

# LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026

In attendance were Cllrs Jane Grundy, Mike Taylor, Adrian Beaumont, Jo Fox, Peter Reynolds, the Parish Clerk and two members of the public.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and Matters Arising.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairperson as a true and correct record.

**Item 9 Rural crime – Motorcycle nuisance.** Cllr Beaumont noted that a comment on the village Facebook page stated that permission had been granted for motorcycles to ride on local farmland. Further investigation by Cllr Beaumont found that any such permission is outdated and no motorcycle use is presently allowed in these areas. The council advises anyone witnessing illegal nuisance motorcycle use to contact the local police authorities.

**4. Finance Matters**

- (i) A cheque for the sum of £382.97 was prepared for the KALC 2026/2027 annual subscription. This is to be sent off week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- (ii) No other payments were due.
- (iii) Cllr Grundy presented the council with the paperwork required to amend the banking signatory mandates and access to online banking. Council members and the clerk are to complete the relevant sections and return to the clerk by the 4<sup>th</sup> April. The clerk is to liaise with Lloyds Business in order to move the council's banking online as soon as possible.
- (iv) Cllr Grundy confirmed that the village hall defibrillator will be serviced and pads replaced on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**5. Communications**

- (i) **May Village News** - In addition to the articles previously written, the members kindly agreed to write a short piece about themselves for inclusion in the May Village News bumper edition. The clerk is to collate all the material provided and submit to Claire by the 18<sup>th</sup> April.  
Cllr Grundy will contact Claire Taylor at the Village News with regard to print numbers and payment details for the May edition.
- (ii) Once the defibrillator has been serviced on the 8<sup>th</sup> April, a training session will be kindly arranged by Cllr Reynolds. The date and time are to be agreed in conjunction with the village hall schedule. This training will be advertised in the Village News, on the Parish Facebook page and on noticeboards.

## 6. Planning Matters

The following planning applications were considered:

- (i) **CA/26/00385** - Single-storey rear and side extension following demolition of existing conservatory. 1 Butts Cottages, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, Kent. CT4 5NZ – No particular comments, but the council will ask the Canterbury City Council planning department to take on board neighbours' comments.

## 7. Planning Decisions

The following three planning decisions were discussed and noted:

- (i) CA/26/00243 Mixture of Conifer, Ash, Beech, Cherry, Pine, and Lime trees located to the front of the property - 10% crown lift. Street End Place, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, Kent. CT4 5NP – **No objection**
- (ii) CA/26/00244 Fell 1 No Cherry tree. Street End Place, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, Kent. CT4 5NP – **No objection**
- (iii) CA/26/00245 Crown reduction on row of Ash trees and single Cherry tree on Street End Farm Lane. Street End Place, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, Kent. CT4 5NP – **No objection**

## 8. Highways issues and PROW

Cllr Taylor advised that we are yet to hear further from KCC Highways on the HIP process and safety improvement works. Cllr Taylor and the clerk will be attending the Kent Active Travel Group seminar on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, where there will be opportunities to discuss the parish's safety concerns with the relevant KCC representatives.

At this juncture, a member of the public raised the condition of the local roads and in particular, an extremely large pothole in Church Lane, Nackington. This pothole is located on the road where there is significant risk of injury to the elderly resident living nearby. The council has reported this pothole on the KCC pot hole reporting website.

Wherever possible, the council strongly recommends that residents report potholes they encounter to KCC Highways as soon as possible.

With regard to public rights of way, Cllr Beaumont alerted members to the interference of badger setts adjacent to local public footpaths. Badger setts are protected under the Wildlife and Protection of Badgers Acts and it is illegal to damage or attempt to block their entrances.

## 9. Rural Crime

Nothing in addition to report over and above that noted in section 8 above.

## 10. Correspondence, Letters and other Matters of an urgent nature

Cllr Grundy informed the council that she has received communication from Ann Nicholls concerning an old, dormant Parish Council bank account. The account is with Santander and currently holds £398.34. The signatories the bank holds for the account are all past council members and for various reasons, cannot be contacted concerning this account. Cllr Grundy has passed the information on to the council and the clerk is to liaise with Santander with a view to resolving the issue.

**11. Any other business**

With the Annual Parish Council meeting being held on the 6<sup>th</sup> May, the arrangements were discussed. The clerk is to contact the relevant parish groups, clubs and councillors to invite them to the meeting and provide a report on their activities over the past year. Cllr Grundy is to provide the minutes from last year's meeting for approval.

Cllr Grundy kindly volunteered to organise the refreshments for the meeting.

A member of the public raised the issue of ash trees suffering from ash dieback disease on a public footpath in Lower Hardres. They informed the council that a tree surgeon has advised that the trees are in a dangerous condition and need urgent attention. The issue has been reported to the relevant department in KCC. The clerk is also to contact KKC in this regard as a matter of urgency.

**12. Next meeting of the Parish Council**

The next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 5pm.

*The Meeting closed at 6.05 pm.*

Department

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_