

# Lenham Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL, 2008, IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr. N. Godfrey, Chairman presiding  
Cllr. A. Barr, Vice-Chairman,  
Cllrs. L. Davison, Miss S. Goodwin, R. Greenwood, M. Osborne, N. Richards,  
I. Younger, Mrs. P. Sutton (Clerk).  
Harrietsham PC Representative, Cllr. D. Clifton

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Naomi Betts from Mid Kent Downs Project gave an update on progress on the Rayners Hill Picnic Site project. She circulated a drawing of the proposal to redesign the entrance and asked that any comments be passed to Cllr. Barr. It was proposed that the site should be renamed Cherry Downs and views on this were also requested.

A resident queried the PC's views on the recent planning application for the Lenham Storage site. Cllr. Osborne explained that this had been considered by the Planning Committee who had been unable to take a view as a Parish Council or Cllr. could not take a view on any item they had an interest in. As the PC and the Company were partners in the village CCTV project the PC was not able to take a view and would leave a decision to MBC Planners. It was pointed out that this did not stop any resident writing to MBC or contacting their Borough Cllrs.

Two residents expressed their concerns about the planning application for two new houses at the rear of McColls in Honywood Road. Cllr. Osborne replied that the PC's Planning Committee had objected to the application. Residents were asked to let LPC have copies of their objections.

Mr. Hill from Lenham Heath reported that vehicles were still operating from the Brake Bros. site. Cllr. Davison reported that a decision was still awaited from the Traffic Commission and it was suggested that Mr. Hill write to the Traffic Commissioner enclosing photographs.

PCSO Ibbott, who was attending his first PC Meeting since taking over from PCSO Nicola Morris, detailed the seven reported crimes since the last PC Meeting. He gave apologies from PC Paul Kemsley who was unable to attend the Meeting. PCSO Ibbott would put his contact details in Focus.

The Community Warden reported that Operation Stack had caused problems for Lenham Traders. The following was drawn to LPC's attention:-  
Fake £20 notes in circulation in this and other villages.  
The fence along Parapet House field on the footpath Maidstone Rd/Ham Lane required attention.  
Cllr. Greenwood would speak to Mr. Waring.  
The Wednesday afternoon teas for the elderly were very successful.

A resident queried when the M20 would be resurfaced. Cllr. Clifton explained what Harrietsham PC were doing to collate hard evidence about the noise problem affecting the village.

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

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs. Bate, Crutcher, Michaelas, Nye, B. Cllrs. D. Marshall and Tom Sams and C.Cllr. Lord Bruce-Lockhart.

07/113 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr. Barr declared an interest in Agenda Item 5Ba and was not present during discussion.

07/114 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2008, were confirmed as a true record and it was RESOLVED that they be approved and adopted.

07/115 MATTERS ARISING

- A Update on Power for The Square (07/104A) The Chairman reported that information was still awaited from MBC on the concurrent function bid and from the Business Assn.
- B Update on Royal Mail Post Bus Service (07/104B) Update awaited from Cllr. Crutcher.
- C Platts Heath School: Request to move lamppost (07/104C) Report awaited from Cllr. Crutcher.
- D Kent Village of the Year Competition (07/104D) Cllr. Michaelas had informed the Clerk that it had been decided not to participate this year.
- E Citizens Advice Bureau: Outreach Sessions (07/105C) The Chairman and Clerk would meet with CAB on the 9<sup>th</sup> April.
- F Update on PC Website (07/107) Cllr. Davison reported on progress and circulated several news items for comment by Cllrs prior to placing on the website. Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the Parish Plan would be put on the website and a link with Focus would be set up. Cllr. Greenwood said that Swadelands School were interested in linking up with the PC website. The Clerk reminded Cllrs. that Julia Allen's contract with the PC to upload information onto the website ceased in March 2008. It was agreed that a letter be sent thanking her for all her help with the website.
- G Annual Parish Meeting (07/109) The Clerk reported that Mr. Bligh, KCC Archivist, had agreed to attend the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> May.
- H Showtime Amusements (07/112B) The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had met with Mr. Shayler to discuss arrangements. Representatives from the Football Club and Lenham Storage were also present but although the Chairman had invited local residents none had attended. He detailed arrangements which would commence with setting up w/c 28<sup>th</sup> June, the Fair taking place over four days from the following Thursday. The Clerk would write confirming the arrangements.

