

# Lenham Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2009, IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr. N. Godfrey, Chairman presiding  
Cllr. A. Barr, Vice-Chairman,  
Cllrs. J. Bate, L. Davison, Miss S. Goodwin, J. Nye, M. Osborne, N. Richards,  
Mrs. P. Sutton (Clerk) and Mr. R. Sutton (RFO)

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Community Warden had received complaints about postal vans parking across the disabled crossing ramp and on the double yellow lines outside the Post Office. The Parish Council agreed to take this up with Royal Mail. Cllr. Barr pointed out that a lot of vehicles parked on the double yellow lines and Cllr. Bate would take this up with Kent Highways Liaison Officer.

A member of the public asked if a grit bin could be placed in The Square and Cllr. Bate agreed to speak to Highways. Cllr. Goodwin was appalled at the lack of gritting of footpaths.

Cllr. Barr noted that people selling the Big Issue were also in The Square and the Community Warden confirmed that they had the correct permits.

The Chairman introduced Alison Sollis from Maidstone B.C. who had been invited to explain the changes to the kerbside recycling service (which consist of paper, cardboard, cans and some plastics) which will commence in the Spring. A DVD was shown explaining the changes followed by a question and answer session. The Chairman thanked Mrs Sollis for attending.

Residents of Honeywood Road referred to the recent ram-raid at McColls and expressed their concerns that another ATM would be placed. Cllr. Osborne and the Chairman had taken this up with MBC Planners and the Police and reported that MBC were unable to revoke the permission given for the placing of the machine. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the Chief Constable, with a copy to our MP, asking the Police to undertake a risk assessment of the site.

The Chairman declared the Meeting open at 8.20 p.m.

### 08/82 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs. Crutcher, Greenwood, Wilders, Younger, Harrietsham PC Representative Cllr. D. Clifton and B.Cllrs. Sams and Marshall. The Clerk informed the Council that Cllrs. Michaelas and Wilders had not attended any meetings for some months although apologies for non-attendance due to work commitments had been received from each Cllr. In view of this the Council agreed that the Clerk should write to the Cllrs. pointing out that they faced disqualification from the Council if they did not attend meetings and query with them if, because of their work commitments, they wished to continue on the Council.

### 08/83 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

### 08/84 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2008, were confirmed as a true record and it was RESOLVED that they be approved and adopted.

08/85 MATTERS ARISING

- A Update on Lenbus Project (08/73B)) Cllr. Crutcher had informed the Clerk that he was arranging more driver training and the administrative database was taking shape but he still did not have a firm delivery date. Cllr. Osborne updated Cllrs. on the progress of sponsorship and said that he was reluctant to progress this further until a delivery date was known.
- B Sustainable Communities Act (08/73D) Cllr. Goodwin reported that she was liaising with the speaker to attend a KALC Area Committee meeting, hopefully at the end of February.
- C Public Conveniences (08/73F) Nothing further to report at present.
- D Freedom of Information Act (08/76) It was agreed that the Group of Cllrs. would meet to discuss the publishing of information on the website on a date to be arranged.
- E Speedwatch (08/77) Cllr. Davison reported that Mr. B. Llong had agreed to operate the scheme. The RFO reported that MBC's Cabinet were considering removing funding for one-off additional bids from their budget and discussion followed on whether it was better to purchase equipment costing £2-£3000 or initially to use Headcorn's equipment.
- F Report on BMX Inspections (08/78) The Chairman detailed the reports received. The minor works requiring attention would be attended to.

