

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th February 2024
in the Baker White Memorial Hall Committee Room

In attendance were Cllrs Jane Grundy, Mike Tylor, Adrian Beaumont, Jo Fox and the Parish Clerk. Also in attendance was KCC Cllr Mike Sole.

Prior to commencement the Chairman informed the meeting of the death of Tim Hulme and paid tribute to him as a past member of the Parish Council.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from CCC Cllr Bland who had intended to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Miss Grundy declared an interest in items 4i Village Hall costs for ground maintenance and 4ii Finance Payments. Cllr Beaumont declared a nonpecuniary interest in item 4i.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the last Meeting and Matters Arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd January 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record subject to a typing error in item 9 at the end of the third line which should read ‘The Granville Public House, Lodge Gate’

4. Finance Matters

- (i) To consider Village Hall ground maintenance costs for 2023
The Parish Council received £1946.00 Concurrent Functions Funding for 2023-24. The Village Hall ground maintenance for the year amounted to £2105.00, the Parish Council expense was £500.00 for mowing and the upkeep of Nackington War Memorial area, leaving a total of £1446.00 available. However, as bus shelters are a core function of Concurrent Funding it was proposed and seconded to hold back £446.00 for repair and painting and to pay £1000.00 towards the village hall ground maintenance. On being put the motion was carried.
- (ii) To approve the following payments
- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Chris Tanton | £ 450.00 | Ground Maintenance |
| LH & N Village Hall | £ 1000.00 | VH Ground Maintenance |
| HMRC | £ 93.60 | PAYE (January 2024) |
| Cllr B.J. Grundy | £ 18.00 | Travel Expenses |
| Parish Clerk | £ 17.92 | Expenses & Stationery |
- (iii) Update on draft website.
Cllr Taylor circulated a copy of the estimate for the setting up and ongoing costs of a new website for Members to read and feedback observations. During a brief discussion it was pointed out that some Parish Councils are now using the .gov.uk instead of .org.uk.
- (iv) To consider a second defibrillator and identify suitable location
Following the offer of a free defibrillator, it was agreed to follow this up and if successful in obtaining one, a suitable location would be in the Nackington area along the B2068 between Merton Lane and Langton Lane. It was agreed the clerk contact two possible venues in that area with a view to siting the equipment.
- (v) It was agreed to appoint a suitable tradesperson to paint and repair the Bus Shelters.
- (vi) Members approved the Draft Level of Reserves and Payment Sheet as at 22nd January.

5. Planning Matters

As Canterbury City Council’s website is currently out of action we have not been notified of any new applications or planning decisions. We are informed that the website may be up and running in a week or so.

The following item was taken after approval of the last minutes. The meeting was suspended in order to allow KCC Cllr Sole to speak.

6. Highway Issues and PROW

Update on response to highway letter and HIP.

Following receipt of a letter from the HIP team more or less dismissing our request to have the speed limit along the B2068 reduced to 30mph, Cllr Taylor drafted a response but before sending it he forwarded a copy to our KCC Cllr Sole for his support and consideration. Cllr Sole informed the meeting that he had made a few amendments, a copy of which he has sent to Cllr Taylor. He suggested that we should ask whether their decision is a legal issue or a budgetary decision and if the latter we should request a face to face meeting to see how we may work together

He stated that the research and detail is great and one of the best HIP's he had seen. He added that he would support our request but to inform Highways not to place 40mph roundels on the road at this time as that may be necessary to fall back on if we are not successful in getting a reduced speed limit.

All members were grateful for Cllr Sole's input and thanked him for attending.

7. Parish Council Vacancy

As the Clerk had been contacted by the CCC's Electoral Department to see if we have filled the vacancy, it was agreed to place a further notice in the Parish News advertising the vacancy.

8. Correspondence, Publications and other matters of an urgent nature

The meeting was informed that two large fields in the Parish have been purchased for the planting of vines, one bordering Faussett Hill, Chartham Downs Road and Iffin Lane and the second to the left of Chartham Downs Road bordering Stone Street down to Harmansole A communication was received from a resident regarding the proposal to place six foot high stock fencing around each of the fields and either side of the bridleway They were concerned this will alter the look of open landscape and create a sense of enclosure particularly along the footpath/bridleway.

Members felt that there is very little they could do but to ask for clarification on the fence as to whether two foot of the posts will be underground and in reality the fence may only be four foot high and also whether the horizontal ties between the posts will be wire or timber.

9. It was confirmed the date of the next meeting as 6th March 2024

The meeting closed at 6.15pm

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