07/116 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES/SPOKESPERSONS

- A Finance and General Purposes Committee The report of the Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2008, together with the confidential report relating to salaries, was received and it was RESOLVED that the recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.
- B Planning The reports of meetings held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008 had been circulated to all Cllrs. Cllr. Osborne referred to the following:-  
Lenham Storage Planning Application Reference was made to the comments made during Public Participation and Cllr. Osborne explained the reason why the Committee felt that the PC should not take a view. He reiterated that this would not stop any resident from taking a view. He undertook to clarify LPC's position with MBC's Monitoring Officer.  
Kent International Gateway Cllr. Osborne reported that the Joint Parishes Meeting had discussed the process for determining the application.
- C Parish Plan Steering Group Cllr. Barr reported that the Group had discussed the website and the welcome pack.

- D Highways & Transport The following was reported:-  
Maidstone Road The Clerk reported that KCC were awaiting conclusions of discussion about the funds that would be available for local transport plan works in next year's budget. If work cannot be done in 2008/9 the scheme would be rebid as a contender for 2009/10 through the Pipkin assessment process. In principle, it would be difficult for KCC to commit to refunding the cost of the scheme if it were to be built by a third party as Members could not guarantee that funds would be available in a future year, as the bids have to be evaluated on a countywide basis each year. The Clerk to write to Mr. Cook informing him why LPC could not take up his offer to undertake the work.  
Lorry Parking Kent Highways would look into the problems relating to lorry parking in Lenham and provide a more detailed update in due course.  
Operation Stack KCC were committed to finding a longer term solution to Stack and were urging the Government to provide the necessary funding to provide a permanent emergency lorry park.  
Runham Lane KCC had asked for LPC's views regarding the placing of a restriction on HGVs using Runham Lane. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Davison would undertake a survey and report to the next PC Meeting. Cllr. Goodwin reported problems with HGVs at Sandway and queried if signing could be placed further back.  
Corner House, The Square Cllr. Davison reported that work had been undertaken but he had informed KCC that the sign by the Ironmongers was twisted. (Noted by Cllr. Davison following the meeting this work had been completed).  
Spreadsheet Amendments had been made to enable various people to update.
- E Law & Order The following was reported:-  
Rural Policing Conference The Chairman would be attending on the 8<sup>th</sup> April.  
Speed Watch The Chairman reported that he had further discussed with Harrietsham PC and it was felt that there was a need for enforcement or there was no point in doing anything. The Chairman undertook to continue to progress the project.  
CCTV: Human Rights Cllr. Osborne reported receipt of a letter from a resident complaining that the PC was infringing her human rights by placing CCTV in the village. Cllr. Osborne had explained to her the decision for installing CCTV had been undertaken following a Public Meeting and he would inform the PC of her concerns. Cllr. Osborne would reply stating that the Parish Council felt most people supported the CCTV in Lenham and the response from the Parish Plan also supported it.
- F Environment Cllr. Greenwood reported the following:-  
Bus Shelter Repair The repair had been completed with the exception of the tiling which was considered to need to be taken back a row. He and Cllr. Osborne agreed to obtain quotations from local tilers.  
Cemetery Fencing had been removed and yew trees would be planted. The shed had been repainted and Mr. Waring would place a water butt.
- G Lock-Up Project Cllr. Greenwood had nothing to report.

#### 07/117 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE MEETINGS

Business Assn Cllr. Michaelas had informed the Clerk that everything was progressing well.  
Recycling Cllr. Goodwin circulated a report of meetings she had attended with Cllr. Barr, B. Cllr. Sams and MBC to look at the existing site and the possibility of using part of the Texaco site as a recycling site. The owner of the Texaco site had given a preliminary welcome to the idea for short term use of the site by Harrietsham and Lenham PCs. Cllrs. Goodwin and Barr were looking into funding for improving the present site. It was agreed that LPC would send a letter of support for the project to Texaco.  
Meeting with PCC Cllr. Barr reported that he and Cllrs. Osborne and Greenwood had met with the PCC and detailed the items discussed.  
Youth Council The Chairman reported that he, Cllr. Younger and the Chairman of the Youth PC had attended a meeting regarding Youth Councils. Cllr. Younger felt that Lenham was ahead of what KCC were planning.  
Harrietsham PC Meeting The Chairman had attended.

