



Minutes of the Meeting of Lenham Parish Council Held on Wednesday 1st May 2024, 7:30pm at Lenham Community Centre

PRESENT Cllr. J Britt, Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. P Culver, D Garland, K Hammond, J Murray, N Osborne, A Ratcliffe & A Walmsley.

J Bate (RFO), L Westcott (Clerk).

Public participation

4 members of the public were present.

1 member of public asked where the waste bin outside the cricket ground had gone, L Westcott advised that this was an MBC bin and it has been reported to them. They also asked why a pothole in the car park has been filled with waste, Cllr. A Ratcliffe reported that KCC have implied that it is not their responsibility, L Westcott has reported this to MBC as well. They also reported the moving slab behind the memorial in the village square again, which was reported to KCC a while ago.

MBC Cllrs. T & J Sams provided the following update:

- They continue to report missed residential bin collections and provide updates as received. If re-elected, they hope to be able to push for a new policy to guarantee the number of garden bin collections. Cllr. K Hammond stated that pressure should be put on, so the MBC CEO is called to account.
- The Lenham Village showcase will be on 1st June and there are lots of stalls booked.
- The Lenham and Harrietsham Annual Parish Meetings are run very differently but both very successful. Cllr. J Britt asked if it would be possible to have meeting for all parish councils in the new ward, Cllr. T Sams will look into this if re-elected.

One member of the public is attending as he is interested in hearing more about the parish council.

The chair opened the meeting at 19:50.

23/191 Apologies for absence received.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. D Earl, S Heeley, M Michaelas and D Turner.

23/192 To receive declarations.

Declarations of interest on Agenda items. Cllr. N Osborne declared an interest in the Car park extension and Lenham Nursery project. Cllr. A Ratcliffe declared an interest the Lenham Nursery project.

Declarations to changes to the Register of Interests. No declarations received.

Requests for dispensations. No new requests received.

23/193 To request notification of intention to film, photograph or record any items.

There were none.

23/194 In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1, the Council is to determine which items, if any, should be taken with the public and press excluded.

None raised.

23/195 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 3rd April 2024.

Cllr. D Garland proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 3rd April 2024** are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

23/196 Progress of resolutions from 3rd April (for information purposes only)

All points covered on the agenda.



23/197 To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meetings on 22nd April 2024

Cllr. A Walmsley proposed, Cllr. D Garland seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the F&GP committee meeting held on Monday 22nd April are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chair.

- a. Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. D Garland seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the grant application from Ham Lane Allotment Association for £420. **ACTION** L Westcott to contact HLAA.
- b. To authorise payments and note income. Cllr. A Ratcliffe declared an interest.
Cllr. A Walmsley proposed, Cllr. P Culver seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to make the payments.
ACTION Cllrs. D Garland and N Osborne to authorise payments online.

23/198 Finance:

- a. Responsible Financial Officer Report - full report discussed at F&GP.
Bank balances – current account = £96,673.04 and savings account = £1,109,030.76
Discussion regarding obtaining quotes for contracts over £500.

23/199 To sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Planning and Implementation Committee meeting on 17th April 2024

Cllr. J Britt proposed, Cllr. K Hammond seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the P&I Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17th April and the April report of planning comments are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chair.

Planning Application 24/501314/SUB – All agreed no comments.

- a. Cllr. N Osborne proposed, Cllr. J Britt seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £3600 from P McCreery planning consultant to write a report and attend the appeal hearing for Warren Lands, Sandway when a new date is confirmed.

23/200 Maidstone Local Plan Review - update

Cllr. K Hammond reported that SOHL have sent a pre action letter to MBC and an application to the courts. Fundraising will need to take place if the application proceeds.

ACTION Cllr. K Hammond to circulate the submission.

Cllr. J Britt reported that Bredhurst PC has also submitted an application to the courts.

23/201 Update on plan for the REME Freedom of the Parish of Lenham event – 23rd June 2024

Cllr. A Ratcliffe has met with the band major for the event. The Police have categorised the event as low risk and will have no formal presence. The letter drop and tree carving are the next tasks to organise. The next meeting with REME is 21st May.

23/202 Feedback from Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr. J Britt reported that feedback was positive especially from KCC Cllr. S Prendergast.

L Westcott extended thanks to Audrey Ratcliffe for the catering.

23/203 Update on Lenham Community Hub at St Mary's Church

L Westcott reported that representatives were due to attend tonight, but will now come to June's meeting.

23/204 Update on WCs project

Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed and Cllr. D Garland seconded and it was agreed to accept the quote for £365 + VAT to complete an asbestos survey in the WCs. **ACTION** Cllr. D Garland to arrange.

23/205 Update from meetings attended/ planned

- a. Cllr. P Culver reported on the Primary School extension project.
- b. Cllr. A Walmsley reported on the meeting with the KCC PROW officer who has indicated they are happy with the proposed change of the footpath near East Lenham Farm. The application will proceed to the next step.



- c. Cllr. A Walmsley will be attending a meeting with Countryside/ Vistry at Lenham Storage on 2nd May.
- d. Cllr. N Osborne reported that the Hatch Charity decided at a recent meeting to pay for the war memorial stone in the churchyard to be cleaned.
- e. Cllr. N Osborne is arranging a meeting with TreePro and Tree surveyor to review beech tree at the picnic site.
- f. Cllr. K Hammond reported that her work offers £1000 to local charities.
- g. Cllr. N Osborne is attending a fundraising meeting with Lenham Nursery on 2nd May.

23/206 Project Updates (for information only)

- a. Car Park extension – Cllr. J Britt reported he is meeting with the Alms Houses to discuss plans.
- b. Lenham Nursery Build – awaiting results of ground investigation.

23/207 To report correspondence received.

L Westcott reported on correspondence received regarding speeding through the village, a cllr. will be allocated responsibility for speedwatch at the Annual meeting.

D Garland reported on a quote from Coolings for geraniums – this will be discussed at F&GP.

The meeting closed at 21:50

Signed as a true record on this day 5th June 2024.....
Chair of Lenham Parish Council