



## Minutes of the Meeting of Lenham Parish Council Held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 at 7:30pm at Lenham Community Centre

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

Cllrs. M Cockett, P Culver, D Garland, K Hammond, S Heeley, Mic Lowe, Mike Lowe, N Osborne, A Ratcliffe & A Walmsley  
L Westcott (Clerk), 4 Members of the public.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Community Warden provided details on the new engagement tool operated by Kent Police called “My Community Voice”. He also thanked L Westcott for helping to locate a vulnerable person, this showed how well local networks work.

MBC Cllr. J Sams reported the following:

- A consultation is being run by the Boundary Commission on proposed changes to MBC ward boundaries. All comments are welcome to ensure the integrity of Lenham and Harrietsham ward is maintained, the consultation ends on 4<sup>th</sup> April.
- They attended a presentation on 20s plenty for Kent campaign.
- Cllr. T Sams has been busy reporting Highways faults, the public should be aware to report to MBC dead animals up to the size of a badger and anything larger to KCC.
- Volunteers continue to work hard supporting the role of booster vaccinations for COVID.
- They continue to ask questions about Heathlands, SOHL attended an event in Faversham showing good unity with similar campaign groups.
- There will be three consecutive years of elections for MBC Cllrs. in Lenham with the changes agreed by MBC so all Cllrs. are up for election at the same time once every four years.

An allotment holder proposed that a liaison group is developed when detailed plans and timescales for building the new nursery are available. It will be important to ensure there is a clear understanding of any issues, particularly regarding access. A regular meeting with LPC, HLAA, the nursery and developer will be an important part to the communication strategy for the project. Cllr. A Ratcliffe agreed that this was a sensible idea, although the project is still in the very early stages and it could be months before a meeting is required, so this will be arranged when appropriate. Written communications will continue until this time.

A member of the public asked why REME have not been given Freedom of the Parish and asked if this could be done for the Queens Platinum Jubilee weekend, Cllr. A Ratcliffe will look into this. The member of the public also requested a list of Cllrs. be made available on the notice board, Cllr. J Britt reported that the list is ready and just requires checking by Cllrs.

The Chairman thanked the members of public for attending and opened the meeting at 8pm.

### **21/137 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs. M Ballard and M Michaelas as well as J Bate (RFO).

### **21/138 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS**

None received.

### **21/139 TO REQUEST NOTIFICATION**

The Chairman requested notification of intention to film, photograph or record any items.

No notification received.

### **21/140 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022**

Cllr. D Garland proposed, Cllr. P Culver seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022** are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

**21/141 PROGRESS OF RESOLUTIONS (for information purposes)**

- a. Road layout at railway bridge – Cllrs. J Britt and A Walmsley are attending a meeting with KCC.
- b. Declarations of Interest – still some to be completed.
- c. Dynamic Cllr. Training – Cllrs. D Garland and Mic Lowe attended.
- d. Cloud storage – Cllr. Mic Lowe is helping L Westcott review options.

**21/142 FINANCE**

- a. Responsible Financial Officer Report (read by L Westcott)  
Work continues on reclaiming VAT on payments from last two years.
- b. To authorise payments:

Name	Date	Amount
Amiga Fire and Security (CCTV monthly contract fee)	01/01/2022	54.00
Down to Earth Garden Maintenance (SID battery and Cemetery Yew Trees)	31/01/2022	70.00
EDF Energy - 1A electricity (December bill)	10/01/2022	154.49
Lotus Design and Printing (WPF signs)	05/01/2022	363.60
Nathan Beale (January - Litter picking and bin emptying)	30/12/2021	680.00
Nigel Turner (January - Cemetery Maintenance)	30/12/2021	150.00
Parish Clerk Office Expenses	02/02/2022	48.02
Paul Waring (Grounds Maintenance October – December 2021)	05/01/2022	1,143.12
SLCC Training for clerk (ILCA)	12/01/2022	144.00
Streetlights (Maintenance Contract)	05/01/2022	49.50
Lenham Meadows Trust (Grant Application)	02/02/2022	500.00
KALC Cllr. Training (Dynamic Cllr. x2)	06/01/2022	120.00
Zoom Subscription for village use (annual fee)	06/01/2022	143.88

Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. P Culver seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make these payments.

