

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Baker-White Memorial Hall

on 5th April 2022

In attendance were the Chairman Cllr Jane Grundy, the Parish Clerk and nine members of the public.

Apologies were received from Cllr Moore, Claire Taylor, Lyn Cornelius and Carol Day

The Chairman Welcomed all to the meeting and explained that refreshments would not be served this year due to covid.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 22nd June 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021 – 2022

Covid 19 and meetings

Parish Councils had to cease holding their meetings via Zoom on 7th May 2021, so our first live face to face meeting took place on 22nd June 2021 which was followed by the Annual Parish meeting, since when we have held nine meetings up to and including March. We apologise for having to change this evening's meetings to Tuesday but we wanted to continue holding the Parish Council meeting and the APM on the same evening and this is only possible today.

If you recall we advised last year that during the time of the lockdown, Cllr Taylor put together, with members of the public, an arrangement to assist Parish residents in their shopping, collection of prescriptions, a chat if needed and any other issues that may have arisen. We are pleased to report that this group still exists today and is available to help local residents if possible. We would again like to place on record our grateful thanks to all those volunteers.

Finance

We were pleased to announce last year that we kept the precept for 2021-22 to £8713.00, the same as the previous year. However not so for 2022-2023, you probably will have seen in your council tax demand that our Parish increase is quite high in percentage terms, in reality it is around £3000.00. Unfortunately KCC Highways now require Parish Councils to contribute towards the costs of highway improvements in their Parish. In our meeting with two Highway representatives their first question was "How much money do you have". After much discussion and soul searching when setting our budget for this year, it was proposed and seconded that we place £3000.00 in the budget heading 'Highway Improvement Plan'.

Another worry is that although CCC has extended the concurrent functions funding for a further two years, during this time there will be a thorough review, so we are uncertain what lays on the horizon for Parishes in the Canterbury District.

On a better note, we have been successful in obtaining a CCC Parish Grant in the sum of £1365.32 for the purchase and installation of two notice boards. In addition to Parish notices we intend to place the local PROW maps on the boards. This fulfils a request made at last year's Annual Parish Meeting.

As our speedwatch equipment has seen better days and no longer working to capacity, we have approached KCC Cllr Sole for a Members Grant towards the cost of a new speedwatch gun and he has very kindly agreed to support our application. We are very fortunate to have a competent team leader checking the vehicle speeds in our Parish, and our thanks go to Jo McKeever and all her team for the hours they put in on behalf of the Parish.

Planning Applications

We considered 14 Planning applications one less than last year, plus several consultations. Majority of the applications were for extensions and alterations, I cannot recall one for a new build.

We are to meet with a local resident and his agent – possibly at next month's meeting, to discuss proposals they have for a parcel of land in the Parish.

Highways

Highway issues never cease and there have been the usual problems such as potholes, signs, overhanging trees, verges etc. You can report these yourselves as it may be quicker than waiting for it to be reported to a meeting of the Parish Council. The Tel no is 03000 818181

The endless procession of HGV's on the B2068 still occurs from time to time and was particularly bad prior to KCC Highways and Highways England putting operation Fennel and Brock into place leading up to and including the Christmas 2020 period.

Public Rights of Way

Our PROW Councillor has been kept busy, liaising with some owners of land over which there is a PROW.

HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The main event will be a lunch at the village hall to be held on 5th June 2022 at which there will be live music. Those attending to bring their own food and drink.

Thanks

The Chairman concluded by thanking the Parish Clerk for her assistance during her first year as Chairman and to her fellow Councillors for their support during the past year.

OTHER REPORTS

The Village News

The Garden Society

Lower Hardres Church

CCC Cllr Rob Thomas

Neighbourhood Watch

Speedwatch

The Village Hall

KCC Cllr Mike Sole

MATTERS RAISED BY THE ELECTORATE

A member of the public asked a question regarding the lack of mobile signals, masts and the poor reception of internet services in rural areas.

A member of the public paid tribute to the Parish Council by thanking Councillors for their work on behalf of the Parish

There being no further questions the Chairman thanked all for attending the APM and closed the meeting at 7pm.

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