

Lenham Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 4TH FEBRUARY, 2009, 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, M. Michaelas,
J. Nye, M. Osborne, G. Wilders, Mrs. P. Sutton (Clerk) and Mr. R. Sutton (RFO)
B. Cllr. D. Marshall.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents of Honywood Rd. queried if there was further information regarding the planning application for placing security bollards at McColls. Cllr. Osborne reported on his meeting with the Planning Officer.

Mr. Larkin informed the Council that there were still problems with speeding traffic in Maidstone Rd and felt that the speed limit needed to come down to 20 mph. He pointed out that the area still needed tidying.

Blaise Matthews, Chairman of Youth Council, updated Cllrs. on recent changes and hoped in the forthcoming year the Youth Council would be able to do something positive for the young people of the village.

PC Kemsley detailed the eight crimes reported since the last Meeting and informed the Council that it was hoped that there would be a Rural Special Constable for Lenham & Harrietsham very soon. He reported that the Police had no objection to the consultation paper from KCC relating to BOAT. Cllr. Greenwood confirmed that the PC would consider this later in the Meeting.

Cllr. Barr thanked the Police for their help with hare coursing problems in this area. He also referred to cars parking on the corner of Robins Close which were causing obstruction. The Police had previously spoken to residents but undertook to look at the problem again.

Mr. George pointed out that there was also a problem with cars parking on the footpath.

The Chairman declared the Meeting open at 7.55 p.m.

08/92 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman reported that the rules regarding attendance at meetings had been checked and clarified and reminded Cllrs. of the rules for accepting apologies for absence from Cllrs. The Council accepted the reason for apology for absence from Cllrs. Bate, Richards, Younger, B.Cllr. Sams and the Community Warden.

08/93 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

Cllr. Greenwood declared an interest in Item 9 and took no part in discussion.

08/94 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th January, 2009, were confirmed as a true record and it was RESOLVED that they be approved and adopted.

08/95 MATTERS ARISING

- A Update on Lenbus Project (08/85A) Cllr. Crutcher reported that he was trying to arrange a meeting with KCC to discuss various details relating to the running of the business and was still looking for more drivers. The Chairman reported that Marley had agreed, in principle, to park the bus on site. Cllr. Osborne felt that Cllr. Crutcher needed someone to work with him on the management side and Cllr. Wilders agreed to take this on.
- B Sustainable Communities Act (08/85B) Cllr. Goodwin had nothing further to report regarding a speaker to attend the KALC Area Committee Meeting and would again try to arrange a date.
- C Freedom of Information Act (08/85D) The group of Cllrs., Clerk and RFO had discussed what should be placed on the website and it was agreed that this be progressed.
- D Speedwatch (08/85E) Cllr. Davison gave details of the cost of hiring equipment and purchase of new. Cllrs. generally felt that it would be more prudent to hire the equipment initially. Cllr. Davison undertook to look at funding and speak to Harrietsham PC who were also looking into the project.
- E Community & Local Govt. Consultation on Communities in Control (08/91A) The Clerk reported that Cllr. Younger had perused the document and it was agreed that his response be sent.

08/96 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES/SPOKESPERSONS

- A Finance & General Purposes Committee The report of the Meeting held on the 21st January, 2009, was received and it was RESOLVED that the recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted. The following was referred to:-
Citizens Advice Bureau It was agreed that the PC would ask the B.Cllrs. to help with funding for 2009/10 from their devolved budgets.
Salt Bin, Groom Way The Clerk had contacted C.Cllr. Mrs. Stockell who had taken the request up with the Cabinet Member as she agreed that this site was well used by residents going to the surgery and community centre.
Street Light Maintenance The Clerk reported that she had now received some quotations for this work and it was agreed that this be passed to the F & GP Committee for consideration and recommendation.
- B Planning Cllr. Osborne referred to the meetings held on the 21st January and 2nd February, 2009, copies of which had been circulated to all Cllrs. The following was referred to:-
Planning Enforcement Training It was agreed that Cllrs. Godfrey and Osborne would attend on the 12th February.
Kent International Gateway Cllr. Osborne updated Cllrs and following discussion it was RESOLVED that a Public Meeting be held early next month to discuss if the Parish Council should continue to support the Joint Parishes Group. Cllr. Goodwin thanked everybody who had helped co-ordinate the distribution of the newsletter.
- C Parish Plan Steering Group Cllr. Barr updated Cllrs on the last meeting of the Steering Group. Cllr. Nye had agreed to help Cllr. Richards with the website. Cllr. Barr read a draft letter to be sent to Clubs & Societies informing them of how they could become involved with the website, welcome pack and BBQ at Cherry Downs on 25th July.
 The Chairman referred to Pippa Palmer's help with the Cherry Downs site and it was agreed that the Parish Council would write thanking her.
- D Highways & Transport Cllr. Bate had asked the Clerk to inform Cllrs. that faults were continuing to be logged. However, 85% of jobs were still outstanding. A site meeting had been requested with Kent Highways to discuss the speed limit on the A20. The next Committee Meeting would be on 16th February.
Kent Highways Road Show The Clerk had passed information to Cllrs. Bate and Davison.
Junction Ham Lane/High Street Cllr. Barr referred to a recent accident at this location and following discussion it was agreed that Kent Highways be asked to attend a site meeting.
- E Law & Order The Chairman reported that the next Police/Parishes Forum would be held on the 17th March. He would be attending and suggested either Cllr. Michaelas or Cllr. Wilders also attend.
- F Environment The following was reported:-
Seat In Churchyard Cllr. Greenwood reported Mr. Hardy had offered to place a seat in the churchyard in memory of his mother. The Parish Council agreed to accept the generous offer and would arrange for the seat to be secured and placed at the Church entrance replacing the existing worn seat.