07/118 CARBON FOOTPRINT REVIEW

Cllr. Goodwin reported that Boxley PC were looking to review their carbon footprint and had queried what other PCs were doing. She had contacted them and detailed the information received. She reported that although Lenham were already doing quite a lot there were other things that could be done. It was agreed that she would prepare a draft for the website to be discussed at the next Meeting.

07/119 PICNIC SITE

Cllr. Barr reported that a meeting of the Management Group would be arranged and suggested another member should be invited to attend. Cllr. Goodwin was interested but felt unable at present to commit the time and it was agreed that the Enhancement Assn. be contacted.

07/120 CONSULTATION ON BYWAYS OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC (BOAT)

The Chairman reminded Cllrs. that the Public Meeting arranged by B.Cllr. Sams would be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence between KCC and Hugh Robertson, MP and Lord Bruce-Lockhart.

07/121 KALC/KENT RURAL

Annual Subscription to KALC and Kent Rural 2009 It was RESOLVED that the F & GP Committee would consider renewal of subscriptions at the next meeting.

07/122 ACCOUNTSCheques for consideration & payment

|   |  |          |
|---|--|----------|
| Anthony Hicks Ltd.  | Bus shelter repair (2 <sup>nd</sup> payment) | £766.69  |
| Mr. P. Waring   | Contract 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment          | £6979.63 |
| Mr. P. Waring   | Additional work                              | £2767.60 |
| Cash  | Petty cash                                   | £50.00   |
| Lenham P.Hall Cttee   | Hire of hall                                 | £248.00  |
| Natwest Bank  | Account charge                               | £6.00    |
| Salaries and expenses detailed as Appendix A and filed with the signed copy of these Minutes. |  |          |

Cheques paid into Acct.

|                     |   |         |
|---------------------|---|---------|
| Cleverley & Spencer | Fee, headstone & kerb                       | £95.00  |
| A. W. Court         | Interment fee                               | £50.00  |
| MBC                 | Contribution towards Post Bus               | £410.00 |
| Natwest Bank        | Liquidity Manager Acct. interest to 29.2.08 | £187.51 |

COMMUNITY CENTREPayments

|                    |                                   |          |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| P.Works Loan Board | Repayment of 1 <sup>st</sup> Loan | £4592.92 |
| Natwest Bank       | Account charge                    | £6.00    |

It was RESOLVED that the accounts be approved and the cheques signed.

07/123 CORRESPONDENCE

- A Mr. D. Watch & letters from neighbouring properties: Robins Close green and lay-bys The PC's attention had been drawn to the difficulties being experienced by Mr. Watch and neighbours in Robins Close regarding the lay-bys being used as a car park by residents of 86 and 88 High Street. They were also concerned that the High Street occupants, having used the green as a means of pedestrian access over a number of years might claim rights of access and build permanent paths on the green from the lay-bys to their properties to which Robins Close residents would object most strongly. It was also pointed out that both houses had used the green as a dumping ground for building materials whilst building works had been carried out on their properties. Cllr. Davison undertook to take up with Kent Highways.

- B MBC Meeting with Parish Councils: 7<sup>th</sup> April Chairman and Clerks had been invited to a meeting with B. Cllr. Fitzgerald to discuss various items.
- C CPRE Membership An invitation to become members of the CPRE had been received. It was agreed that the PC take out membership.
- D Try Angle Awards 2008 Nominations had been requested. Information to be passed to Swadelands School. It was agreed that the Youth Council Chairman and Secretary be nominated.
- E Petition re. Downing Street website Information received by email had been circulated to all Cllrs. It was agreed to leave to individual Cllrs. to respond.
- F NHS: Kent Annual Public Health Report – Management Summary Passed to Cllr. Younger.
- G FOE: Climate Change Bill An invitation had been extended to all Cllrs. to attend a Public Meeting to discuss the Bill. Passed to Cllr. Goodwin.

The Meeting closed at 10.10p.m.

Signed this day 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 .....  
Chairman