

# Lenham Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2008, IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr. N. Godfrey, Chairman presiding  
Cllr. A. Barr, Vice-Chairman,  
Cllrs. J. Bate, M. Crutcher, L. Davison, Miss S. Goodwin, R. Greenwood,  
M. Michaelas, J. Nye, M. Osborne, G. Wilders, I. Younger, Mrs. P. Sutton (Clerk)  
and Mr. R. Sutton (RFO)  
B. Cllr. T. Sams. Cllr. Cathie Willis from Harrietsham PC.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. B. Llong referred to a letter from Mr. Bailey about the Pilgrims Way which would be discussed during the meeting and explained their concerns. Cllr. Crutcher replied that he had responded to Mr. Bailey and had contacted both MBC and KCC and would take up with Cllr. Greenwood the question of signage.

Mr. Larkin and Mr. Cook, residents of Maidstone Road, once again drew attention to the need for a footpath. Mr. Cook expressed his willingness to undertake the work, subject to the agreement of KCC. Cllr. Crutcher reported the response received from Mr. Harrison-Mee which stated that the scheme was now back on the priority list but there was a need for detailed design and a safety audit. Cllr. Crutcher would seek clarification and it was agreed that the PC would liaise with Mr. Cook.

Mr. Neaves Chairman of the ex Working Men's Club (now Lenham Social Club) explained the changes that had taken place and asked for the PC's support for better use of the ground to the rear of the Club. The Chairman assured Mr. Neaves of the PC's support.

Mr. George was concerned at the increased parking problems around the village and in particular vehicles parking half on the footpath. It was agreed that this be left to the PCSO to deal with.

Mrs. Elvy of Robins Close expressed her concern at the retrospective application for 88 High Street. Cllr. Osborne replied that this had been considered by the PC's Planning Committee and they had recommended that the application be refused as there was insufficient information to see what use would be made of the additional accommodation.

The PCSO detailed the eight crimes reported since the last PC Meeting and updated Cllrs. on the various projects which are being dealt with.

The Community Warden detailed the matters she had dealt with since the last PC Meeting. The Chairman mentioned that Swadelands students were again out at lunch time.

The Chairman declared the Meeting open at 8.10 p.m.

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllr. N. Richards, B. Cllr. Marshall and C.Cllr. Lord Bruce-Lockhart.

### 07/90 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr. Barr declared an interest in Item 5Ba (Kent International Gateway).  
Cllr. Greenwood an interest in Item 10a (Kent Village of the Year Competition).

### 07/91 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2008, were confirmed as a true record and it was RESOLVED that they be approved and adopted.

07/92 MATTERS ARISING

- A Update on Power for The Square (07/84A) The Chairman reported that a response regarding a donation towards funding was still awaited from the Business Assn. Cllr. Osborne reported there was a possibility of funding from Bretts.
- B Update on CCTV connection, The Square (07/84B) This was now up and running.
- C Update on Royal Mail Post Bus Service (07/84C) Cllr. Crutcher reported that the draft Business Plan had been submitted to KCC. The Trustees were in place and once the Business Plan was agreed the Company Limited by Guarantee would be set up. A date for the minibus was still awaited but KCC would continue to provide a service until this became available. A further request had been made for volunteer drivers and then training would be given.

07/93 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES/SPOKESPERSONS

- A Finance and General Purposes Committee The report of the Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2008, was received and it was RESOLVED that the recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted. The Chairman referred to:-  
Cemetery Rules The Council agreed the amendments to the rules.
- B Planning The reports of meetings held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 had been circulated to all Cllrs. Cllr. Osborne referred to:-  
MBC Planning Committee He and Cllr. Davison had attended when the application for the placing of an ATM at McColls, Honywood Rd had been considered. Permission had been granted and he was again concerned at the way the application had been considered. B. Cllr. Sams to be asked to ascertain how many applications have recently gone against the Officer's recommendation.  
Coullings Yard Cllr. Osborne reported on the site meeting to discuss the future of the site. Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the PC would write to Mr. Thornton.  
Kent International Gateway Cllr. Goodwin gave Cllrs. a progress report.
- C Parish Plan Steering Group Cllr. Barr reported that progress was being made on various projects. A further meeting would be held with the PCC.
- D Highways & Transportation The following was reported:-  
KCC Draft Permit Scheme Cllr. Crutcher had perused the document which set out proposals to coordinate all parties when highway work was planned to enable this to be undertaken with the minimum of disruption.  
Report of Pipkin Seminar The Chairman's report had been circulated to all Cllrs.  
Lorry Parking in Loder Close A letter had been received from Mr. Browning and Cllr. Crutcher undertook to speak to Lenham Storage. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to KCC drawing attention to the number of foreign lorries that now park overnight on the highway.
- E Law & Order The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the Police about LPC becoming involved in Speed Watch. It was suggested that Lenham should identify groups of volunteers and visit Staplehurst to see how their scheme worked. If there was sufficient interest it might be possible to hire their equipment for a temporary period. He had spoken to HPC's Chairman who agreed this was a way forward. It was agreed an article be placed in Focus to ascertain interest.

Cllr. Wilders referred to the comments about speeding expressed by residents of Maidstone Road, He was concerned at the signage that had been placed and considered that this could distract drivers. Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would write to all residents of Maidstone Rd. explaining that the PC were working with Kent Highways and the Police to take action to slow the speed of traffic and get a footpath placed but felt that the signage placed by residents was not helpful.

