



**Minutes of the Meeting of Lenham Parish Council**  
**Held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024, 7:30pm at Lenham Community Centre**

**PRESENT** Cllr. J Britt, Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. D Earl, D Garland, K Hammond, J Murray, N Osborne, A Ratcliffe, D Turner & A Walmsley.  
L Westcott (Clerk).

**Public participation**

5 members of the public present.

1 member of public requested a printed version of the agenda, L Westcott explained that the point of having the projector was to save printing the agenda. The member of the public also reported that the slab behind the bench in the Square is loose, L Westcott stated this is not LPC's responsibility but KCC's and it has already been reported to them.

MBC Cllrs. J Sams provided the following update:

- The adoption of the Local Plan by MBC was a huge blow.
- Along with Cllr. T Sams, they have been busy posting election leaflets.
- New homes in Bryant Way are beginning to be occupied.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> June there will be a festival as a showcase for local talent and groups.

One member of the public reported that a tree has fallen down along the verge of the A20 blocking the sightline for a footpath. This will be checked to ensure it is KCC land and then it will be reported appropriately.

A member of the public from Heritage Lenham raised concerns over the lack of coach parking in the village, which will prevent tourist coaches from stopping. Cllrs. agreed to review this in the future.

One member of the public pointed out that coaching parking will need careful consideration to not cause a road hazard.

The chair opened the meeting at 19:50.

**23/173 Apologies for absence received.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. S Heeley and RFO J Bate.

**23/174 To receive declarations.**

Declarations of interest on Agenda items. No declarations received.

Declarations to changes to the Register of Interests. No declarations received.

Requests for dispensations. No new requests received.

**23/175 To request notification of intention to film, photograph or record any items.**

There were none.

**23/176 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.**

None raised.

**23/177 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

Cllr. D Turner proposed, Cllr. D Garland seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024** are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

**23/178 Progress of resolutions from 6<sup>th</sup> March (for information purposes only)**

L Westcott reported that Safepay have been instructed to repair the cantilever swing. The dog bin has been ordered and delivered, installation will take place soon.



### **23/179 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meetings on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Cllr. A Walmsley proposed, Cllr. K Hammond seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the F&GP committee meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chair.

Cllr. J Britt reported that MBC have provided planning advice regarding the public WCs and this can be done under permitted development.

- a. Cllr. N Osborne proposed, Cllr. D Earl seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to use council funds from the sale of the strip of land at the WPF to fund the refurbishment project of the WCs.
- b. Cllr. D Turner proposed, Cllr. A Walmsley seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the part time post job description and planned timescales for advertising (up to 26<sup>th</sup> April) and interviews (in mid May).  
**ACTION** L Westcott to publish advert.
- c. Cllr. D Earl proposed, Cllr. D Garland seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £2005.60 for soil investigations at the allotments for the nursery building.  
**ACTION** L Westcott to instruct Soiltec.

### **23/180 Finance:**

- a. Responsible Financial Officer Report - full report discussed at F&GP.  
L Westcott reported that J Bate is still finalising the VAT query.
- b. To authorise payments:  
A table of the payment list is included in the F&GP minutes. Cllr. D Turner proposed, Cllr. A Walmsley seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make the payments. Cllrs. N Osborne and D Garland will authorise the payments online.

### **23/181 To sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Planning and Implementation Committee meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Cllr. D Garland proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the P&I Committee meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March and report of planning comments are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chair.

Cllr. A Walmsley confirmed that he has sent off the response to the consultation on bridleways. He has also contacted KCC about parking on Royton Avenue.

- a. The following responses were agreed to Planning Applications:  
APP/U2235/W/24/3340366, Warren Lands – P McCreery has provided an appeal statement. All agreed to submit this.  
24/501092/FULL, The Gables – Previous application refused by MBC, but supported by LPC. All agreed to re-iterate previous comments.
- b. Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £2500+VAT from a Barrister to supply “Advice on Merits” of the Maidstone Local Plan adoption.
- c. Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. D Earl seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £1500 from planning consultant P McCreery for a preliminary assessment of inspectors report, in relation to the MBLPR.
- d. Cllr. D Garland proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £3500 from planning consultant P McCreery to produce a report for the barrister.

### **23/182 Maidstone Local Plan Review - update**

Cllr. J Britt reported that the Local Plan has been adopted by MBC with the Heathlands policy included.

### **23/183 Update on plan for the REME Freedom of the Parish of Lenham event – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**

Cllr. A Ratcliffe provided an update on the plans for the event. A draft press statement will soon be circulated. A local chainsaw carver is keen to carve the REME badge in a tree in the cemetery, costs will be requested for this. L Westcott is contacting all the volunteers to arrange a meeting. Cllr. D Turner will begin social media advertising after the litter pick on Saturday.



**23/184 Update on arrangements for PC election, 2 May**

L Westcott reported that all the nomination forms have been received and accepted by MBC and each Cllr. has been given a letter confirming their nomination.

**23/185 Update on issues relating to the A20**

Cllr. A Walmsley reported that feedback has been provided on the proposed A20 KCC traffic survey locations. There were further discussions on what improvements are likely to be possible at the junction.

**23/186 Plans for Annual Parish Meeting – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

L Westcott reported that a lot of groups have booked a table for the event. It was decided that LPC should present information on the A20, REME event, WCs project, Nursery build and car park extension project.

**23/187 To consider response to the Street Trading Licence application for Lenham Market**

L Westcott reported that the application has been circulated. All agreed there were no objections.

**23/188 Update from meetings attended/ planned**

- a. Cllr. A Walmsley will be meeting with the PROW officer on 23<sup>rd</sup> April about the footpath diversion application.
- b. Cllr. K Hammond attended the Charing PC meeting to update them on the outcome of the MBLPR. Ashford BC are currently consulting on a call for sites for their local plan.
- c. A few Cllrs. attended the Teams meeting with the Kent Downs to discuss plans for a Cross Channel UNESCO Global Geopark.

**23/189 Project Updates (for information only)**

- a. Sports and Recreation – Cllr. N Osborne reported that LPC should visit Biddenden Recreation Area to understand how it is managed with a view to managing the new one in Lenham.
- b. Defibrillators – Cllr. D Earl reported that the BHF grants will be available to apply for in September not April.

**23/190 To report correspondence received.**

L Westcott reported that concerns have been raised about the safety of the lower pedestrian access to the Picnic site. Cllr. N Osborne will look to close this off with the handyman.

**The meeting closed at 22:05**

Signed as a true record on this day 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024.....  
Chairman of Lenham Parish Council