



Minutes of the Meeting of Lenham Parish Council Held on Wednesday 4th September 2024, 7:30pm at Lenham Community Centre

PRESENT Cllr. J Britt, Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. P Culver, D Earl, D Garland, K Hammond, S Heeley, J Murray, N Osborne, A Ratcliffe, D Turner & A Walmsley.
L Westcott (Clerk), S Newell (Deputy Clerk)

Public participation

5 members of the public present.

One member of the public asked about the date for the Red Lion quiz. They asked why notices were still up advertising the REME event, L Westcott stated that these are MBC notices and not LPC. They also asked when Old Ham Lane would re open, Cllr. A Walmsley reported that this should be by the end of next week.

Cllrs. T & J Sams reported that they will be attending the MBC members briefing on 17th September when the Maidstone local plan will be discussed. They attended the joint transportation meeting and there was positive news about progressing with a coordinated approach to achieve improvements to the A20.

Two members of the public were pleased with the positive news about the A20 works and had a question about tree planting on the A20.

The chair opened the meeting at 19:50.

24/49 Apologies for absence received.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. L Stone and RFO J Bate.
Everyone sends congratulations to Cllr. L Stone on the recent birth of his daughter.

24/50 To receive declarations.

Declarations of interest on Agenda items. Cllrs. N Osborne & A Ratcliffe declared an interest in relation to the Nursery project at the allotments site. Cllr. J Murray declared an interest in the planning application for 66 High Street (item 24/57), Cllrs. noted the interest and all agreed Cllr. J Murray could stay for the item, but not take part in discussions. Declarations to changes to the Register of Interests. No declarations received.
Requests for dispensations. No new requests received, current dispensations stand for Cllrs. K Hammond and S Heeley.

24/51 To request notification of intention to film, photograph or record any items.

There were none.

24/52 In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1, the Council is to determine which items, if any, should be taken with the public and press excluded.

Cllr. D Earl requested that some of item 58 be taken in a confidential session at the end of the meeting.
All agreed.

24/53 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 3rd July 2024.

Cllr. D Garland proposed, Cllr. A Walmsley seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 3rd July 2024** are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chair of the Parish Council.

24/54 Progress of resolutions from 3rd July meeting (for information purposes only)

Cllr. A Walmsley asked when the investigations of the play park tea cup would be completed – L Westcott explained there was a six week turnaround for play park works at present.
The grant for HLAAs was approved, but the money won't be required until the work is carried out in October.
Cllr. D Garland reported that the planter in Honeywood Road will be repaired in time for autumn planting.



24/55 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meetings on 22nd July 2024 and 28th August

Cllr. D Turner proposed, Cllr. D Garland seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22nd July are a true record and with the recommendations, were approved, adopted and signed by the Chair. Cllr. D Garland proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29th August are a true record and with the recommendations, were approved, adopted and signed by the Chair.

- a. To authorise payments and note income:
A table of the payment lists for July and August are included in the F&GP minutes. Cllr. K Hammond proposed, Cllr. A Walmsley seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make the payments.
ACTION Cllrs. D Garland and J Britt will authorise the payments online.
- b. Cllr. K Hammond proposed, Cllr. D Garland seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote for the tree decay test at the picnic site.
- c. Cllr. D Turner proposed, Cllr. P Culver seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to authorise the training requirements as presented in the August F&GP minutes.
- d. Cllr. D Garland outlined the quote received for the tree works from Tree Pro, two more quotes will be sought.

24/56 Finance:

- a. Cllr. A Walmsley proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to authorise the payment of the insurance premium for 24/25 starting from 1st October.

24/57 To sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Planning and Implementation Committee meeting on 17th July and 21st August

Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. D Garland seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17th July are a true record and with the recommendations, were approved, adopted and signed by the Chair.

Cllr. K Hammond proposed, Cllr. J Britt seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21st August are a true record and with the recommendations, were approved, adopted and signed by the Chair.

- a. The following responses were agreed to Planning Applications:
24/50207/TPOA (Broadoak, Dickley Lane) – No comments
24/503423/FULL (66 High Street, Lenham) – No comments
24/503247/NMAMD (Old Ham Lane, Lenham) – LPC support comments made by MBC officer.
- b. It was decided that two cllrs. will attend a meeting to discuss development of the WPF.
- c. Cllr. P Culver proposed, Cllr. K Hammond seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from DHA of £500 for professional advice.

24/58 To receive the staffing committee report

Cllr. D Earl provided a summary of the set up of the staffing committee.

24/59 To receive the clerks report for July and August

L Westcott reported that a clerks report is included at other parish council meetings and it is felt it would to keep cllrs. up to date with officer's work. All agreed. Points to note:

- a. S Newell started as deputy clerk in July and her input into office management and changes to ways of working has been very valuable.
- b. Utilities information has all been updated and can be accessed online.
- c. The handyman has completed work at the cemetery and picnic site. He will assess the hole in the car park.
- d. The locum is working one day a week and is busy setting up scribe with officer assistance.

- e. The external auditor has raised some questions over the figures submitted. These need to be reviewed and answers submitted.

24/60 To consider draft action plan for Local Government Award Scheme – report circulated

S Newell has circulated the action plan in order for LPC to achieve the gold award status for parish councils. This will be reviewed quarterly at F&GP.

24/61 To consider quotes for the reconfiguration of the public toilets – report circulated

Cllr. D Garland reported that three quotes have been received and were discussed. All voted in favour of proceeding with JK Construction. **ACTION** Cllr. D Garland to request a full breakdown of costs.

24/62 To consider meeting to discuss tourism options

L Westcott reported that Cllrs. K Hammond, S Heeley, M Michaelas and A Ratcliffe are keen to be involved and a meeting will be arranged with interested residents.

ACTION S Newell to set up first meeting.

24/63 Update from meetings attended/ planned

- a. Cllrs. K Hammond and J Britt attended the Patient Participation Group meeting on Monday, the number of patient appointments is likely to reduce each day in line with BMA industrial action.
- b. Cllr. D Earl is waiting for a contact at the Wishful Thinker to discuss defibrillator options.
- c. Cllr. N Osborne met with the nursery, they would like a meeting with LPC week beginning 28th October.
- d. Cllr. A Walmsley has attended the WPF, the electric is not yet connected, the fencing and gate should be installed.
- e. Cllr. J Britt attended a meeting about the A20 and the report was circulated.

24/64 Project Updates (for information only)

- a. A20 safety improvements – Cllr. J Britt reported that signalisation of the crossroads has had a positive response from KCC, if LPC can part fund this, it may move quicker.
- b. Lenham Nursery as above (24/63 c)
- c. Cllr. D Garland reported that two quotes have been received for the officer floor so far.
- d. Cllr. D Garland reported that he has received a quote for winter pansies for £318.

24/65 To report correspondence received.

L Westcott reported that the Maidstone Community Protection Team have visited the Harrow and the car park should be secured within 48 hours. The rest of the site should be secured ASAP. A surveyor was on site and a planning application is due to be submitted to MBC soon.

L Westcott reported that a member of the public asked about the Tesco bus.

Cllr. D Garland has had communication with Golding Homes about broken fence panels along the footpath.

The meeting closed at 21:50

Signed as a true record on this day 2nd October 2024.....

Chair of Lenham Parish Council