

Lenham Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LENHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THE 1ST APRIL, 2009, IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr. N. Godfrey, Chairman presiding
Cllr. A. Barr, Vice-Chairman,
Cllrs. M. Crutcher, Miss S. Goodwin, M. Michaelas, J. Nye, M. Osborne,
N. Richards, G. Wilders, I. Younger, Mrs. P. Sutton (Clerk) and Mr. R. Sutton (RFO)
B. Cllrs. D. Marshall and T. Sams
Harrietsham PC Representative Cllr. D. Oversby

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Local residents queried the recent planning application for the placing of bollards outside McColls in Honeywood Road. The Clerk would seek clarification from the Planning Officer.

The Community Warden reported problems with youngsters not all of whom were local and said that all crimes should be reported to the Police even if minor. He also had concerns about speeding traffic entering the village from Headcorn Road.

The Chairman declared the Meeting open at 7.35 p.m. and welcomed Cllr. Oversby from Harrietsham PC and B.Cllrs. Marshall and Sams.

08/116 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Council accepted the reason for apology for absence from Cllrs. Bate, Davison and Greenwood.

08/117 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

08/118 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4th March, 2009, were confirmed as a true record and it was RESOLVED that they be approved and adopted.

08/119 MATTERS ARISING

- A Trees at Robins Close (P.Part) The Clerk reported that the work had now been completed.
- B Update on Lenbus Project (08/108A) Cllr. Crutcher detailed the meeting with KCC who had agreed to extend the support period for the bus from 4-6 years and undertake maintenance of the vehicle. Work on sponsorship was continuing and the launch would be at the Farmers Market on the 10th May. Cllr. Crutcher pointed out that initially the bus would only be used to replace the Post Bus and due to the insurance there was no intention at present of it being a vehicle for hire. More volunteer drivers and a Booking Clerk were required.
- C Sustainable Communities Act (08/108B) Cllr. Goodwin had nothing further to report at the moment.
- D Freedom of Information Act (08/108C) The Clerk detailed the Complaints Procedure document which she had prepared and reported that this had been agreed with KALC. It was agreed that the Parish Council adopt this document.
- E Speedwatch (08/108D) The Clerk reported that Cllr. Davison had submitted the application for funding to the Kent Peoples Trust.
- F Annual Parish Meeting (08/108F) Cllr. Osborne had invited Phillip Carter, a Business Adviser, to speak at the Meeting on the 20th May.

08/120 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES/SPOKESPERSONS

- A Finance & General Purposes Committee The report of the Meeting held on the 18th March, 2009, together with the confidential report relating to salaries, was received. It was proposed by Cllr. Osborne, seconded by Cllr. Barr and RESOLVED that the recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.
- B Planning Cllr. Osborne referred to the meetings held on the 18th and 30th March, 2009, copies of which had been circulated to all Cllrs. The following was referred to:-
Householder Planning Application Fees Cllr. Osborne reported there would now be a fee of £34.50 for pre-application advice.
Defra: Draft Action Plans Information to be publicised when received.
Kent International Gateway Cllrs. Osborne and Goodwin had attended further meetings. The date set by MBC to formally consider the application would now be 7th May
- C Parish Plan Steering Group Cllr. Barr reported that the Group had concentrated on the launch of the new Business Forum and Cllrs. Nye and Greenwood were contacting local business to try and get them involved. He reminded Cllrs. that the BBQ would be held on the 25th July from 2-6 p.m. and all Organisations would be invited.
- D Highways & Transport The Clerk circulated Cllr. Bate's report of the meeting with Highway Officers'
- E Law & Order The following was reported:-
Eastern Parishes/Police Forum Cllr. Wilders reported that he and Cllr. Crutcher had attended and the following was referred to:-
 a. PCSO Mark Ibbot would be leaving to go to Greater Manchester as a regular officer.
 b. A talk from John Grant, Police Architectural Liaison Officer. He would give a view on planning applications if Parish Councils had concerns regarding crime.
 c. Reported 25% increase in offences in Lenham and Harrietsham over the past year. Following discussion it was agreed that a joint letter be sent from the Parish Councils asking for a meeting with either a Police Inspector or Superintendent to discuss various issues.

