

Minutes of the Monthly Council Meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 4th March 2025.

Present: Cllrs: K Howard-Challis (Chair); Cllr Szabo (Vice-Chair); T Portman; A Groves; A Smith; P Lawrence and Mrs A I Smith (Clerk)

In attendance: 4 Members of the public and Cllr Baldock

1. To receive **Apologies for absence**
None.
2. To receive any **Declarations of Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary Interest**, and any Applications for Dispensation on Agenda Items. (Requirement of the Localism Act 2011.)
None.
3. **Public session**
No comments.
4. **Visitors.** Reports or comments from:
 - a) KCC and Swale BC
The decision at Swale Borough Council to scrap the Loneliness Project and Members Grants has been reversed. Provisions for playgrounds are likely to be cut back. Elections will now be taking place this year after all.
 - b) SBC Councillor
None
 - c) Police Officer
None.
 - d) Friends of the Brickfields
A young looking chap on a Trail-style motorbike, balaclava, no helmet, no licence plate that could be seen, managed to ride his motorbike through the kissing gate and onto the Brickfields a few days ago.
Somebody has tried to set fire to the bracken recently, burned in three or four places but, luckily, too damp to really catch except in small areas.
Three catering sized Nox bottles and a balloon discarded last week-end.
Cllr Portman has asked PC Clemens to patrol the Brickfields in light of the motorbike being seen there.
5. **To resolve the Minutes**
 - a) It was resolved that the Minutes of the Monthly Parish meeting held on 4th February 2025 are a correct record and were signed accordingly.
6. **To discuss planning applications for:**
25/500498/FULL Proposal: Erection of a single storey pitched roof side and front extension including insertion of 1no. roof light. ADDRESS: 11 Cumberland Drive Lower Halstow Kent ME9 7JA.
It was resolved to support the application.

Action: Clerk

7. To discuss any planning applications received between producing the agenda and this meeting.

Lawful Development Certificate for proposed loft conversion with rear dormer, 2no. front rooflights and 1no. Side window.

19 Burntwick Drive Lower Halstow Kent ME9 7DX

Ref. No: 25/500609/LAWPRO | Validated: Wed 19 Feb 2025 | Status: Awaiting decision

It was agreed not to make a comment.

8. Correspondence

- a) To discuss email received from the Parish Council's solicitors regarding purchase of land at the Brickfields and other pieces of land associated with Title number K550372 in Lower Halstow.

Maps of the land in question had been circulated to the councillors. It was resolved to go ahead with the purchase. The Clerk will clarify how many signatories are required for the contract and that they need to note the Clerk's change of address.

Action: Clerk

9. To receive reports on the following:

a) Parks & Leisure and Planning

There will be a survey of the playground equipment in a few months' time. Cllr Portman had been looking at exercise equipment. It has been commented on that the current roundabout and slide were friendly towards children's disabilities. The cost of new equipment is exorbitant. Sadly, this makes the project a non-starter.

b) Footpaths and Burial Ground

Cllr Portman has taken some measurements of the cracks in the bridge and sluice wall at Church Path. The measurements will be repeated every month to check for movement. A resident has placed a lockable shed and three wheelie bins on Gibbs Amenity area. The Parish Council has requested that they are removed, but they are still there.

c) Hedgerow Maintenance

The hedges around the play area are overgrown and these need to be cut back.

d) Allotments

The tap has been fixed and the invoice paid. It will remain turned off at the mains until the frost is no longer a threat. Cllr Groves will test it. Work will commence to clear those allotments that need it.

e) Parish Highways Plan

Nothing to report

f) Brickfields and Seawall

The reed bed looks hydrated and the seawall is still intact.

a) Clerk's Report

Payments received during December totalled £826.78 for the barges

This last month has been all about transfer to the new email addresses for the Council, which has proved challenging and the web site, which is still ongoing.

I will shortly be arranging for the internal audit to take place, as usual.

The bank balance as of 28th February 2025 is: £68,688.95

It was agreed that Cllrs Howard-Challis and Szabo would authorise the payments, as per the payment list below, via internet banking.

b) Items for information only:

- a) Items for Website and Village News

An Item for the VE celebrations will be sent

- b) To receive agenda items for the next meeting:

Parking opposite the school; Raspberry Hill Waste Dump.

The meeting closed at 19.22

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1st April 2025

Payments February 2025

Payee	Description	Gross Amount £	VAT £	Cheque No/Bank Payment
Mrs A I Smith	Clerk's Expenses and Salary	1005.50		774116268
Mr M Tidy	Village Cleaning	199.04		15474861
Intelligent Facility Services Ltd	CCTV SIM Service Invoice:	30.00	5.00	493180908
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust Fund	Hall Hire January Invoice: 1013849	22.50		455806292
DCK Accounting Solutions	Payroll Services for February 2025 Invoice: 25293	36.00	6.00	759093837
KALC	Training	40.00	8.00	198970112
Lower Halstow Parochial Church Council (Village News)	Donation to Village News for Printing	800.00		420608091
Cllr T Portman	Reimbursement for Galvanised Netting (Tree Protection) (Dobbies)	11.49	2.30	385846123
Treecraft	Invoice for Grounds Maintenance 2024	6250.00		218658011

Lloyds Multipay:

Bank Charge

£3.00

Total**£3.00****Standing Order 1st of the month** Crescent Digital Marketing

£25.00

Date:**Signed:**

Cllr. K Howard-Challis
Chair