

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd November 2022

In attendance were Cllrs Miss Grundy, McCully, Taylor, Moore, Beaumont, the Parish Clerk and two members of the public. There were no apologies.

1. **Declarations of Interest** Cllr Miss Grundy declared an interest in item 4i Finance Payments
2. **To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th October 2022 and Matters Arising.**
The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th October were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.
Item 4i of 7th September Minutes: A letter of thanks for the grant of £1000.00 towards the upkeep of the two Burial Grounds in the Parish was received from the Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council, and a letter of thanks was also received from Bob Thomas on behalf of Nackington Church. Members were sorry to hear of Bob's recent operation and instructed the Clerk to send their best wishes to him.
3. **To approve the Notes of the Public Meeting held on 4th October 2022.**
The notes of the public meeting held on Tuesday 4th October were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record. Cllr Beaumont was thanked again for his presentation
4. **Finance Matters**
 - (i) The following cheques were approved for payment:

Mr D. Harrison	£ 50.00	Nackington War Memorial Upkeep
Miss B J Grundy	£ 18.00	Travel Expenses
HMRC	£ 71.40	PAYE October
Parish Clerk	£ 18.57	Expenses & Stationery
 - (ii) To confirm notice boards order: The Clerk has placed an order for the two notice boards – which has been acknowledged by KBS. She has arranged for them to be delivered to a member's House which will be in six to eight weeks. We will not be invoiced until the boards have left the factory.
 - (iii) Nackington War Memorial: The Clerk received notification from the Planning Authority that it is unlikely that we need planning consent neither do we require listed building consent provided we do not join the hard standing to the War Memorial. The Clerk has also spoken with the Conservation Officer of the War Memorials Trust, she too has no objection provided we use appropriate material. Following discussion, members agreed to go ahead with the design using granite slabs. However, before work can commence we need permission from the landowner. The Clerk to make enquiries.
 - (iv) Members approved the draft level of reserves and payment sheet as at 18th October 2022.
 - (v) To consider estimates/budget for 2023-2024: The Clerk took members through the estimates proposed for 2023-24 during which it was agreed that the contingency figure is increased to £475.00. The Clerk requested members to give consideration to a staffing issue to be taken at the end of the meeting. Following questions it was proposed and seconded, subject to the staffing item yet to be discussed, that we set a standstill budget of £11922.00.
 - (vi) Members finalized the addition of two more signatories to the NS&I bank account.
5. **Planning Matters**
 - (i) There were no applications this month. Members noted that it has been very quiet recently with little or no applications and felt it may be a response to rising inflation.
 - (ii) Draft Local Plan and Parish Consultation: Cllr Beaumont has read the full 600 page document on CCC's website, he highlighted a number of issues that may affect our Parish and on the whole found it to be a reasonable plan for the rural parishes. Negative issues are the highway proposals, traffic and lack of public transport.

- (iii) Design Statement – Public Meeting
The Chairman and Cllr Beaumont were pleased at the public turnout and felt that there had been a fair amount of helpful feedback and suggestions. Cllr Beaumont requested that his personal appreciation and thanks to those who attended be recorded in the minutes.
- (iv) Local Needs/Affordable Housing – Feedback from Public Meeting
Following response at the public meeting on this subject, it was agreed that the Parish Council re-commence the process. The Clerk to contact Action with Communities.

6. Planning Decisions Approved by CCC

- (i) CA/22/01631 Street End Cricket Club, Street End, Lower Hardres
Application for lawful development certificate for proposed replacement nets.
- (ii) CA/22/01851 Whitehill House, Bridge Road, Lower Hardres
T.P.O no 2 1973 - T1) Reduce and reshape Ash tree to previous cutting points and reduce away from garage, as done previously,, T2) Reduce and reshape Sycamore to previous cutting points, to the right side of the driveway.
- (iii) CA/22/01990 2, Willow Cottages, Faussett Hill, Street End, Lower Hardres
Formation of Access.
- (iv) CA/22/01903 2, Butts Meadow, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres
Two-storey side extension and new entrance porch.

During the next item bullet point two the meeting was suspended to allow a member of the public to speak

7. Highway Issues and PROW

- The last set of notes of the informal Joint Parish Meeting having been circulated appeared to be all about Parish highway problems and not PROW for which the group was formed.
- The Speedwatch Co-ordinator thanked the Parish Council for the new speed gun which is easier to use but unfortunately has caused an increase in abuse from drivers as a result of those monitoring the vehicles having to face oncoming traffic.
- A member advised that the railway crossing barriers at Chartham and Wye are being replaced with automatic barriers, this will cause a fair bit of disruption, particularly for Wye as the road will be closed on and off for some considerable time almost till Christmas.
- Cllr Beaumont was pleased to advise the Ramblers Association has a new local footpath officer.

8. Correspondence, Publications and other matters of an urgent nature

Code of Conduct – Proposed Amendments

The Clerk asked members to read the proposed amendments made by CCC and suggested that when the document is finalized we consider adopting the City Council’s code.

Due to the confidential nature of the next item the press and public were excluded

9. Estimates/budget for 2023-2024

The clerk asked members to give consideration to increasing her working hours, she is currently paid for four hours per week which is the same as when she became clerk 21 years ago. It was proposed, seconded and the motion carried that the clerk’s hours are increased to five per week.

10. The date of the next meeting to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 6.20pm

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