



PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE LENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THE 4th MARCH 2020 7.30pm AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT Cllr. R Greenwood, Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. M Ballard, J Britt, M Cockett, D Garland, K Hammond, N Osborne, P Scrivens, A Ratcliffe & A Walmsley. Cllr. E Powell, representing Harrietsham Parish Council.

M McFarlane (Clerk & RFO) P McCreery NHP Consultant. 3 Members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm

AGENDA

1 Award of the Freedom of the Parish of Lenham to the Officers and men of the REME 133 Company.

Cllr. A Ratcliffe outlined the history of the award and recommended the freedom be presented to the Officers and men of the REME 133 Company in recognition of their involvement in Lenham.

It was agreed the award will be presented on May 8th during the VE Day celebrations.

A plaque commemorating the freedom to be placed on the gates of the cemetery, will be considered as a follow on event for the November remembrance service.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(7.40pm – 8.00pm)

The Community Warden reported on the crime figures for February (four in total) he highlighted reports of thefts of catalytic convertors from vehicles and confirmed his drop in sessions at the library should resume from the 17th March.

A resident reported road flooding east of the Chequers and Ham Lane close to the top gate of The Lenham School. The resident also queried the water costs of the WCs, the Clerk confirmed standing charges still apply despite the building being closed, he went on to express that in his opinion the advertisement for the position of RFO had been inadequately displayed, his comments were duly noted. A NHP member confirmed the arrangements for setting up for the Open Day at Lenham Heath on the 7th March and requested help on Friday 6th 2pm at the Community Centre to transport the equipment.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. E Powell representing Harrietsham Parish Council and thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting which he opened at 7.50pm.

19/154 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED

The Council accepted apologies for absence from
Cllr. M Lowe, County Cllr. S Prendergast, PCSO J Boyd, Borough Cllrs. T & J Sams.

19/155 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS

Declarations of Interest on Agenda items. No declarations received.

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

Requests for dispensations. No requests received.

19/156 TO REQUEST NOTIFICATION

The Chairman requested notification of intention to film, photograph or record any items.
No notification received.



19/157 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 5th FEBRUARY 2020

Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. M Ballard seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 5th February 2020** are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

19/158 PROGRESS OF RESOLUTIONS (For information purposes only)

The Style Guide has been uploaded on the LPC website.

The security lights have been installed at William Pitt Field as per the quote £300 + vat.

A meeting with MBC will be held on Monday the 9th March 9am at the Community Centre to discuss the WCs and Maidstone Road carpark proposed upgrades.

A meeting with MBC parking services will be held on Wednesday the 11th March at 11am at the Square to discuss parking issues in and around the village.

Cllr. M Lowe play park improvement project will be discussed at the F & GP meeting 18th March.

19/159 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT

P McCreery presented a review of representations received to the Regulation 16 consultation.

Following the consultation responses from MBC and J Twaites, P McCreery will meet with Cllrs. & NHP members on Friday 8th March to decide on the next steps to take regarding the two documents submitted by MBC and J Twaites.

P McCreery is confident the NHP can prove the capability of delivering 1000 dwellings, other issues relating to infrastructure can also be resolved.

Cllr. R Greenwood recommended the Parish Council request that MBC suspend the Examination of the Plan to allow for the extra time to undertake the additional work requested.

P McCreery will continue to advise the Parish Council to the referendum stage.

It was agreed P McCreery will seek advice on the issues raised and report back to LPC.

P McCreery left the meeting at 8.20pm

19/160 APPOINTMENT OF RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Following an interview, the council wish to appoint J Bate, a qualified accountant/auditor as RFO.

A basic payment of £5,000 per annum plus extra hours as required. Cllr. P Scrivens proposed, Cllr. D Garland seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to appoint the RFO, a letter of appointment was signed by the Chairman.

19/161 THE PADDOCKS DEED OF GRANT UPDATE

West Kent Homes have taken over the site from the developer, complications to the delivery of the site means the legal process to complete the grant will take longer than expected.

The Parish Council will request a fresh deed of grant, providing the certificate from Southern Water is forthcoming along with the video of the amended drains. Cllr. M Ballard will monitor the situation and report back to council members.

19/162 WILLIAM PITT FIELD PROGRESS OF SALE OF STRIP OF LAND

Cllr. R Greenwood reported that he awaits confirmation from Countryside that the outstanding matters relating to the negotiations with Jones Homes and the landowner of the development site have been resolved. No further progress to report.