Cllr. Barr reported that he still had a seat which had been removed from outside the Dog & Bear Hotel. Cllrs. were asked to consider locations. Cllr. Greenwood also reported that another seat was currently being repaired and it was agreed that this would be placed for a trial period by the path at the Community Centre.

Bus Shelter, The Square Cllr. Greenwood reported that following repair the shelter had again been knocked and then repaired again. Some tiles had been removed so the roof was not overhanging as much and he would try to place reflectors at each end to hopefully stop further accidents.

Yew Tree in Churchyard Cllr. Greenwood had obtained an estimate from Mr. Ault for lowering the crown in the sum of £230. It was RESOLVED that subject to planning permission the work be undertaken in 2009/10.

Trees on the Downs Cllr. Greenwood was arranging a meeting to discuss a proposal to plant beech trees.

Recycling Cllr. Goodwin reported that the recycling facility for glass at the Texaco site was ongoing. B.Cllr. Sams would allocate funding from his devolved budget but a further £1000 was needed to complete the works.

Noticeboard at Honywood Rd. The Clerk reported that the noticeboard was in a very poor state and it was agreed that it should not be used until repairs had been undertaken.

Public Conveniences Cllr. Greenwood referred to recent discussion and suggested that a few Cllrs. look at the situation and report back. It was agreed that Cllrs. Barr, Greenwood and Osborne investigate and report back to the PC in due course.

08/97 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE MEETINGS

KALC Area Committee The Chairman had attended and a copy of his report had been tabled.

Business Assn. Cllr. Barr reported on a recent meeting attended by Alan Reading of Marketing Maidstone. Mr. Reading had detailed ideas for setting up a Business Assn. incorporating all businesses in Lenham. Cllr. Michaelas was willing to liaise between the Assn. and Parish Council.

Harrietsham PC Meeting Cllr. Nye reported on his attendance.

08/98 BUDGET FOR 2009/10

The RFO 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 £53034, an increase of 3.5% on the previous year. The Chairman and Clerk signed the required form to be returned to MBC.

To Determine the Repayment of Community Centre Loans It was agreed that this be passed to the F & GP Committee for discussion and recommendation.

08/99 ODD JOB MAN

The Chairman referred to previous discussion and reported that a local man had expressed interest. Following discussion it was felt that the Council should compile a list of local people/firms who could be called on to undertake odd jobs as necessary.

08/100 KENT VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2009

Information had been received which would be passed to Cllr. Richards for perusal and report to the next PC Meeting.

08/101 DATE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was RESOLVED that this would be held on the 20th May, 2009. Planning and F & GP Committee Meetings would follow. Cllrs. were asked to consider if a speaker should be invited.

08/102 KALC/KENT RURAL

The following had been received from Kent Rural:-

Parish Planning for Climate Change to be held 14th March. Cllrs. Goodwin, Nye and Michaelas were interested in attending.

Renewal of annual subscription for 2009/10. To be discussed in next financial year.

Copy of Oast to Coast.

08/103 ACCOUNTSCheques for consideration & payment

Citizens Advice Bureau	January Outreach Session	£50.00
Lenham Ironmongers	Xmas light bulbs	£25.00
EDF	February maintenance	£59.19

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

Amounts paid into Acct.

A.W. Court	Purchased grave & interment fee	£150.00
Lenham Library	Sale of FP Maps	£2.60
MBC	Donation, BMX Spine ramp	£2000.00
Lenham Millennium Market	Donation, Pop-up-Power	£600.00
Natwest Bank	Liquidity Deposit Interest to 31.12.08	£28.99

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

Update on Bank Account Changes The RFO read the terms of the HSBC Mandate and it was RESOLVED that it be signed and returned to the Bank together with specimen signatures of the authorised signatories. The RFO was asked to seek clarification that two signatories would be required to confirm closure of the accounts.

Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit & Risk Assessment Cllrs. were reminded that these items needed to be considered annually and it was RESOLVED that they be passed to the F & GP Committee for discussion and recommendation.

08/104 CORRESPONDENCE

- A Opening of Archive Room at Community Centre Invitation to attend on the 14th February had been received.
- B Byway Open to all Traffic: Experimental Scheme of Traffic Regulation A consultation document had been received from KCC. Cllr. Greenwood had perused and he undertook to query two points with KCC. As views were requested by 27th February it was agreed that this be passed to the F & GP Committee for consideration and response.
- C MBC Draft Strategic Plan The Chairman reported receipt of information by email. As the time for comment on MBC's aims for the next three years was short he detailed his response to MBC. A copy was passed to Cllr. Osborne for perusal.
- D Kent Messenger's 150th Anniversary To celebrate the Anniversary the KM was inviting various organisations to plant a tree in a suitable location. Deadline for entries was 23rd February. Clerk to inform the KM that LPC wished to enter and a location would be discussed.
- E BMX Park The Chairman had received an email from one of the original team that had set up the facilities thanking the PC for the additions to the equipment and suggesting some minor amendments required. The Chairman had advised that the PC would consider in due course. Regarding a query for cleaning equipment the Chairman to advise that MBC would pressure spray on request.
- F St. George's Day Parade Details of the event to be held on 26th April had been received. No action to be taken.

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.