- F Environment The following was reported;-  
Recycling Site Various sites were being considered and Cllr. Michaelas reported that the Business Assn. were interested in the cardboard collection scheme mentioned by Lenham Storage.  
Litter Cllr. Greenwood reported that Maidstone Road and Ham Lane required attention.  
Future of the Pines on North Downs Ridge Cllr. Greenwood reported that replanting had been discussed at a meeting of the Mid Kent Downs Steering Group and it was agreed that LPC would be agreeable to becoming involved with this.  
High Street Railings The painting work had been undertaken. Cllr. Greenwood mentioned that the Probation Service were willing to help with other projects. There was some concern that in some cases there was insufficient supervision. Cllr. Wilders said that training could be given locally to ensure that there was a Supervisor on site to see that the required work was done. It was suggested that this be discussed with the Community Warden and PCSO.  
S.E. River Basin Liaison Panel Cllr. Barr reported that as a matter of urgency he had replied to an email requesting the PC's comments on the state of the springs and streams in the Parish.
- G Lock-Up Project Cllr. Greenwood reported on his discussion with an Architect to survey the building and produce a document to utilise the building. There was some concern as to what the building would now be used for and how to obtain sponsorship. It was RESOLVED that Cllr. Greenwood would contact Marley and Lenham Storage to ascertain if they would be interested in becoming involved in the project.

#### 07/94 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE MEETINGS

KALC Area Committee A report of the AGM had been circulated to all Cllrs.  
Mid Kent Steering Group At the next meeting Cllr. Greenwood would discuss the Pilgrims Way with other Parishes and ascertain what they were doing.  
Business Assn. Cllr. Michaelas reported that the Assn. had concerns about parking and a meeting was being arranged with MBC and the PC to discuss. The Assn. was interested in becoming involved with the welcome pack and the website.  
Orchard Project Cllr. Barr reported on the successful event to discuss the history of Lenham and reminded Cllrs. that tree planting would start on the 16<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr. Michaelas reported that a former KCC Historical Officer lived locally and it was suggested that he be invited to attend the APM.

#### 07/95 REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

Charlton Football Coaching for Lenham & Harrietsham It was RESOLVED that the PC would contribute £500 towards the scheme.  
Senior Citizens Tea Party As the project was profit making it was agreed that a donation could not be made.  
Platts Heath School: Request to move lamp post for proposed layby It was RESOLVED that before a decision was taken Cllr. Crutcher would obtain quotations to ascertain the cost of moving the lamp post.

#### 07/96 BUDGET FOR 2008/9

The Chairman referred to the draft Budget prepared by the F & GP Committee and it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council approved the Committee's recommendations and would apply to MBC for a Precept of £51242.

#### 07/97 WEBSITE

Cllr. Davison reported that the website was now up and running. He asked that each Cllr. provide an article for the website so that news could be kept up to date and it was agreed that Cllrs. would email information to him.

07/98 KALC/KENT RURAL

Information was reported on the following:-

Kent Village of the Year Competition 2008 Cllr. Michaelas knew of someone interested in organising this and papers were passed to him.

Rural Community Retailer of 2008 Information passed to Cllr. Michaelas.

Planning Information Day 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 Cllrs. Davison and Godfrey would attend. Cheque to be signed at the F & GP Committee Meeting.

NALC Annual Conference: 20-22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2008 Details given. No action to be taken.

07/99 REPORT ON REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF SYSTEM OF INTERNAL AUDIT

Cllr. Bate circulated his report following the review undertaken by himself, the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer. It was RESOLVED that the recommendations be agreed.

07/100 ACCOUNTSCheques for consideration & payment

EDF	Street Lighting: February maintenance	£58.77
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Citizens Advice Bureau	2 x Outreach sessions	£100.00
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Secure Eng.	CCTV connection The Square-Lenham Storage	£780.20
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Mr. A. Barr	Children's Playground Annual rent	£1.05
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EDF	January energy	£58.12
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Salaries and expenses detailed as Appendix A and filed with the signed copy of these Minutes.

Cheques paid into Acct.

Natwest Bank	Liquidity Manager Interest to 31.12.07	£214.12
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COMMUNITY CENTRE

P.Works Loan Board	2 <sup>nd</sup> loan repayment	£5262.32
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It was RESOLVED that the accounts be approved and the cheques signed.

Children's Playground Cllr. Barr reported that a television company would be filming in the playground during the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> February for which the PC would receive a small donation.

Appointment of External Auditor The Audit Commission had informed the Parish Council that Alun Williams had been appointed as auditor to the Parish Council. LPC had no objection.

07/101 CORRESPONDENCE

- A Communities & Local Govt. Consultation re. Conduct of LA Members Cllr. Younger reported that it was proposed that complaints about a Councillor would be investigated at local level to ascertain if there was a reason for proceeding. Cllr. Younger would be undertaking training to serve on the Sieve Committee.
- B Lenham Cemetery: The Hatch Charity Trust Mr. Maylam had written stating that the family agreed to the work that the Trustees proposed to carry out.
- C Maidstone's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Urban Conference An invitation had been extended to rural parishes to attend the event on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- D MBC: Allowances for Parish Councils: Report of Independent Remuneration Panel Information had been received from MBC and Cllrs. were reminded that the previous Council had agreed that Cllrs. should not receive an allowance. It was agreed that this Council would continue as at present with Cllrs. being reimbursed expenses.
- E Letter from Mr. Bailey: Pilgrims Way This had been discussed earlier. The Police would be asked to patrol at weekends.
- F Sustainable Communities Bill LPC had been informed that this had become law and information would be forthcoming on how the Act would work.

The Meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.