19/163 FOOTPATH TREE ROOT DAMAGE REPORT

The aim is to remove the trees from the primary school path boundary and ground out the stumps so the path may be made safe and resurfaced. Some of the trees on the cricket field boundary and in the play park will need to be lopped back or removed, the chain link fence will need to be replaced by the Parish Council. Cllr. M Ballard will investigate if section 106 monies may be used for the footpath and Cllr. D Garland will ask Golding Homes for information relating to the maintenance of the cricket nets installed between Tolhurst Way and the cricket field.

19/164 LENHAM NURSERY SCHOOL FUTURE PLANS

Cllrs. A Ratcliffe & N Osborne met with representatives of the Lenham Nursery School. The business plan will be presented to the Parish Council before the planning application is submitted. A follow up meeting with the nursery will be organised to discuss funding options.

19/165 VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Cllrs. A Ratcliffe and M Lowe are progressing with arrangements for the Saturday 8th celebration. All present agreed the award of the Freedom of the Parish to the REME 133 Co. will take place during the celebration on Saturday 8th May.

19/166 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING

Cllr. J Britt confirmed Forestry England would like to attend the Annual Assembly meeting on 30th April to present the first stage of the agreed plan to plant a forest on land at Platts Heath.

Cllr. M Lowe has quotes for new equipment for the play park, the details will be agreed at the next Finance & General Purposes meeting on the 18th March.

Cllr. R Greenwood proposed, Cllr. J Britt seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to instruct Down to Earth to cut back the hedge in Groom Way.

Cllr. J Britt proposed, Cllr. N Osborne seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations contained in the reports of the meetings of the **19th February 2020** be approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the F & GP Committee.

19/167 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Neighbours of the Social Club in the High Street attended the meeting on the 19th February to discuss the application to have the street furniture being moved to the rear of the building. Concerns relating to lack of privacy, noise and litter issues were aired. The Social Club representative agreed to discuss further options to resolve the issues. Cllr. A Ratcliffe offered to provide a sketch plan showing a wild meadow border and seating plan. Cllr. A Walmsley declared an interest as he is a member of the Social Club.

Cllr. R Greenwood reported on the NHP public open day on the 22nd February held at the Community Centre. The event was well attended with over 120 attendees. SOHL attended which proved useful as it helped define the area being considered for development. The message was made clear the importance of voting at referendum to pass the plan to protect the parish for future generations.

Cllr. J Britt proposed, Cllr. M Cockett seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations contained in the report of the meeting on the **19th February 2020** be approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Planning Committee.



19/168 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL SPOKEPERSONS INCLUDING OUTSIDE MEETINGS

Cllr. N Osborne reported pothole repairs have been marked out from the Square to Groom Way.
County Cllr. S Prendergast will be thanked for her help with highway issues.
A dwelling with overgrown hedges will be requested to cut back the vegetation on Headcorn Road at Sandway.
Cllr. D Garland will keep in contact with Cllr. M Ballard regarding the management company at Tolhurst Way.
Cllr. A Walmsley suggested the project to resolve drainage issues at the Maidstone Road car park could possibly be undertaken using section 106 or CIL monies, an up to date quote for works will be sought. Cllr. A Ratcliffe will organize an initial quote. There is a delay with the option of extra parking on land owned by RB Plant.
Cllr. A Walmsley reported on the ongoing works at Faversham Road crossroads, Cllr. S Prendergast is requesting funding to carry the project forward.
Cllr. K Hammond reported Forstal Road junction with A20 large potholes awaiting repair.
Cllr. E Powell from Harrietsham Parish Council reported HPC have rejected all sixteen sites included in the recent call for sites by Maidstone Borough Council.

19/169 FINANCE

a) To authorize payments (Details of payments to be tabled).	Cheque no:	Amount
Lotus Print. NHP Regulation final documents.	5189	775.60
LCN.com. Email domain renewal.	5190	17.88
Lenham Square Studio. Dog & Bear farewell plaque.	5191	60.00
Top Print. Office compliment slips.	5192	70.80
M McFarlane. Office expenses and website fees.	5193	255.85
The Play Inspection Company. Annual inspection.	5194	243.00
Cybereye Security. WPF lighting.	5195	360.00
Down to Earth landscape work February.	5196	435.00
Nathan Beale, dog bins & litter picking February	5197	650.00

Salaries & expenses detailed as Appendix A and are filed with a signed copy of these minutes.

To note receipt of income (Details of income to be tabled)	NatWest bank interest	32.82
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Cllr. R Greenwood proposed, Cllr. A Ratcliffe seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** to make the payments.
Cllrs. N Osborne and M Cockett signed the cheques on behalf of Lenham Parish Council.

Cllrs. noted the figures for the bank reconciliation as at 31st January 2020

NatWest current account	200.00
NatWest Business Reserve account	184,966.95

19/170 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (For information only)

A thank you card for the bouquet given to Mrs L McCreery for her help with the NHP has been received.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

