

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th April 2023

In attendance were Cllrs Miss Grundy, Taylor, Moore, Beaumont, the Parish Clerk and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr McCully

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Miss Grundy declared an interest in item 4i Finance Payments

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st February 2023 and Matters Arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

Item 3 Calendar of Meetings: As the Annual Parish Council Meeting cannot be held before 15th May, it was agreed our meeting be held on 17th May and not the 10th which we were previously informed was the first date after the elections that a meeting could be held.

Item 4iii of 1st February. Notice Board PROW Maps: The Clerk made enquiries with the PROW Team regarding obtaining footpath maps for our notice boards and received the following reply:

Unfortunately, this service isn't something we can currently offer. I have been in touch with Explore Kent about it, who have advised us to contact them in April as they might have the resources in the new financial year.

4. Finance Matters

(i) Members approved the action of the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman in paying the first five payments as shown below.

(ii) The Clerk explained that the village hall ground maintenance invoice comes to £1850.00. As we only receive £1769 concurrent funding and the Parish Council's expenses are £500.00, it leaves £1269.00. Each year CFF includes £140.00 for each bus shelter repairs and painting. As at least one shelter needs attention it was agreed that we retain the £269.00 for this purpose, leaving £1000.00 towards the village hall ground maintenance. Members then approved the following payments

Chris Tanton	£ 450.00	Village Green Maintenance (Paid)
Chris Tanton	£ 1000.00	Village Hall Ground Maintenance (Paid)
Cllr B J Grundy	£ 18.00	Travel Expenses (Paid)
HMRC	£ 93.40	PAYE February (Paid)
Parish Clerk	£ 34.51	Expenses & Stationery (Paid)
HMRC	£ 93.40	PAYE March to pay in April
Cllr B.J Grundy	£ 18.00	Travel Expenses
S. Shaw	£ 28.52	Expenses & Stationery
LH & N Village Hall	£ 100.00	Parish Council Rent 22-2023
S. Shaw	£ 40.00	Ink

(iii) New Noticeboards – Insurance

The Clerk has added the new notice boards to the Council's current insurance policy, they come under the section 'Street Furniture' and has raised the collective figure by £2800.00.

As our insurance renewal is due on 1st June, she has also approached two other insurance companies for a quotation, one of which we are still awaiting.

(iv) End of Year Accounts

It was proposed and seconded approval of the predicted Level of Reserves, Payment Sheet and the Draft End of Year Accounts 2022 – 2023.

It was further agreed to appoint the Internal Auditor as previously used.

Members then proposed and seconded that the Chairman and Clerk complete and sign the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-2023 (AGAR) Certificate of Exemption, this allows smaller authorities that meet the qualifying criteria to declare themselves exempt from sending the completed AGAR to the external auditor for a limited assurance review. On being put the motion was carried.

- (v) Banking – to consider options – Deferred to a meeting after the Elections although after some research Cllr Taylor stated that he is minded that we should remain with NS&I provided we have the appropriate account.
- (vi) HM King Charles III Coronation
Members confirmed to donate £1000.00 towards the Parish celebration event.

5. Elections 2023

The Clerk reminded members that the nomination period ended at 4pm today and by tomorrow we will know whether there is to be a Parish Council election or not. She further advised that the period of ‘purdah’ started on 17th March 2023 until after the elections. During this time the Council should remain completely neutral. Publicity that might be perceived as influencing public opinion and conferring an advantage over candidates or political groups should be avoided.

6. Planning Matters

- (i) CA/23/00173 Little Eton Farm, Pett Bottom Road, Lower Hardres
Application for prior notification for single-storey extension to open fronted storage barn. See next item, Planning Decisions.
- (ii) To consider any applications received since publication of the agenda.

7. Planning Decisions

- (i) CA/22/02463 Land at Merton Lane, Lower Hardres
Erection of commercial units with associated access and car parking following demolition of existing building. Refused by CCC
- (ii) CA/23/00008 Street End Cricket Club, Street End, Lower Hardres
Patio area together with wall. Granted by CCC
- (iii) CA/23/00173 Little Eton Farm, Pett Bottom Road, Lower Hardres
Application for prior notification for single-storey extension to open fronted storage barn. Response from CCC - No prior notification required.

8. Highway Issues and PROW

Following a number of vehicle collisions it was agreed to update the Parish Council’s Highway Improvement Plan (HIP). So far matters we wish to add are stop signs at each road junction entering the B2068 in the Parish, an attempt to extend the 30mph speed limit from Langton Lane to Harmansole, a request was also made at the APM that the 30mph sign when entering Bridge Road is lowered to a height clearly visible to drivers.

9. Confirmed the date of the next meeting as 17th May 2023 5pm

The meeting closed at 6pm

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