

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

On Tuesday 4th April 2023

In attendance were the Chairman Cllr Jane Grundy, the Parish Clerk and ten members of the public. Apologies were received from Cllr Douglas McCully, Cllr Beaumont, Carol Day and CCC Cllr Robert Thomas.

The Chairman opened the meeting by Welcoming all in attendance.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 5th April 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022 – 2023

Planning Applications

During the past 12 months the Parish Council has considered 19 Planning applications which including two for the Mounts Development for 4000 houses relating to issues surrounding waste disposal – the first application was refused by the City Council by one vote, but 2nd application a couple of months later, we believe was approved.

Also relating to Planning, Cllr Beaumont produced a Design Plan for the parish, in consultation with the Planning Authority and following a few amendments, the Parish Council held a public meeting at which Cllr Beaumont, having prepared the Statement, made the presentation. The attendance and response was quite favourably received.

At the same meeting we asked the public whether they would like the Parish Council to reconsider the issue of Local Needs Housing, bearing in mind in our previous attempt we put forward 14 possible sites, all but three of which were rejected by the Planning Authority, unfortunately those too were eventually rejected or conditioned by the land owners. However on a show of hands the Parish Council decided to go ahead on this occasion, sadly though, following agreement we were informed that Action with Community in Rural Kent, the organization that helps in the process of providing LNH. has been wound up.

Finance

We are pleased to have been able to set a standstill precept of £11922.00 for 2023 – 2024 the same level as in 2022 – 2023.

We are also pleased that we have been able to provide three major projects this year. We made two applications for capital grant funding to KCC and CCC. We obtained £800.00 towards the cost of a new speedwatch gun priced at £1600 plus VAT, the Parish Council providing the additional 50%.

We obtained £1365.00 from CCC towards the cost of £2600.00 for two notice boards. One of which is placed at the farm shop land and the other at the entrance of the PROW CB. One of the main purposes of the boards is to display a map of the PROW in the Parish.

In addition to the above and as a result of moles destroying and making the area of land surrounding Nackington War Memorial unstable and unsafe for anyone visiting the Memorial, we have had granite sets laid as a hard standing on a small area in front of the Memorial. On this we consulted War Memorial Trust, English Heritage and the City Council Planning, none objected provided the slabs would be in keeping with the listed granite Memorial.

Highways

All the usual highway problems have arisen particularly relating to accidents, pot holes road surface etc. Following another accident close to Langton Lane in a northerly direction where the speed limit supposedly reduces from 40 to 30, a number of complaints were received about the speed of traffic. We are meeting with Highways with a view to requesting safety improvements to that area and to attempt to get a reduction in Nackington road and Faussett Hill to 30mph. As mentioned last year, Kent Highways now request that each Parish provide a Highway Improvement Plan (HIP) which may be a good idea but unfortunately results in the Parish having to contribute substantially towards the cost of any improvements – that is if KCC agree to the changes.

Elections and Thanks

As you will know, there is to be an election on 4th May, unfortunately the deadline for applications to stand for election closed at 4pm today, that is a pity as this meeting would have given us the opportunity to chivvy some of you up to applying.

Sadly we are to lose two of our members, Cllr McCully who has been a member for many years and was Chairman for nine. Cllr Moore is also stepping down after several years, and has been a most helpful member in planning issues – particularly the application for the major solar farm. The Parish Council thank both of the members for their outstanding contribution and effort on behalf of the Parish of Lower Hardres and Nackington.

I would also like to thank the clerk and all the members for their support and loyalty throughout the past four years.

OTHER REPORTS

St Mary's Church Lower Hardres

Neighbourhood Watch

Speedwatch

The Village Hall

KCC Cllr Mike Sole

CCC Cllr Rob Thomas

MATTERS RAISED BY THE ELECTORATE

A number of Highway issues were raised including a request to reduce the height of the 30mph sign when entering Bridge Road. Cllr Sole offered his help on HIP issues.

There being no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting, thanked all for attending and invited the public to take refreshments.

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