highway issues never cease and there have been the usual problems such as potholes, signs, overhanging trees, verges etc. You can report these yourselves as it may be quicker than waiting for it to be reported to a meeting of the Parish Council. The Tel no is 03000 818181

This year some residents in Whitehill Close had a nasty shock when Highways stated that the bank between Holly House and Bridge Road along Faussett Hill was the responsibility of the residents and gave them a long list of works that needed attention and allowing only 14 days in which to complete them. Due to the hard work of two Parish Councilors in consultation with our County Councilor, Mike Northey, Highways finally apologised and agreed that the bank did not belong to residents of Whitehill Close and completed the work themselves in early March!

The endless procession of HGV's seems to be increasing and will inevitably get worse when and if Operation Brock is in use. We have therefore asked that the B2068 and other roads in our village are placed on their list of unsuitable roads for HGV use during the operation of Brock.

Public Rights of Way

There have been a number of PROW complaints already this year and our PROW Councilor reports them on line but that system too grinds slowly.

Broadband.

The situation has improved throughout the Parish with the exception of those in Nackington who utilise Canterbury Cabinet PCP 35. We are in discussion with George Chandler, our very helpful Programme Manager at Maidstone, and hope to arrange a meeting with him and those affected by the problem shortly.

The Battle's Over

Remembrance Day arrangements went well. Around 25 people attended the Service and Wreath laying at Nackington. While at Lower Hardres Memorial over 70, plus a well-behaved horse attended the short Service and Wreath laying. The lunch at the village hall was well attended with over 55 people and there was music and even a little dancing. The Parish Council wish to place on record, their thanks to the village hall committee for allowing use of the hall free of cost, sincere and grateful thanks to the ladies of the Parish who arranged and prepared the food and thanks too, to David Harrison for all his work both in the Parish and the Cathedral precincts for the display of crosses, one for each of the fallen who did not return from the Great War.

Co-option and Election.

Last year we were fortunate in co-opting Adrian Beaumont to the Parish Council and he and all the remaining members agreed to stand for election again. It was uncontested but at least we still have a full quota of five Councilors.

Thanks

Our thanks also to local organisations which give some backbone to the village such as the Village News Committee and distributors, The Parish Hall Committee and

Neighbourhood & Speed Watch teams. We are also grateful for the support from City/County Councillors. In that connection we were all saddened by the death last year of Cllr John Simmons, our County Councillor at Maidstone who gave us so much support over the years. He will be sorely missed and our thoughts were with his family at that sad time

Members

My personal thanks go to my fellow Parish Councillors for their patience and support and for their interest in the parish which makes it a very pleasant place to live and also for maintaining their sense of humour when dealing with the increasing deluge of instructions and paperwork which sometimes seems about to drown us!

Finally, I would like to mention our valiant Parish Clerk Sue Shaw. Without her patience, knowledge and sense of humour, we as a Parish Council would be in dire straits. Sue has again suffered serious domestic and health problems this year but has managed to keep the councillors abreast of the many regulatory changes which we seem to be deluged with these days. Thank you, Sue.

OTHER REPORTS AND MATTERS RAISED BY THE ELECTORATE

Reports were received from the following organisations

Lower Hardres Church	Nackington Church
Neighbourhood Report	Village Hall Management Committee
The Parish Magazine	Community Speedwatch Report
Lorrywatch Report	CCC Cllr Robert Thomas

Also introducing himself was the newly elected City Council Cllr Matthew ??

Questions raised were as follows:

- A lengthy exchange on the issue of HGV's using Bridge Road and the B2068 during times there are problems on the M20 and M2/A2
- PROW – Obstructions, out of date and broken styles and the need for user friendly kissing gates.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.00pm and invited all to take refreshments.

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