

# Lenham Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2008, IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr. N. Godfrey, Chairman presiding  
Cllr. A. Barr, Vice-Chairman,  
Cllrs. M. Crutcher, L. Davison, Miss S. Goodwin, R. Greenwood, J. Nye, M. Osborne,  
I. Younger, Mrs. P. Sutton (Clerk) and Mr. R. Sutton (RFO)  
B. Cllr. T. Sam also representing Harrietsham PC.

The Chairman asked all present to stand in silence for one minute in memory of C.Cllr. Lord Bruce-Lockhart who had died in August. He gave details of the memorial service to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> November in Canterbury Cathedral which would be by ticket only. Any Cllr. wishing to attend was asked to contact the Clerk for further information.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Larkin queried ownership of the trees in Maidstone Road and expressed ongoing concern about the untidy state of the road opposite to the houses. The Chairman replied that Cllr. Greenwood was looking into the problems.

Mr. Hill again expressed his ongoing concerns about the traffic using the former Brake Bros. site. The Chairman reminded him yet again to provide evidence to send to VOSA.

Mr. Watch drew attention to parking problems in Robins Close and the Police were asked to look at the problem.

PC Kemsley detailed the six reported crimes in August and four in September. He reported that there was increased theft of vehicle licence plates and of tractors etc.

The Community Warden reported that the previous two months had been quiet.

The Chairman declared the Meeting open at 8.00 p.m.

### 08/52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs. Bate, Michaelas, Richards, Wilding and B. Cllr. Marshall. Cllr. Greenwood had informed the Clerk that he would be late arriving as he was attending another meeting.

### 08/53 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr. Barr declared an interest in Item 5Ba relating to Kent International Gateway.

### 08/54 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2008, were confirmed as a true record and it was RESOLVED that they be approved and adopted.

### 08/55 MATTERS ARISING

- A Update on Power for The Square (08/45A) The Chairman reported that the project was progressing and the equipment would be installed 13-18<sup>th</sup> October.
- B Update on Royal Mail Post Bus Service (08/45B)) Cllr. Crutcher reported that bi-weekly meetings of the Local Community Minibus Committee were being held. Driver training would take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> October, Cllr. Barr thanked Cllr. Crutcher and the Committee for all their work.
- C Platts Heath School: Request to move lamppost (08/45C) The Clerk reported that a quotation had been obtained from EDF for the disconnection and reconnection of supply and also quotes for work to the trench totalling approx. £1300. It was agreed that these be passed to the School and the School informed that the PC had no provision to fund in this financial year. However, if the School wished, funding would be considered when the 2009/10 budget was prepared.

- D Update on Cherry Downs (08/45D) Cllr. Greenwood reported on the success of the BBQ. He updated Cllrs. on the work undertaken on the site and felt there was a need to plan for the next 3-4 years.
- E Sustainable Communities Act (08/47) Cllr. Goodwin's draft letter to MBC had been circulated to all Cllrs and it was agreed that this be sent to MBC. Cllr. Goodwin suggested that a joint Parishes meeting be arranged to explain the Act and it was agreed that she liaise with the Clerk.
- F KCC Legal Services (08/51B) The work that KCC's Legal Dept could undertake on behalf of Parish Councils was detailed.
- 08/56 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES/SPOKESPERSONS
- A Finance & General Purposes Committee The report of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2008 was received and it was RESOLVED that the recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.
- B Planning The report of the meetings held on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 had been circulated to all Cllrs. The following was drawn to the Council's attention:-  
Gypsies Cllr. Barr referred to the Gypsy toolkit produced by MBC and drew attention to various items. He queried if the PC should write to MBC expressing their concerns about the number of sites in this area. Following discussion it was agreed that no action be taken until Cllr. Osborne had reported on his attendance at the Seminar on the 27<sup>th</sup> October.  
Kent International Gateway Cllr. Osborne gave a review of the situation following the last Joint Parishes Meeting. It was now thought that MBC would consider the application in November/December. He referred to LPC's concerns about the increased cost of their share of the fees and gave a breakdown of the costs incurred by the Joint Parishes to date. Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the invoice received in June should now be paid and that no more than a total of £2000 be spent up to the Appeal stage, the excess over the previously agreed amount of £1100 to come from contingency funds.  
 It was agreed that continued membership of the Joint Parishes Group following the application being considered by MBC be discussed at the next PC Meeting.
- C Parish Plan Steering Group Cllr. Barr reported on progress of the various projects.
- D Highways & Transport The following was reported:-  
August Committee Minutes Cllr. Bate would circulate.  
Maidstone Rd. Footway Scheme KCC had informed that work would commence on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.  
Dropped Kerbs The Chairman and B. Cllr. Sams had looked at various areas in the Parish requiring dropped kerbs and details would be passed to Kent Highway Services. It was noted that Cllr. Younger objected to the proposed work opposite the Chinese restaurant. B. Cllr. Sams agreed to arrange a meeting with Cllr. Younger and KHS to discuss.  
Parish & Town Council Seminar Cllr. Bate would attend on the 14<sup>th</sup> October.  
Request for Rail outside Chemist Cllr. Greenwood reported that he had received a request to place a rail on the edge of the path. Following discussion it was agreed no action be taken.
- E Law & Order The following was reported:-  
Speed Watch Update Cllr. Davison undertook to place a notice in Focus.  
CCTV Monitoring The Chairman reported that Secure Engineering had informed him of problems of Police monitoring and had suggested ways forward. Following discussion it was agreed that no action be taken at present.
- F Environment Cllr. Greenwood reported the following:-  
Cemetery Parking on the Cemetery driveway was again a problem and it was agreed that Cllr. Greenwood liaise with Mr. Waring and be given authority to spend up to £200 on preventative measures. Cllr. Greenwood also undertook to pursue the possibility of improving the parking outside Hill Crescent. He also reported that rabbits were a problem and that the Poplars along the driveway needed to be looked at.  
Churchyard The contractor had been asked to cut the grass prior to the Ordination Service for the new Vicar. A quotation of £200 for work to the large tomb had been obtained and the Church had agreed to split the cost. It was agreed that LPC would spend up to £100 on this work.  
Seat around Yew Tree Cllr. Greenwood would discuss this with the Vicar.

