

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th March 2024
in the Baker White Memorial Hall

In attendance were Cllrs Jane Grundy, Mike Taylor, Adrian Beaumont, the Parish Clerk and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Jo Fox.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Beaumont declared an interest in item 4i Finance Payments

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th February 2024 and Matters Arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

Item 4iv Defibrillator: The Clerk has been in contact with a venue with a view to placing a defibrillator on their grounds at the entrance, but they already possess one. Having checked the conditions of obtaining a new defibrillator, there are a number of organizations that are not eligible, they consist of police, hospitals and profitable venues.

Items 6 Highways, 7 Parish Council Vacancy, 8 Correspondence: Unfortunately there has as yet, been no response to these items but as 6 and 7 are agenda items there may be further discussion.

4. Finance Matters

(i) Members approved the following payments

HMRC	£	93.40	PAYE (January 2024)
Cllr A. Beaumont	£	18.00	Travel Expenses
Parish Clerk	£	18.67	Expenses & Stationery

(ii) Update on website.: Nothing to report

(iii) Painting and repair to Bus Shelters: The Clerk had not been successful in finding a suitable contractor to carry out the work, Cllr Taylor has agreed to look for someone closer to the Parish.

(iv) To approve Draft Level of Reserves and Payment Sheet: Members noted and approved the Draft Level of Reserves and Payment Sheet as at 20th February 2024.

(v) To note draft End of Year Accounts: The Clerk had prepared a draft paper on the end of year accounts but explained that there are still a number of cheques to be paid in so could not calculate the final figures precisely. She further explained that the Council's outgoing payments will be in the region of £13500.00. The incoming figures are exact.

(vi) D. Day Celebrations: A Committee dealing with this met recently to decide on the preparations. It was agreed that a Service take place on Sunday morning in Lower Hardres Church and a 'Bring your own tea' between 3pm -6pm in the village hall. There will be music and a group singing songs from that period and it is hoped to have a photographic exhibition of the time

(vii) Canterbury District Boundary Changes Consultation.

The Boundary Commission has published draft recommendations for new wards, ward boundaries, and ward names for Canterbury City Council and are now inviting comments on the recommendations. There are three wards affected one of them being Chartham and Stone Street Ward. The proposal is to move Harbledown out but to include Thannington making it a three CCC member ward. The proposal is to name it Chartham, Thannington and Stone Street Ward. The consultation closes on 6th May 24. It appears that Lower Hardres and Nackington Parish will remain as is but there has been a query as to why the built up area of Nackington Road remains in the Parish whilst the rest of the northern boundary finishes at the A2 section.

A member reported that CCC Cabinet is to hold a meeting on 11th March at which the draft Revised Local Plan 40 will be discussed. It appears that Lower Hardres and Nackington will no longer be listed as a village or a hamlet but is now designated as a Local Service Centre. We will learn more when the Plan comes out for public consultation.

5. Planning Matters

CA/24/00193 Chequers, 2, Nackington Road, Nackington Park, Lower Hardres
Work to Trees TPO No 1 1957

- 1) Sycamore in Side Garden. Fell.
- 2) Yew tree cut back from garages and drive by lifting four lowest limbs
- 3) Larch in rear garden. Fell

Members did not raise any objection other than to request that the two trees to be felled are replaced with suitable species.

6. Planning Decisions of Canterbury City Council

Due to the planning website still out of action, there has not been any decisions advised.

7. Highway Issues and PROW

The speedwatch co-ordinator has asked if we could add to our HIP, that due to vehicles overtaking along the B2068 between the junctions of Bridge Road to Hardres Court Road that a continuous central white line is placed on the road. Cllr Taylor pointed out that we have already asked for this but it was refused. However, he will ask again.

The co-ordinator also asked if we would minute that due to retiring members from the team, we require at least another two speedwatch monitors.

8. Parish Council Vacancy

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

On 26 October 2023, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (the 2023 Act) received Royal Assent to amend the Local Government Act 1894 by inserting a new section 19A into the Act which came into force 26-12-23

This allows England to fund church repairs or improvements or property held for an ecclesiastical charity. NALC recommends that its members adopt the government's view when they receive requests for funding. This means that councils can use their discretionary powers to fund such property, including that of other Christian denominations and non-Christian faiths. It applies in the case of:

Specific powers to fund works - for example, repairs to clocks fixed to church property and the maintenance of open churchyards (section 214 of the Local General powers to fund works, where works are not covered by a specific power -

10. Confirmed the next meeting as 17th April 5pm to be followed at 6pm by the Annual Parish Meeting.

As our next meeting is due on 2nd April, the Clerk requested that we delay that meeting for two weeks. Her reason for this is that two days into the next financial year is not sufficient to complete all that is required ie. End of year Accounts, bank statements, submission of Certificate of Exemption from an external audit and preparation of the Annual Parish Meeting which was due to follow that meeting. On being put Members agreed to the deferment.