

# LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026

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

### 1. Residents address of council

Resident, Sarah Letherby addressed the council with her concerns over the tree adjacent to her property on what is considered unregistered land. Her view is that the tree has grown so large that it is now interfering with a power cable. There is a possibility that the cable is a communications cable and cllr Beaumont suggested that the resident contact UK Power Networks as they generally deal with these issues if it is their cable. As the resident has contacted local landowners and no one has admitted ownership of land in question, cllr Beaumont suggested that the resident use the Land Registry website to view maps of the area in question.

Another resident then addressed the council with continuing concerns over the overgrown hedges and the narrowing of the road in the vicinity of Mount Pleasant. Residents and the parish have contacted KCC highways and in their view, this is not of concern. The clerk is to obtain advice from KALC on the matter.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jane Grundy and Peter Reynolds.

### 3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Adrian Beaumont declared an interest in item 11 (CA/26/00573).

### 4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairperson as a true and correct record.

#### Defibrillator Training.

Prior to the meeting, cllr Reynolds advised that due to the ongoing hot weather, the instructor (an ambulance worker) is presently having difficulty in getting time off. The proposal is to postpone the training until later in the year when there is more availability.

### 5. To consider and approve the parish council policies

The scrutiny of the proposed Financial Regulations policy should be complete by the next meeting.

### 6. Finance Matters

- (i) a. Payment of £379.60 was approved for the clerk's monthly salary.  
b. Payment of £400.00 was approved for Carol Castle for the internal audit costs.
- (ii) Draft level of reserves and Payment sheet to be tabled in August's meeting.
- (iii) The clerk has received paper documents for completion from NS&I. Input form 2 councillors is needed to progress. The clerk is to chase Santander on the dormant account issue.
- (iv) Zurich Insurance have now approved the claim for bus shelter repair. As soon as the money is received, the building contractor will be engaged to carry out the works.
- (v) The council has received a request from the Bridge group for additional assistance with the churches' ground maintenance costs. This was discussed with further investigation required before formulating a response.

**7. Local Government Reform**

Cllr Beaumont advised the members that he attended this month's Petham PC meeting together with the chairman of the Waltham PC to discuss the matter of working collaboratively with our neighbouring parishes and forming closer links. Both chairs of Petham PC and Waltham PC are interested in this and also raised the issue of a potential joint Neighbourhood Plan. It was decided that Lower Hardres and Nackington PC's preference would be to submit option 3 (part of a formal grouping) to the Local Governance Review. Cllr Beaumont advised Petham PC and Waltham PC of this proposal.

Cllr Beaumont informed the meeting that, after consultation with the parish members, he had submitted the council's input to the Local Governance Review. This included the boundary extension proposals to the north of the parish. It was noted that, if the parish was to be successful with this, the option to stay as we are, albeit with additional councillors may be the more suitable option.

**8. Project Development**

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

**9 Highways**

From the feedback received from KCC Highways, it seems likely that our safety improvement proposals will either be considerably delayed or not approved at all. We will continue to maintain contact with KCC to monitor the situation and hopefully advance improvements, including the village gateway signs.

**10. Planning Matters.**

There were no planning applications requiring consideration.

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

The following planning decisions were noted:

**CA/26/00573** - T.P.O. no 4 1964 T1 Beech tree located in the rear garden - 3 metre height reduction to previous points and 3 metre reduction to NW canopy. T2 Sycamore tree located in the rear garden - 3 metre reduction to previous points. 15 Whitehill Close, Lower Hardres. Kent CT4 7AQ. **Granted**

**CA/26/00737** - Single-storey front extension to outbuilding. Street End Place, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, Kent. CT4 5NP. **Granted**

**12. Rural Crime**

Cllr Taylor informed the members that he had recently attended a talk in which the local police had said there is a programme set up to deal with motorcycle nuisance. It was agreed that this is a positive step forward and something that could assist the parish with its recent motorcycle issues.

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

**14. Any other business**

No items were raised for discussion.

**15. The next meeting date was confirmed as Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2026 at 5pm.**

*The Meeting closed at 6.05 pm.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_