

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2017

In attendance were the Chairman Cllr McCully, the Parish Clerk and 14 members of the public
The minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman

CHAIRMANS REPORT

PLANNING

19 plans were considered this year by your Council plus the three solar farm application, which were on every agenda. Also considered twice was the South Canterbury application (Mountfield Park). Your Council objected to this (the largest application the Planning Authority has ever had). Councillors mainly concerned themselves with the transport aspect and were extremely disappointed to see that the developers appear to have paid no attention to areas outside of the site and the effect 4000 new dwellings would have on the whole of Canterbury and its surrounds. Members were also disappointed that the Planning Authority and the developers took the analysis of the transport & pollution document provided by experts employed by South Canterbury Residents and fully supported by LH PC - to pieces, and appeared generally dismissive of any transport problems, maintaining that the development will not make that much difference. It was considered that out of date data had been used

It was considered that CCC has a duty of care to the residents of the whole district and that the broader infrastructure issues should have been addressed prior to allocating and accepting development of the site.

There has been some concern over work being carried out at the old Bygones site without planning permission.

The Planning Authority notified of changes to the viewing of applications – without consultation to the Parishes. They will no longer provide hard copy applications and all have to be viewed on line – which is very time consuming and quite difficult to the inexperienced web browser!!! Your Council reported this to KALC to see if any other Parishes were concerned, KALC advised there were and the Area Committee Chairman, who is also a City Councillor took the matter up with the Planning Authority but the best they could offer was to provide hard copies if a Parish requested them for a further three months – that time is now up.

FINANCE

Another change implemented by CCC (without consultation) is the calculation of concurrent functions funding for the next four years instead of just the one following year. They have made it quite clear that no uplift/inflation will be permitted during the whole period, so Parishes are expected to have the same estimate for 2021 as that of 2017 – of which we are only to receive between 62 and 64% of that applied for - for the full four years.

Your Council set a precept for 2017-18 of £6406.00 which remains the same as last year.

We continue to provide a grant of £1000.00 to be shared equally between our two Churches – this funding can only be used towards the cost of the upkeep to the Burial Grounds. We also gave a grant of £100.00 to Lower Hardres Church to be put towards the restoration of a James Tillard parchment that was found in the archives. We were informed that once restored this will be hung close to the entrance of the Church.

HIGHWAYS

During the past year the Chairman and Mrs McKeever attended a Highways England ‘Managing Freight Vehicles in Kent’ consultation meeting at Sellinge Village Hall to hear and discuss preferences for a new lorry park to alleviate Operation Stack. However, it was apparent that decisions had already been made as in early July the Secretary of State announced that a single lorry area would be provided at Stanford West – just off J11 of the M20. Whilst this was our Parish Council’s choice, no provision had been made to alleviate HGV’s travelling through the B2068 and other minor roads in order to make a shortcut detour. Mrs McKeever had suggested an improved map removing the cut through roads and just showing the major roads that lorries should use. Unfortunately the B2068 will not be removed and therefore likely to be used as an

The speedwatch project continues to be successful and has recently acquired new up to date equipment, this we were able to purchase with the help of our KCC Ward Member’s Fund. This may be an opportune moment to thank Cllr John Simmonds for all the help he has given LH & N PC over the years, not only negotiations on our behalf with appropriate departments but financially also. This year alone he has helped to fund the new speedwatch equipment, replacement of the damaged solar speed sign and the HGV signs advising against lorries using Bridge Road. Due to boundary changes, regrettably John will no longer be KCC Councillor for Lower Hardres and Nackington. So we would like to place on record our thanks he has given to our Parish over the past 15 years.

PLAY AREA

After expenditure of £1275.00 and nearly two years work we were deeply disappointed to receive notification from the owner of the site that he wishes to pull out and is therefore no longer prepared to allow us to use the site.

MEMBERS

Thanks to all councillors and the Clerk for their support over the past year. The Council is particularly sorry to lose Lucy who has decided to take a well earned rest. We wish her well and hope she will return to the Parish Council sometime in the future.

OTHER REPORTS AND MATTERS RAISED BY THE ELECTORATE

Reports were received from the following organisations.

Gardening Club

Village News

Neighbourhood Watch

Speedwatch

The Village Hall

Nackington Church Warden

Cllr Doyle

Cllr Thomas

Cllr Simmonds

There were no matters raised by Parishioners, the Chairman therefore thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

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