

# Lenham Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER, 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,  
J. Nye, I. Younger, Mrs. P. Sutton (Clerk) and Mr. R. Sutton (RFO)  
B. Cllr. T. Sams (also representing Harrietsham PC)

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Hill thanked Cllr. Davison for his help regarding the former Brake Bros. site at Lenham Heath and reported that residents were getting together to try to do something about the problems in Rose Lane. B. Cllr. Sams agreed to liaise to write a letter to MBC and the Police were asked to make occasional visits to the area.

Mr. Larkin thanked the Parish Council for all their help in getting the footpath placed in Maidstone Rd. He pointed out that the undergrowth and a broken fence still needed attention. Cllr. Greenwood said that it had been agreed that once the roads works were completed this would be looked at and he would work with the Enhancement Assn. to clear up. Mr. Larkin also reported that the school sign had disappeared. Cllr. Davison would report to Kent Highways and said that they had been notified of various things that required tidying.

Cllr. Barr reported that the Parish sign at the top of Maidstone Rd required tidying and Mr. Larkin undertook to do this.

The Chairman welcomed Colin Davey the new Community Warden. Mr. Davey said that everyone had been very welcoming. He was liaising with the Headmaster of Swadelands School and would be taking the names of pupils who were in the village at lunch times.

PCSO Mark Ibbot detailed the six crimes reported since the last Meeting. He would be putting an article in Focus reminding people to secure their vehicles. Cllr. Barr reported that there had been another accident at the Faversham Rd/A20 crossroads and felt that the speed limit along this stretch should be looked at again. B. Cllr. Sams hoped that Harrietsham and Lenham PCs could work together on speed restrictions along the stretch of A20 through both villages.

The Chairman declared the Meeting open at 7.50 p.m.

### 08/70 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs. Osborne, Wilders, B. Cllr. Marshall and Cllr. Wood from Harrietsham PC. (Cllr. Richards' apologies were received after the meeting).

### 08/71 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr. Barr declared an interest in Item 5Ba relating to Kent International Gateway and was not present during discussion.

### 08/72 MINUTES

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

### 08/73 MATTERS ARISING

- A Update on Power for The Square (08/64A) The Chairman reported that the project was completed and would get Cllr. Osborne to test.
- B Update on Royal Mail Post Bus Service (08/64B) Cllr. Crutcher reported that the bus would be available at the end of January. However, the bus would not be a new vehicle which meant that it would need replacing earlier than planned. The RFO reported that there was £410 from the B.Cllrs. devolved budgets currently in LPC's account. A cheque was included on the accounts list for £410 payable to the Lenham Community Minibus.

- C Trees at Robins Close (P.Part) The Clerk reported that she had contacted Kent Highways and been informed that the job was raised on the 15<sup>th</sup> September and they were awaiting a date from the contractor when the work would be done.
- D Sustainable Communities Act (08/64EE) Cllr. Goodwin had nothing to report at the moment.
- E Citizens Advice Bureau: Outreach Sessions (08/66) The Chairman referred to discussion at the last meeting and queried if the Council wished to continue with the sessions from January to July 2009. It was proposed by Cllr. Greenwood, seconded by Cllr. Barr and RESOLVED that the PC agreed to fund sessions until to July.
- F Public Conveniences (08/66) The Clerk and Cllr. Barr had looked back through Minutes and old documents and could find nothing relating to ownership of the conveniences. Cllr. Greenwood would contact MBC to see if they had any further information about the future of the toilets.
- G KCC Registers of Common Land (08/69C) The Clerk reported that she had ascertained that the land at Woodside Green was subject to protection under section 9 of the Commons Registration Act of 1965.
- H Communities & Local Govt. Consultation: Code of Conduct (08/69C) Cllr. Younger had nothing to report.
- I English Rural Annual Report Cllr. Barr had perused. English Rural had formerly been known as the Rural Housing Trust and had worked with the Parish Council on the low cost housing in Ham Lane.
- 08/74 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES/SPOKESPERSONS

- A Finance & General Purposes Committee The report of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, was received and it was RESOLVED that the recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted. The Chairman said that the budget would be finalised when the concurrent function grant from MBC was known.
- B Planning  
Kent International Gateway Cllr. Goodwin reported that information was still awaited on when the application would be considered by MBC. The Joint Parishes Group would be sending out a newsletter which would be circulated with Focus if time allowed.  
Enforcement Cllr. Barr reported on his attendance at an MBC meeting to discuss problems and how they should be dealt with.  
 The report of the meetings held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, and 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2008, had been circulated to all Cllrs. The Clerk referred to the following:-  
Information on Planning Enforcement Activity To enable information to be supplied to PCs MBC required evidence that PCs had the constitutional arrangements to undertake an exempt information (known as Part II) meeting thereby excluding the public. Wording to be included in LPC's Standing Orders was read and it was RESOLVED that this be sent to MBC to enable Lenham PC to receive the information.  
Application for Kilnwood, Headcorn Rd. The Clerk reported the Planning Officer's comments on LPC's query on placing a restriction on the extension and it was agreed that the comments made by the Committee be sent to MBC.
- C Parish Plan Steering Group Cllr. Barr reported that the Group would meet with the PCC to discuss Tourism and the next Steering Group meeting would discuss the welcome pack, Cherry Downs BBQ. and the website. It was felt strongly that the website must be kept updated and suggestions were considered on various ways to achieve this which would be discussed at the next Group meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> December.  
Youth Council Cllr. Younger informed the Council that a meeting had been held to find new members and five people had stated their interest in joining the Youth Council.
- D Highways & Transport Cllr. Bate reported that the next Committee meeting would be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> December and Cllr. Barr asked that A20 speed limit be included on the agenda.  
 Cllr. Bate would be attending a consultation seminar on the KCC Permit Scheme.  
Dropped Kerbs The Chairman referred to the recent discussion on the placing of dropped kerbs in various areas and said that B. Cllr. Sams had been informed by MBC that he could not use his devolved budget to fund other authority schemes. The Chairman reminded Cllrs. that the B. Cllr. had previously provided funding for other dropped kerb schemes. Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would write a letter to MBC supporting the new locations.