Cllrs. N Osborne and D Garland to authorise the payments on-line.

- c. Parish Services Scheme Grant from MBC for 22/23 is £9247.

**ACTION** Cllr. M Lowe to request monthly inspection reports for Cherry Close play area.

**21/143 PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION (P&I) COMMITTEE REPORT**

All agreed this was an accurate record of planning comments from January.

**21/144 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2022**

- a. The Cow Shed has been approved as a holiday let.
- b. The survey results from KCC show mitigation will be required for the 20mph scheme along Old Ashford Road.
- c. All agreed to reply to MBC that the review of the Neighbourhood Plan will be substantial. Cllr. M Cockett stated that the Conservation Area Appraisal that has just been finalised should be incorporated in the review.
- d. Proposed road names for the development on Old Ashford Road – all agreed to have a military theme.

**ACTION** Cllr. N Osborne to come up with some options.

Cllr. K Hammond proposed, Cllr. S Heeley seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the reports and minutes of the P&I meeting held on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the P&I Committee.

**21/145 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022**

- a. Grant application form new format – No further comments since meeting.



b. Churchyard maintenance – meeting arranged to discuss rewilding project.

Cllr. N Osborne proposed, Cllr. D Garland seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes and reports of the F&GP meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the F&GP Committee.

**21/146 TO CONSIDER A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DOWNS MAIL FOR A TRIAL OF 6 MONTHS UP TO £1000**

Cllr. J Britt reported that following the recommendation made by F&GP, he spoke to the Downs Mail to agree the terms of a trial and spend up to £1000. All voted in favour to commence trial.

**21/147 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED UPDATED GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

No further comments received on the updated form, all voted in favour to use the new grant application form.

**21/148 PROJECT UPDATES**

- a. New nursery building – meeting booked between Cllrs. N Osborne and A Ratcliffe with the nursery.
- b. Queens Platinum Jubilee Events – Cllr. M Lowe reported that plans were progressing well with lots of community interest. It was noted that the information for the event is not on all facebook groups. **ACTION** Cllr. Mic Lowe to add information to Platts Heath and Lenham Heath facebook pages. The beacon has been delivered, Cllr. P Culver reported that a Mechanical Technician at Smurfit Kappa constructed the beacon, the Giving Back team have requested that a donation be given to the charity the paper mill is supporting this year – British Heart Foundation. A donation of £100 was agreed.
- c. Pilgrims Way – Cllr. D Garland reported that he attended a meeting with the MP, local Police and KCC. Only four reports have been made to the Police since October. It is important for all incidents to be reported.
- d. WPF Strip of land – Cllr. J Britt reported that he has contacted the agent regarding concerns over the latest version received of the draft S106 agreement.
- e. WCs – Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that he will be providing some drawings to a contractor to get a quote.
- f. Planters – L Westcott reported that LPC have secured a free planter from MBC. All agreed for its placement outside the WCs.

**21/149 COUNCILLOR TRAINING**

L Westcott provided the details of the upcoming training available for Cllrs. Cllrs. Mic Lowe and K Hammond requested to attend the Social Media training being provided by KALC.

**21/150 TO CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP TO THE RURAL SERVICES NETWORK (RSN) FOR 22/23 at £90**

L Westcott reported that an invoice has been received for membership to RSN for the coming year, membership for 21/22 was free. Discussions made it clear that only two Cllrs. regularly read the bulletins sent. It was felt it was not worthwhile renewing.

**21/151 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

L Westcott reported that the annual parish assembly has been booked for Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Discussions were held regarding the format, all agreed to invite a speaker prior to group updates and provide food.

**ACTION** L Westcott to identify potential speakers and book a caterer.

**21/152 THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN**

L Westcott reported that a member of the public has asked to help organise a village cleanup day.

**ACTION** L Westcott to explore options and liaise with MBC for equipment.

**21/153 CORRESPONDENCE**

L Westcott reported that a letter has been received from a member of the public regarding the state of Picnic site, the contractor has some work outstanding. Cllr. N Osborne reported that it is difficult to assess due to the time of year, but a volunteer day should be organised to have a clean up.

Cllr. A Ratcliffe urged all Cllrs. to read the recently finalised Conservation Area Appraisal for Lenham Village.

The meeting closed at 22:00