

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th December 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Memorial Hall, Lower Halstow.

Present: Cllr Rob Smith (Chair); Cllr Allyson Beerstecher (Vice-Chair); Cllr Keith Howard-Challis; Cllr Steve Gates; Cllr Sue Hartfree; Parish Clerk Mrs A Smith; and 3 members of the public were in attendance

The Chair welcomed everyone and stated that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of the Minutes.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Cllr Steve Parker; Cllr Rod Dadson; Cllr Ben Stokes; Cllr Dewar-Whalley; Cllr Mike Whiting and PCSO John Cork.

2. Declarations of Interest

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

b) Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Public Session

A resident asked if the Parish Council would comment on the withdrawal of Saturdays, early morning and evenings of the 327 bus service. The Parish Council has not received a consultation notification from the Kent County Council. The Clerk will contact Cllr Whiting requesting advice on how best to challenge the cuts.

Action: Clerk

A resident asked if the developers in School Lane will be contributing to maintenance of the land and if it had a name. Cllr Gates responded that the land will not belong to the Parish Council and has not been consulted on as to what it will be called.

4. Visitors reports or comments

a) SBC Councillor:

No report

b) KCC Councillor:

Basser Hill

I have, on behalf of a resident, asked that KCC re-consider its winter salting schedule to include Basser Hill. This has been a long-standing issue. I will update your Clerk when I get a reply from KCC, which is particularly pressing as we look at the forecast for cold weather this weekend.

Resurfacing

The County Council is planning the resurfacing of Halstow Lane, which will require it to be closed between Holywell Lane and Breach Lane. The diversion will be via Halstow Road, Breach Lane, A2 Hartlip Road, A2 London Road, Oak Lane and Forge Lane. More details nearer the time.

Bus Services

There was a lot in the media last week suggesting the 326 and 327 Chalkwell buses, including school buses would be lost. I contacted the bus company, which confirmed the subsidy referred to in the reports apply to the evening services, after 5pm, and the Saturday services only. The daytime weekday services and school services would not be affected by any cut. KCC has proposed a number of cuts to save £4m over two years from September 2018. These are proposals and a consultation document on the final proposals will be published next month. A decision will be taken in May next year. I would urge the Parish and all parishioners to respond to that consultation. Clearly, the loss of any service is not welcome and the consultation is our chance to say so. Meanwhile, I have written to Cabinet Member for Transport at KC expressing my regret at the way the proposal was released to the public and the unnecessary concern and anxiety it provoked by suggesting all services would be lost, which is not true.

Meanwhile, may I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to working with you in the New Year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance:

mike.whiting@kent.gov.uk

c) PCSO:

Sorry I cannot attend but will still be having my surgery on the 14/12/2017 if residents want to come along for a chat.

Crimes in Lower Halstow

School Lane residents cat was shot by an air rifle believed to be farmers shooting rabbits in the field. Vehicle was seen but could not ID and vehicle index.

Wardwell Lane car driving along had window damage youths were caught and spoken to about their behaviour.

No problems reported in the Brickfields or any youths causing problems on pedal cycles.

d) Friends of the Brickfields:

No report.

5. To agree Minutes of November meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on 7th November were proposed by Cllr Howard-Challis, seconded by Cllr Hartfree and accepted as a true record. The minutes were duly signed.

6. Planning Applications

None.

7. Planning Appeal Decisions

None.

8. To discuss and agree action on the following:

a) Quote for grass cutting contract;

It was agreed to accept the quote from Landscape Services, but to request emails to inform the Clerk when the cuts had been done and to include cutting the perimeter and strim fence lines for 10 cuts and not 2 per year as previously. Proposed by Cllr Gates and seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis.

Action: Clerk

b) Quote to replace fencing at Tutt's allotments;

It was proposed by Cllr Hartfree and seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis to accept the quote from Edwin Ward.

Action: Clerk

c) Signage for Brickfields – To keep dogs under control;

It was agreed not to take any action.

d) Allotments rent/deposit;

Cllr Hartfree reported that this is work in progress.

Action: Cllr Hartfree

e) Bund for Gibbs amenity area;

It was agreed that Cllr Hartfree will look into costs.

Action: Cllr Hartfree

f) WW1 Memorial Beacon;

On-going, Cllr Gates is looking into quotes. There will be a site meeting in January. Planning permission may be required and advice will be sought from Swale Borough Council.