Pilgrims Way The Police had been informed that the gate had been damaged. Regarding the recent consultation on the Pilgrims Way Cllr. Greenwood had been informed that KCC were arranging a meeting with the PC and landowners to decide on the way forward.

Rd. Sweeper It was reported that Mr. Robinson had returned to work on the 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Agricultural Smell Cllr. Osborne referred to the recent problems. B. Cllr. Sams reported that MBC would investigate if contacted.

Grass Cutting Specifications The Chairman reported that these would be considered at the next F & GP Committee Meeting.

Recycling Cllr. Goodwin reported that MBC were trying to ascertain the owner of the current recycling site and work to the trees was needed at the Texaco site to enable the containers to be placed. She undertook to contact Lenham Storage about the cardboard recycling scheme.

08/57 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE MEETINGS

Business Assn Nothing to report at present.

Harrietsham PC Cllr. Goodwin had attended.

Cllr. Greenwood had attended the following meetings:-

Maidstone Marketing A development plan was available on line and he would liaise with the Clerk.

Heath Corridor The Group were interested in the picnic site and liaising on publicity.

Swadelands Governors Meeting The School were keen to become involved with the Community and had appointed a person to liaise. They were planning Open Days to enable children from Primary Schools with limited facilities to try out different sports.

08/58 KALC/KENT RURAL

Copies of Parish News No. 334 and Oast to Coast had been received. Details were given of a Finance Information Day to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October.

The Chairman's report of his attendance at the Area Committee Meeting had been tabled and he referred to various items.

Speed Restriction Review Three representatives had been chosen and details were given.

08/59 ACCOUNTS

Cheques signed between Meetings

Audit Commission	External Audit fee	£470.00
Citizens Advice Bureau	August outreach session	£50.00
Cash	Petty cash for BBQ	£75.00
Mr. E. Seales	Shelves for PC Cupboard	£148.00
BT	Clerk's phone acct.	£54.73
EDF	September maintenance	£60.48
EDF	Energy August	£58.12
Four Jays Group	Toilet hire	£41.13
Four Jays Group	Event toilet	£159.80
PWLB	1 <sup>st</sup> Loan repayment	£4592.92
Natwest Bank	Acct. charges to 29.8.08	£6.00

Cheques for consideration & payment

Citizens Advice Bureau	September outreach session	£50.00
Lenham Valley Police Car	Contribution to 2008/9 costs	£500.00
Four Jays Group	Event toilet 6.9.08	£41.13
EDF Energy	Lock-Up standing charge 26.7-18.9.08	£23.58
Secure Engineering Ltd.	Repair internet connection	£246.75

Salaries and expenses detailed as Appendix A and filed with the signed copy of these Minutes.

Amounts paid into Acct.

LW Football Club	Rent, Pitt Field	£5.00
KCC	Management Cherry Downs Picnic Site	£1300.00
Burslem Memorials	Fee, place headstone	£35.00
Cleverley & Spencer	Fee, place tablet	£10.00
Natwest Bank	Liquidity Acct. interest to 31.7.08	£120.18
"	Liquidity Acct. interest to 29.8.08	£112.71

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Natwest Bank	Account charges to 29.8.08	£6.00
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It was RESOLVED that the accounts be approved and the cheques signed. Future funding of the police car would be discussed at the next F & GP Committee Meeting. The Clerk reported that LPC's Solicitor had now completed work to the Parish Council's Deeds and had queried if a fee of £750 plus VAT and disbursements would be acceptable. The Parish Council were agreeable to this sum.

The Chairman pointed out that it was 10.00 p.m. and queried if the Council wished to continue. This was agreed.

08/60 CORRESPONDENCE

- A Lenham Enhancement Assn. The Assn. had queried if it was possible to meet with the RFO to discuss some method whereby they could purchase supplies through LPC's VAT refund facility. Following discussion it was agreed that the Association be informed that the Parish Council was not prepared to pay and reclaim the VAT on all the Association's purchases but could provide goods rather than cash as an annual donation.
- B Len Valley Practice: White Paper re. Future of Dispensing Information had been received from the Practice Manager on proposals to divert resources away from the Practice. Cllr. Younger enlarged on the changes which also affected GP surgeries and urged people to write to their MP.
- C MBC: Youth Sport Achievement Awards Sponsorship had been requested from PCs. It was agreed this would be considered next year.
- D MBC: Public Conveniences, Maidstone Rd. A review of facilities throughout the Borough was being undertaken and comments were requested. The Clerk to forward LPC's response.
- E KCC Annual Report Receipt reported.
- F Kent Stour Countryside Project The KSCP had informed the PC that its boundaries had been extended and now included parts of Boughton Malherbe and Lenham, as a consequence part of Lenham Parish was now within the Project Area. A copy of their latest newsletter had been received and was passed to Cllr. Greenwood.
- G MBC: BMX Park Improvements The Chairman reported that MBC had approved funding of £2000 for improvements to the BMX track. He had contacted Clever Curves who were willing to stick with their quotation and it was agreed that the work proceed.
- H EDF: Termination of Maintenance Contract The Clerk had contacted EDF and been told to speak to KCC. A response was awaited.

The Meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

Signed this day 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2008

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Chairman