In the absence of the Police at this Meeting the Clerk detailed the five crimes reported since the last PC Meeting.

Cllr. Michaelas reported that he could see a problem with a group of youths in the village. B.Cllr. Sams said there was a similar problem in Harrietsham.

- F Environment The following was reported:-
Churchyard Floodlighting Cllr. Osborne reported that it had been suggested by the Parochial Church Council that the lighting should be looked at and quotes were being obtained. The Clerk reported that Cllr. Greenwood had informed her that new lights had been obtained. As there was confusion about what was happening it was agreed that this item be deferred until the next PC Meeting to enable the matter to be clarified.
 The Clerk reminded Cllrs. that no Councillor has the power to spend money, obtain quotations or make decisions on behalf of the Council.
Litter The Chairman reported that he, Cllr. Greenwood and the Chairman of the Enhancement Assn. had met at Swadelands to discuss the litter problem and look at the boundary fence. Cllr. Wilders said that the Police had powers and there were a lot of things that could be done.
Picnic Site Cllr. Barr reported that a further picnic table had been placed and work done to the gates all at no cost to the Parish Council.
Seat Cllr. Wilders referred to discussion at previous Meetings regarding the seat that had previously been outside the Dog & Bear Hotel. He said that the Lenham Social Club was making a garden at the rear of their premises and that the seat might be beneficial to them. It was agreed that an item be placed on the May PC Agenda for discussion.
Tree Pruning, Cherry Estate B.Cllr. Marshall reported that Cllr. Greenwood had recently contacted him regarding some of the trees requiring attention. He had received a response from the Estates Dept. that work would start in June.

- G Children's Playground Cllr. Younger detailed quotations received for repairs to equipment. Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council accepted the quotation from MBC in the sum of £148.80 to wire brush rust patches from slide and treat with primer and report findings, remove moss from safety surface under slide and paint rail on igloo.

08/121 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE MEETINGS

MBC: Communities in Charge The Chairman's report of the meeting had been circulated to all Cllrs.
Climate Change Seminar Cllr. Nye reported on his attendance and it was agreed the Steering Group would look into the report.

MBC: Rural Liaison Meeting The Chairman reported on his attendance.

Four Counties Forum, Joint Training Venture Cllr. Greenwood had attended.

08/122 KALC/KENT RURAL

Copies of Parish News No. 338 had been received and were distributed.

Annual Subscriptions: KALC and Kent Rural It was RESOLVED that the F & GP Committee would consider renewal of subscriptions at the next Meeting.

08/123 ACCOUNTS

Cheques for consideration & payment

Citizens Advice Bureau	March Outreach Session	£50.00
Mr. N. Godfrey	Chairman's allowance & expenses	£352.30
Mr. R. Greenwood	Travel expenses	£18.40
Natwest Bank	Account charge	£6.00

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

Amounts paid into Acct.

B.Cllr. Sams	Devolved budget donation for recycling site	£1500.00
Natwest Bank	Liquidity Deposit Interest to 27.2.09	£9.99

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Payments made

PWLB	Repayment 1 st loan	£4592.92
Natwest Bank	Account charge	£6.00

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

08/124 CORRESPONDENCE

- A Notice of Audit Receipt was reported and the required Notice would be placed at the appropriate time.
- B KCC Commons Act 2006: Common Land/Village Green Seminar Details were given of the Seminar to be held on the 14th May.
- C Angela's Afternoon Teas Cllr. Greenwood had passed the Clerk information received from Valerie Woollven detailing expenditure relating to the running of the Teas. Ms. Woollven was holding the remaining funds which would probably go towards a Christmas Lunch. As this had nothing to do with the Parish Council Cllr. Greenwood to be asked to return the paperwork to Ms Woollven and advise her to contact the Kent Community Warden Scheme.
- D Mayor's Charity Fund Details reported. Copy of the application form to be passed to Cllr. Crutcher.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.