08/86 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES/SPOKESPERSONS

- A Planning Cllr. Osborne referred to the meetings held on the 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 and 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, the minutes of which had been tabled. The following was referred to:-  
Parapet Field Cllr. Osborne referred to previous meetings with Hillreed attended by himself and the Chairman and reported that Hillreed had written to the PC seeking their support for a planning application prior to its submission to MBC. Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the PC inform Hillreed that they agreed to support the proposed development with the proviso that any further changes made prior to submission to MBC would be discussed by the full Council. Cllr. Barr felt that as English Heritage and CPRE would be against the application the Parish Council should seek to discuss the proposals with them to enable them to see the benefits to the Parish.  
Kent International Gateway Cllr. Goodwin updated Cllrs. on the KIG reconsultation. The Joint Parishes Group would be sending out a newsletter to Parishes to circulate to Parishioners urging them to send objections to MBC. In view of the changes to the timing the PC would not now hold a Public Meeting in February, this would be delayed until costs are known.
- B Parish Plan Steering Group Cllr. Barr referred to the following:-  
Business Assn. Arrangements were being made for Alan Reading to speak to the Business Assn at a meeting led by the Parish Council in early February.  
Welcome Pack Discussion had been held with Phillip Jarvis, the Estate Agent who already had his own pack to see if it was possible to merge with the PC.  
Website Cllr. Richards would speak to MBC about the structure of the website and hoped to have more information for the Steering Group meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> January.  
BBQ The PC would be organising a BBQ to be held Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> July.
- C Highways & Transport Cllr. Bate reported on the Committee Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> December. minutes of which would be circulated in due course. The following items were referred to:-  
Malt House Close The Chairman had received a letter from local residents concerned about the state of the road. Cllr. Bate had taken this up with Kent Highways.  
Cross Roads: Faversham Road/A20 Cllr. Barr expressed his ongoing concern about the number of accidents occurring at this junction. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllrs. Barr, Bate and Davison would meet on site to highlight the various problems and agree a way forward.  
Dropped Kerbs The Clerk reported the response received from Maidstone BC regarding funding from B.Cllrs. devolved budgets.
- D Law & Order The Chairman detailed the crime figures received from PCSO Mark Ibbott. There had been nine reported crimes since the last meeting. PCSO Ibbott had given his apologies for not attending the meeting. Cllr. Barr reported that there was again trouble with hare coursing.
- E Environment The following was reported:-  
Damage to Bus Shelter, The Square Cllr. Greenwood had informed the Clerk that the shelter had again been damaged. He had obtained a quotation for repair of £125 and it was RESOLVED that this be accepted. A further quote of £125 for repair of the shelter in Ham Lane had also been obtained and it was RESOLVED that this be accepted.

Odd Job Man The Chairman reported that a local man would be interested in undertaking odd jobs for the Council and it was agreed that this be discussed at the February Meeting.

Picnic Site Cllr. Barr reported on the work to the gates to the site.

New Litter Bins The Clerk reported that she had passed information from MBC about new post mounted litter bins that would be installed over the next few weeks to Cllr. Greenwood.

Recycling Cllr. Goodwin updated Cllrs. on the progress on the recycling site at the Texaco Garage site.

#### 08/87 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE MEETINGS

- A Meeting with Hugh Robertson, MP Cllr. Barr reported on the meeting to consider the agricultural smell experienced in parts of the Parish. Hugh Robertson had agreed to write to the Minister about the problem and had suggested that the Parish Council should write to local landowners asking that they consider the residents of the Parish by using the less odorous materials now available and avoid using at weekends and Bank Holidays.
- B Meeting with Lenham Parochial Church Council Cllr. Barr reported on a very good meeting and detailed the items discussed. It had been agreed to hold quarterly meetings.
- C Meeting with C.Cllr. Hibbard The report of the meeting attended by the Chairman had been circulated.

#### 08/88 STREET LIGHT IN SCHOOL LANE, PLATTS HEATH OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

The Chairman reported that the School had written informing that Freedom, a subcontractor of EDF, were prepared to carry out work to remove the lamp post and place a lamp and bracket on an adjacent pole free of charge. However, EDF required the permission of the PC for this work. The Clerk had obtained a costing for a lamp and bracket in the sum of £668.64. Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the School be informed that the PC would have no objection to the re-siting of the light but were unable to make a contribution towards the cost.

#### 08/89 KALC/KENT RURAL

Receipt reported of Parish News No.336 and a copy of KRCC Rural News. A questionnaire on the review of Rural Kent Communications had also been received and was passed to Cllr. Osborne for completion.

The minutes of the Area Committee Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September had been received and the Chairman reported that he would be unable to attend the next meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January and Cllr. Bate undertook to attend.

Village of the Year Competition Cllr. Richards asked that this be placed on the Agenda for discussion at the February Meeting.

#### 08/90 ACCOUNTS

##### Cheques for consideration & payment

Citizens Advice Bureau	December Outreach Session	£50.00
Lenham Ironmongers	Xmas light bulbs and sacks	£29.90
KCC	Cherry Downs Project match funding	£3862.54
Craigdene Ltd.	BMX Park Safety inspection	£146.88
EDF	Standing charge, Lock Up	£24.71
Mr. A. Barr	Annual rent, Ham Lane Playground	£1.05
Lenham Parish Hall Committee	Hire of hall	£250.00
PFL	Installation of Pop Up Power	£3412.05
EDF	December energy charge	£58.12
Natwest Bank	Acct. charge	£6.00
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 Acct. interest to 28.11.08	£64.56
"	Reserve Acct. interest to 31.12.08	£130.42

##### COMMUNITY CENTRE

Natwest Bank	Acct. charge	£6.00
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It was RESOLVED that the accounts be approved and the cheques signed.

Update on Bank Account Changes The RFO reported that he had contacted the HSBC Bank and was awaiting forms for completion by the signatories.

08/91 CORRESPONDENCE

- A Communities & Local Govt Consultation on Communities in Control. Information had been received and any response was required by 12<sup>th</sup> March. To be passed to Cllr. Younger for perusal.
- B MBC: Members Library The Clerk gave information about the new facility.

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.