Action: Cllr Gates and Clerk

g) Response to Kent Police & Crime Commissioners Annual Policing Survey (requested by end of December);

It was agreed to comment on the hazard of people driving using mobile phones; speeding in rural areas and that PCSO's are too thin on the ground.

h) Replacing Sox Street lights with LED.

It was agreed to look into how many lights of each Sox and LED lights there are and therefore how many will eventually need replacing over time and advice as to what types of LED lights are available and at what cost.

Action: Clerk

9. Review of Action List items and reports from members on the following:

a) Brickfields

Cllr Beerstecher attended the meeting on 22 November. A draft constitution has been produced. The Councillors will look at it and bring back comments at the next meeting. The FoB has enquired about insurance, risk assessments and they would like to buy a new brush cutter. The firebreak is causing some concern about what is really needed. It was agreed to ask the Fire Service for advice. It was proposed by Cllr Beerstecher and seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis to purchase a new brush cutter.

Action: Cllr Beerstecher/Clerk

b) Parks and Leisure

No report. The clerk will make enquiries regarding grants to go towards replacing the bearing in the roundabout.

Action: Clerk

c) Docks and Barges

No report.

d) Burial Ground & Allotments

The council have received a complaint in respect of a large bramble, which is growing over the graves. It was agreed to ask John Knott to cut it down and dispose of it and the redundant bamboo screen. Liaise with Mr Mayes as to using the Church incinerator.

Action: Clerk

e) Footpaths, Highways, Lighting

Church path between Lapwing Drive and the bridge is a KCC footpath. Cllr Gates proposed that we tell KCC that it is a slippery footpath. In the meantime ask Mr Knott to sweep the leaves up.

Action: Clerk

Speedwatch – This is a big commitment and would need a lot of volunteers. In the past speed has not been perceived to be a problem. A trial would need to be conducted to identify if there is a problem. The clerk will ask the PCSO for advice and if the Police will be able to do speed checks.

Action: Clerk

10. To acknowledge reports on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council:

a) KALC;

The AGM was attended by Cllr Howard-Challis and the Swale Area Committee will be attended by Cllr Smith and Cllr Howard-Challis

b) Memorial Hall Rep;

No report.

11. To receive Clerk's report to include:

Correspondence received not covered elsewhere in the meeting;

To note payment received since last meeting;

a) Correspondence:

i) Email from flood warden in respect of the gully at Gibb's amenity area requesting that it be dug out and cleared.

ii) Email requesting the link be included on the Parish Council website for the jobcentre near me.

b) Grandview Gardens will be carrying out the works on the trees at the Street amenity area on 11th and 12th December.

c) KALC are holding General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) workshops, which are strongly recommended for the Clerk or Chairman to attend.

- d) Alan Blackburn from KCC Highways phoned to ask for the Parish Council's thoughts on placing a salt bin or 1 ton bag of salt near the entrance to the Riding School, Basser Hill.

Payee	Description	Amount £	Cheque No.
Mrs S Hartfree	Christmas Presents in respect of Christmas tree lighting ceremony	50.00	100330
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust Fund	Hall Hire	24.00	100331
R H Parker Ltd	Repair to taps Memorial Hall Site allotments Invoice: 213/2017	62.40	100332

- e) The Clerk has paid in £278.00 in Allotment rents.
f) The bank balance is £64273.13

12. Items for information only

There are two consultations in respect of MEASS on 6th December at Riverside Country Park and Halling Community Centre on 12th December 2017.

The public consultation time was reported in the Village News as 30 minutes, but it is 15 minutes.

Representatives of the Parish Council would like to visit the adjacent councils to swap ideas on a routine basis, perhaps quarterly. The Clerk will email the relevant clerks of Upchurch, Hartlip, Bobbing, Stockbury, Newington and Iwade.

The Chair would like to implement, for a trial period of three months, a project sheet and a revised list of duties for Councillors. The list has been circulated.

The Chair gave thanks to everyone involved with organising the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

- a) Items for Village News and Website:

The locks for the Brickfields gates will be changed on 1st March 2018.

13. To receive agenda items for next meeting and agree date of next meeting

Precept and budget for 2018/19.

The next meeting will be held on 2nd January 2018.

The meeting closed at 9:24 pm

Date

Signed:
Cllr R Smith
Chair