

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd June 2026

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

1. Resident address of council

Further to a recent email addressed to the council, a resident spoke of her concerns with regard to the possibility of a pedestrian crossing in Nackington Road included in the parish's latest HIP submission. The resident gave the council a brief history of the present speed calming measures between the Forland/Gap and the Chaucer hospital junction. In their opinion, the 2 island crossings currently in this location tend to slow traffic down. The concern was that if these were removed and a single full road crossing constructed, vehicles could potentially increase their speed. Another concern was sightlines, as the garages and resident parking on that particular stretch of road would be very close to the proposed new crossing.

Cllr Taylor informed the resident that if a new crossing were to be approved, it would be operated by traffic lights. Cllrs Taylor and Fox advised the residents that during the HIP discussions with KCC Highways, they had suggested a potential advisory 20mph speed limit on Nackington road from the Simon Langton school to the junction with Old Dover Road during school rush hours. It was emphasized that if the go-ahead were to be given, the implementation process tends to take a very long time, with all decisions made by KCC Highways.

Cllr Beaumont suggested that the council forward the resident's email to our contact at KCC Highways for their consideration.

2. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

3. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th May 2026 and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th May 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairperson as a true and correct record.

Defibrillator Training. Cllr Reynolds advised the council that he would shortly be getting dates from the trainer. These dates will be emailed to all council members as soon as they are confirmed.

5. To consider and approve the parish council policies

Cllr Beaumont explained the rationale for the need for the 4 proposed parish council policies. The Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Monitoring policies were voted on, and the members unanimously approved their content and inclusion. The clerk is to arrange for these 3 documents to be added to a new website section entitled 'Policies'.

It was agreed that the Financial Regulations policy required further scrutiny to ensure compliance with the necessary legislation. Cllr Jo Fox kindly volunteered to carry out this task and advised that this was likely to be a reasonably long process. The clerk will assist with this task.

6. Finance Matters

- (i) a. A cheque for the sum of £379.60 was raised for the clerk's monthly salary.
b. A BACS payment for the sum of £233.75 was processed for the KIKK invoice.
c. A BACS payment for the sum of £300.00 was processed to reimburse the clerk for the Zurich annual insurance policy.
d. A cheque for the sum of £133.36 was raised for the clerk's stationery and postage expenses.

In line with item 6.i, of the 6th May 2026 minutes, a cheque was raised for the sum of £296.00 for the Lower Hardres Village News bumper edition costs.

- (ii) The clerk updated the members on the various Parish council bank accounts. Whilst some members now had access to the Lloyds online account, others didn't. Cllr Reynolds informed the members that he had yet to receive a card, card reader or passwords etc from Lloyds. Another issue concerned the authorisation online payment rules, where our mandate requires 2 signatures, but the online system allowed 2 payments to be processed with only one. The clerk is to visit our local branch to resolve these issues. Obtaining access to our NS&I and dormant Santander accounts is ongoing.
- (iii) Zurich Insurance have now advised that the bus shelters are covered under the 'all risks' element of the policy with communication ongoing in this regard. With this in mind and the tight timescales involved, we have renewed our insurance with Zurich for the 2026/2027 period.

7. Local Government Reform

Cllrs Beaumont and Taylor attended the Parish Engagement meeting on the 19th May. The purpose of the event was to provide parish councils with further information on the upcoming Local Government reform. From April 2028, Canterbury City Council will cease to exist. A few key takeaways need to be addressed as a matter of priority for the parish.

The first being, does Lower Hardres and Nackington PC want to merge with other adjacent parishes? Merging or informally joining other parishes may prove advantageous when moving into the new local government reorganisation. In this respect, the 4 options open to the council are (1) Stay as we are, (2) be part of an informal grouping, (3) form part of a formal grouping or (4) merge parishes into a single entity.

Cllr Beaumont advised the members that he would be attending this month's Petham PC meeting together with the chairman of the Waltham PC to discuss the matter. It was agreed that working collaboratively with our neighbouring parishes would be beneficial.

After the Petham PC meeting, Cllr Beaumont will write to the members with his feedback and recommendations on the way forward.

Our submission to the Local Governance Review is needed by the 5th July, so it is therefore imperative that Cllr Beaumont receives feedback from all members as a priority.

The second action concerns the parish boundary. Cllr Beaumont tabled a number of options for expanding the parish boundary and asked the members to provide their feedback on preferred options. Email links for this have been sent to all councillors and again the submission has to be in by the 5th July, therefore responses are required as a matter of urgency. There is a lot of work that needs to be done to complete the submission so time is of the essence.

Cllr Beaumont expressed the view that a Neighbourhood plan for the parish would be advisable. Due to the cost and significant time involved in producing this, it may be prudent to join forces with neighbouring parishes. Cllr Beaumont will contact the adjacent parishes to ascertain their views on this.

8. **Project Development**

It was agreed that future developments would be pushed back in order to concentrate on other parish priorities.

9 **Highways**

With regards to our latest HIP submission, we have been informed by KCC Highways that our proposal for a speed reduction on the B2068 has not been granted. Cllr Taylor expressed his disappointment at this decision, as did all members. In their review of our HIP, both KCC Highways and the Kent Police force found that there was 'no recorded pattern of personal injury collisions or clear evidence of a speeding issue that would justify a reduction under national guidance'.

The clerk is to write to our contact in KCC to request an update on the other upgrade items presently being considered in the HIP.

The Redhouse Lane public consultation proposals were discussed. It was unanimously agreed that Redhouse Lane should be closed off at its junction with Chartham Downs Road. We will write to KCC with the council's recommendation.

10. **Planning Matters.**

The following planning applications were considered:

- i. CA/26/00737 - Single-storey front extension to outbuilding. Street End Place, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, Kent. CT4 5NP. **No comments from the council.**
- ii. CA/26/00842 - Single-storey side extension following demolition of existing conservatory. Parsonage Farm House, Church Lane, Nackington, Kent. CT4 7AD. **No comments from the council.**
- iii. CA/26/00843 – Application for Listed Building Consent for external alterations including single-storey side extension following demolition of existing conservatory. Parsonage Farm House, Church Lane, Nackington, Kent. CT4 7AD. **No comments from the council.**

11. **Planning Decisions of Canterbury City Council**

The following planning decision was noted:

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. **Granted**

12. **Rural Crime**

Nothing to report.

13. **Correspondence, Letters and other Matters of an urgent nature**

The parish has received a number of emails from local residents. The first concerned the possibility of installing air conditioning in the village hall. This is a matter for the village hall committee and will be brought up at their next meeting. The resident was informed of this.

Another resident asked for the council's advice on the overgrown trees and the tangling of telephone wires located on land opposite the village bus shelter. Despite contacting local landowners and KCC, they have not been able to establish ownership of the trees with the problem continuing to deteriorate. The subject of land ownership and tree maintenance is a reasonably common occurrence.

Cllr Beaumont has visited the area of concern and found that the trees are indeed in need of pruning. He has written to the resident, providing an example of a similar issue and advising that KCC is contacted again with a view for them to accept responsibility. Assistance from Canterbury councillor, Mike Sole, may move things along.

14. Any other business

Cllr Grundy expressed her frustration concerning the extremely late notice to close Hardres Court road for resurfacing works. Notice was given on Friday afternoon, with the works starting on Monday morning. This gave little time for the residents to arrange alternative parking.

15. The next meeting date was confirmed as Wednesday, 8th July 2026 at 5pm.

The Meeting closed at 6.37 pm.

Department

Signed _____

Date _____