

**LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7TH SEPTEMBER 2017**

In attendance were Cllrs McCully, Taylor, Miss Grundy, Moore and the Parish Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence** – There were no apologies

2. **Declarations of Interest and Update to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Register**
There were no declarations of interest

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

There being no August meeting the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

Item 3 Defibrillator: The clerk has written to the Secretary of the Village hall asking her to invite all the organisations using the hall to select a representative of their group to be trained in the use of the defibrillator. Following a notice in the Parish News, so far only two members of the public have offered to be trained.

End of Year Accounts: A communication from the External Auditor advised that they had concluded the audit but had raised an ‘except for’ item regarding the new speedwatch equipment not being included in the fixed assets register figure. The clerk replied that it was already included in that figure as the equipment is a replacement. A second email from the Auditor advised they had removed the ‘except for’.

4. **Financial Matters**

(i) Members approved the following Accounts for Payment

HMRC	£ 54.80	Paye – August Paid
HMRC	£ 55,00	Paye - September
M. Harris-shortfall Website	£ 0.38	Paid under Clerk’s expenses
Parish Clerk	£ 30.27	Stationery & Expenses – July August
Parish Clerk	£ 34.76	Stationery & Expenses – August Sept

The clerk explained that she had underpaid Mike Harris (Website) by £0.38p she has therefore paid it in cash and is claimed under Clerk’s Expenses but will be accounted for under website. The clerk further advised that she has spoken with KALC who informed her that we would be able to claim the website maintenance fee for this year – under the Transparency Fund.

(ii) Members noted receipt of £36.00 from Petham PC towards Clerk’s training.

(iii) Members approved the Draft Level of Reserves and Payment Sheet as at 01.09.17.

**LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT LEVEL OF RESERVES**

Opening Balance 01.04.17		10535.02
Income Received to Date		
Precept	6490.29	
Concurrent Functions Funding	1694.13	
KALC Fee for Office Equipment	1369.53	
Petham PC Part share in training	36.00	
Total	9589.95	
Total Income & Reserves		20124.97
Less expenditure to date		5264.24
Balance		14860.73
Bank Balances as at 1 st September 2017		
Lloyds Account sheet 75		7647.41
National Savings Account		7213.32
Balance		14860.73

5. Planning Matters

- (i) 17/01726 Whitehill House, Bridge Road, Lower Hardres
TPO No 2 of 1973 fell Poplar tree. - No objection
- (ii) 17/01917 Land at Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres
Erection of 32 metre high pine tree telecommunications mast together with associated works.
A lengthy discussion took place following which it was proposed and seconded that The Parish Council could not support the proposals on the grounds that the mast stands at twice the height of the surrounding trees in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it will be located at almost the highest point in the Parish and would be visible from many areas both far and near.

The mast will have four 1.2metre dishes and is intended for a private telecommunications network to help create a high speed financial trading network to link London with Europe. The mast is nothing to do with broadband or mobile phone needs, it therefore in no way whatsoever contributes anything to, nor benefits the Parish.

Although the applicant does say that additional communications structures could be added to their mast, without a commitment, members consider this to be an empty gesture and also feel that even if the applicant did agreed to local digital infrastructure, very careful consideration would have to be given due to the height and location of the mast.

- (iii) CA/14/00085/FUL, CA/14/00086/FUL & CA/14/00087/FUL Solar Farm. Nackington.
Members agreed that these applications no longer need to be a permanent agenda item.
- (iv) A letter from CCC advised that they have now adopted the Canterbury District Local Plan which can be viewed at <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/localplan>

6. Planning Decisions

- (i) CA//17/01287/FUL Harmansole Cottage Street End, Lower Hardres
Proposed single-storey garage extension with rooflights. Granted by CCC
- (ii) CA/17/01272 /FUL Harmansole Cottage, Street End, Lower Hardres
Proposed two-storey rear extension. Granted by CCC
- (iii) 17/01187/MIN 2, Highfield Cottages, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres.
Non-material amendment to pp CA//16/02817/FUL for the proposed single-storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory & removal of caravan, to allow extension into existing courtyard & alter first-floor bathroom to WC only. Granted by CCC
- (iv) 17/01601 The Lodge, 1, Nackington Park, Nackington Road, Lower Hardres
TPO no 8 1991 –T1 – Yew – repollard approx. 50cm above the old pollard points – reduce back the lower mid branches/side of crown by 1.5 – 2 metres. T2 – Yew – crown reduce height by approx. 2 metres and the spread to reduce back by approx 3-4 metres. T3 – yew – reduce height by approx 3metres and spread by 0.5-1 metre. Granted by CCC
- (v) CA/17/01208/LUP Bygones Yard, Merton Lane, Lower Hardres
Application for lawful development certificate for proposed café. Withdrawn.
Members agreed the clerk should write to the Planning Authority that despite the withdrawal of the application, there is still great activity on site with a number of vehicles there seven days a week. Scaffolding has been erected and there appears to be the erection of an extension along the back of the building.
- (vi) CA/17/01409/LUP Rivendell, Langton Lane, Lower Hardres, Canterbury
Lawful development certificate for single-storey rear extension. Would be lawful.

7. CCC Consultation on the future of Parish Councils in the District

The clerk advised that Thanington is holding a meeting on September 18th 7.30pm at ARCA, Ashford Road. This is open to residents and councilors and they have specifically asked that Lower Hardres is represented.

There is also a KALC meeting to discuss the same issues. It will be held on 26th September 7pm at Littlebourne Village Hall, and CCC has invited all PC's in the District to an individual 30minute meeting to discuss the District Council's proposals for the review. The clerk has booked a 30minute slot from 4pm to 4.30pm on 10th October.

The clerk had prepared and read a rough draft to help members understand the possible implications of the proposals and asked members for their observations. Following a lengthy discussion and in summary, it was considered the purpose of the review has nothing to do with the improvement of Parish Councils' but is possibly as a result of the failure of CCC to merge with a number of District Councils and has therefore had to look at alternative measures. It is our belief that this is at the expense of the local rural community, and the possibility of offloading some of the District's functions to two or three newly formed Town Councils.

It was agreed that whilst we do not object to the creation of further councils if that is what a town wishes, we do object to the merger or loss of any existing Parish Council.

As CCC is asking residents to complete an online questionnaire, it was agreed we prepare a leaflet drop to households explaining that it can be viewed on www.canterbury.gov.uk/cgr but to also explain that at a public meeting our Parish was used as an example for splitting, due to part of the South Canterbury Development falling in Lower Hardres and Nackington.

8. Correspondence, Publications and Other Matters of Importance

The meeting was informed that during the past year there has been a significant increase in traffic along the B2068. In comparison to the same week last year, the number of vehicles passing through have increased from 250 to over 400.

Due to the confidential nature, this item may be taken with the press & public excluded

Casual Vacancy. There was nothing to report

9. To confirm the date of the next meeting as 17th October 2017

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