Flooding outside Lenham Storage Site The Chairman reported that a complaint had been received from the Company regarding flooding in Ham Lane. Cllr. Davison had taken this up with Kent Highways.

Cllr. Barr asked that the condition of the road surface from The Square to Groom Way be drawn to Kent Highways attention.

E Law & Order The Chairman reported that Insp. Sandwell wished the East and West Police Forum meetings to merge together with meetings held alternately in Loose and Headcorn. The Chairman was against this proposal.

F Environment The following was reported:-

Repair of tomb in Churchyard Cllr. Greenwood said this would be discussed at a meeting with the PCC.

Recycling Cllr. Goodwin reported that MBC would be contacted for an update.

Kerbside Recycling The Clerk referred to the forthcoming changes to the kerbside recycling service and reported that MBC had offered to send an officer to explain these at a PC Meeting. It was agreed that the officer attend the January PC Meeting.

Cllr. Greenwood referred to the following:-

Churchyard He had asked the contractor to do an extra cut in the Churchyard and deal with the moles in the Churchyard and Cemetery.

Ham Lane Playground The contractor had sprayed the moss but as this had not had any effect a he would try a different chemical. He would also paint the igloo. Cllr. Younger reported that there was rust on the slide requiring attention and the Teacup Twister had been repaired at no cost as this was still under guarantee.

Leaves on Pavements These had been very deep this year and it was agreed that MBC be asked if they could clear leaves at least once every three weeks in future years.

Community Centre He and Cllr. Osborne had met and discussed various work around the Community Centre. This would be funded by LPC with money ring-fenced for this purpose.

Pitt Field LPC's contractor also undertook work for the Football Club which was paid for by the Club and he felt this should be borne in mind in future when the grass cutting contract was considered.

#### 08/75 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE MEETINGS

A English Heritage Cllr. Greenwood reported on the changes brought about by the Heritage Protection Bill.

B Maidstone Borough Rural Conference The Chairman's report had been circulated to all Cllrs.

#### 08/76 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Information relating to the adoption of a publication scheme had been circulated to all Cllrs and it was proposed by Cllr. Godfrey, seconded by Cllr. Younger and RESOLVED that the model scheme be adopted. The Clerk had circulated details of how information should be published on the website and it was agreed that the Chairman, Cllrs. Davison, Bate, the RFO and Clerk would progress.

#### 08/77 SPEEDWATCH

Cllr. Davison reported that there were nine volunteers. He undertook to contact the Co-ordinator and would look at the cost of hiring the equipment and arrange training in January.

The RFO had information from MBC for funding for one-off additional resources which Cllrs. could complete and submit for a project. Copies of the form would be passed to Cllrs. Davison and Greenwood.

#### 08/78 REPORT ON BMX EQUIPMENT

The Chairman reported that a spine ramp had been added to the equipment with the funding from MBC. MBC had insisted that the equipment should be inspected by RoSPA before the funding was paid to the Parish Council and this had been arranged. Clever Curves had also carried out the annual inspection of the original equipment which had shown some wear. The Chairman had asked RoSPA to look at all the equipment to ensure everything was in order and the total cost of the RoSPA inspections would be £125.

08/79 KALC/KENT RURAL

Receipt reported of the following:- Parish News No.335, the Annual Report and Accounts from NALC and the Minutes of the KALC Area Committee Meeting.

08/80 ACCOUNTSCheques for consideration & payment

Citizens Advice Bureau	November Outreach Session	£50.00
Paul Waring	Grass cutting & maintenance to Sept. 2008	£4146.44
Supplies Team	Printer cartridge	£51.88
Red Alert	Call out to CCTV	£91.65
Lenham PCC	Church floodlighting	£160.35
Cash	Petty cash	£50.00
Came & Co.	Additional insurance premium	£25.00
Clever Curves	BMX Annual inspection	£352.50
Clever Curves	Supply & install spine ramp to BMX	£2150.00
BT	Clerk's phone acct.	£44.25
EDF	December maintenance	£60.48
EDF	November energy	£58.12
Lenham Community Minibus	Donation from B.Cllrs. devolved budget	£410.00
Salaries and expenses detailed as Appendix A and filed with the signed copy of these Minutes		
<u>Amounts paid into Acct.</u>		
Natwest Bank	Liquidity deposit interest to 31.10.08	£109.54
MBC	Concurrent functions 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment	£9360.00
MBC	“ “ Pop up Power	£2000.00
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT refund	£2074.15
Rail Link Countryside Initiative	Cherry Down payment	£3862.54
It was RESOLVED that the accounts be approved and the cheques signed.		

Proposed change to Bank Acct. The RFO reported that the Internal Auditor had confirmed that local authority monies were excluded from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the RFO would make initial arrangements to open bank accounts with another bank. (It was noted that Cllr. Crutcher was against the proposal).

08/81 CORRESPONDENCE

- A Linton Boundary Project Information had been received from Linton PC regarding a community project to look at boundary markers and suggesting that perhaps other PCs might also like to undertake a similar project. It was agreed that this be passed to the Archaeological Society.
- B South East Water A copy of the response to comments on the draft Water Resource Management Plan and Environmental Report had been received.
- C Meeting with KCC The Chairman reported that he would attend a 'Conversation with the Lead Member for Environment, Highways and Waste at KCC.'

The meeting closed at 9.28 p.m.