

# LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

In attendance were Cllrs Miss Grundy, McCully, Taylor, Moore, Beaumont, the Parish Clerk and one member of the public

### 1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence

### 2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Miss Grundy and Beaumont declared an interest in item 4i Finance Payments

### 3. To Approve the Minutes of the last Meeting and Matters Arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**Item 3iii 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022 NS&I Investment Account:** A letter was received from NS&I advising that they have updated the signatories to our account.

**Item 5iv 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2022 Local Needs Housing:** Since our decision to investigate whether there is a need in the Parish for Local Needs and Affordable Housing, Action with Communities in Rural Kent (the body that work alongside Parishes in this process) has unfortunately closed. KALC and the Kent Councils' are attempting to find an alternative route to provide this service.

**Item 7 Calendar of Meetings:** When we approved the 2023 calendar of meetings, it was subject to the period covering elections and the Coronation. As the first meeting following an election has to be between the fourth and fourteenth day and our May meeting would be due on the 10<sup>th</sup> the Clerk was uncertain as to whether the bank holiday on 8<sup>th</sup> May would be included in that 14 day period. We now have confirmation that it must be excluded, this makes the 10<sup>th</sup> the first day when a meeting can be held. Although our meeting can be legally held in this respect, due to the Parish election results not being available until the Saturday, the Clerk has concerns as it does not allow the statutory three clear working days in which the meeting must be publicized.

### 4. Finance Matters

#### (i) To approve the following payments

KBS Depot	£2637.60	Two Notice Boards
Bossingham Groundworks	£3384.00	{Nackington War Memorial Paving & {Erection of two Notice Boards
CPRE	£ 60.00	Annual Subs
Miss B J Grundy	£ 18.00	Travel Expenses
Cllr A. Beaumont	£ 19.98	Two Packs of Notice Board Magnets
HMRC	£ 137.80	PAYE January & part Nov & Dec
Parish Clerk	£ 45.19	Expenses & Stationery 2 months

#### (ii) Nackington War Memorial – Update

Adrian Gallagher and David Harrison have inspected the new hard standing area at the War Memorial and agreed that it looks very smart and well laid. Members were also very pleased with it and had received good feedback from the public. The Clerk has asked Mr Gallagher for some ideas as to the remainder of the area. He explained that it was not really suitable for grass for various reasons and suggested that we consult a garden centre or our local gardeners' society for their expertise.

#### (iii) New Noticeboards – Update

As the place of storage of the new notice boards was no longer available and as a matter of urgency, the Clerk appointed Bossingham Groundworks to assemble and erect the boards. Members approved the action of the Clerk in dealing with this matter. Members were also very pleased with the boards and have received good feedback. The Clerk to contact KCC PROW team to enquire about maps.

- (iv) Members approved the Draft Level of Reserves as at 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The Clerk advised that we have received £6.90 interest from the NS&I account, but this has not yet been added to the draft level of reserves. Cllr Taylor has agreed to research bank accounts to see if we can obtain a better return.
- (v) To consider celebration event for the Coronation of HM King Charles III  
The meeting was advised that the Village Hall Committee is having a meeting in a couple of weeks to decide on a suitable event.

## 5. **Planning Matters**

- (i) CA/22/02463 Land at Merton Lane, Lower Hardres  
Erection of commercial units with associated access and car parking following demolition of existing building. (Further Information)  
Members noted that there has now been an ecological report and a highway report which we suggested was required in our previous letter.
- (ii) CA/23/00008 Street End Cricket Club, Street End, Lower Hardres  
Patio area together with wall. No objection
- (iii) CA/23/00113 Butts Green Cottage, School Lane, Lower Hardres  
Replacement of all timber windows and rear patio door, with uvpc. No objection
- (iv) To consider any applications received since publication of the agenda.
- (v) To note CCC's response to our letter enquiring why a parcel of land in the Parish was not included in the Draft Local Plan.  
CCC did not respond to our specific questions but simply advised that all feedback will be analysed and reported to City Cllrs who will decide what changes should be made.

## 6. **Planning Decisions**

- (i) CA/22/02417 Street End Cricket Club, Street End, Lower Hardres CT4 5NP  
Erection and display of 1 non-illuminated totem sign. Granted by CCC

## 7. **Highway Issues and PROW**

A further email was received about high traffic speeds on Nackington Road. The Clerk followed up her previous request to KCC Cllr Sole regarding the need for improved safety measures along the B2068. He advised that he was informed by the Highways Officer that we need to put this request on our HIP, the Officer dealing with this will be in touch with us to see if we would like to arrange a meeting. The Clerk was further advised that Cllr Sole will pass on to the Operations team a few maintenance issues such as the need to replace the missing bollard and to refresh the faded lining.

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

- To check any response re appointment of Flood Warden for the Parish.  
There had not been any response but it was agreed to consider this along with the next item.
- Emergency Plan.  
An Emergency Plan template has been circulated to members for consideration as to whether it is suitable. As we are coming to the year end the Clerk suggests we do not proceed with a plan until the new financial year. It was agreed we deal with this at the June meeting.

*Due to the importance of the forthcoming election the Chairman and members agreed that the following item is included at this meeting.*

- Elections  
Since the agenda for 1<sup>st</sup> February has been published the Clerk has received date and time details leading up to the election on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023, these have been circulated to members. Along with these papers CCC has published a press release regarding the Government's decision to introduce Voter Photo Identification in time for the forthcoming election.  
People wanting to vote at the polling station will have to not only be registered to vote, but will also need to show an approved form of Photo ID before they can be issued with a ballot paper.

Electors who do not show an approved form of photo ID at the polling station will not be allowed to vote. In addition the Presiding Officer can refuse should he/she consider it is not a good likeness or thinks it is a forgery.

An acceptable ID:

Driving Licence with photo

Passport

Older person's Concessionary Bus Pass

Blue Badge.

For the full list see: protecting the integrity of our elections. Voter identification at polling stations and the new voter card – GOV.UK

**9 Confirmed the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

**Open Session**

- It was brought to the Council's attention that certain fields in Bridge Road and Nackington Road that are at a higher level than the road, bring down a number of stones along with the water flow when it rains, this has caused a number of broken windscreens. The Parish Council is asked to write to the farmer in question. The Clerk suggested that in the first instance it is preferable to inform the Highways Authority who have the power to deal with this.
- Also brought to the Council's attention is that Cllr McCully is still named as Chairman on our website. The Clerk to deal with this.

*The meeting closed at 6.15pm*

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