



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LENHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON THE 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020 11.00am AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**PRESENT** Cllr. R Greenwood, Chairman presiding.

Cllrs. J Britt, M Cockett, D Garland, K Hammond, M Lowe, N Osborne, P Scrivens,  
A Ratcliffe & A Walmsley. M McFarlane (Clerk) 1 Member of the public.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

(11.00am 11.10am))

No public participation.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 11.03am and thanked all present for attending the meeting during these difficult times due to the Covid 19 virus. This is the first meeting of the full council since March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**20/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE RECEIVED**

The Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs. M Ballard, M Michaelas and J Bate (RFO)

**20/02 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.

**20/03 TO REQUEST NOTIFICATION**

The Chairman requested notification of intention to film, photograph or record any items.

No notification received.

**20/04 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020**

Cllr. A Walmsley proposed, Cllr. D Garland seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020** are a true record and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

**20/05 PROGRESS OF RESOLUTIONS (For information purposes only)**

Items will be dealt under the following agenda.

**20/06 END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2019 -2020**

Cllr. R Greenwood recommended the accounts in future should include forecast and costings for budget projections to cover the larger scale long term projects, for example the WCs and Maidstone Road carpark upgrades. Reserves should aim to reflect the annual precept amount required, a watching brief will be kept on expenditure and income and comparisons on precept figures made with parishes of approximately the same size as Lenham, for example Headcorn.

There were no questions raised concerning the end of year accounts as submitted by the RFO.

Cllr. N Osborne proposed, Cllr. A Ratcliffe seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the figures and move forward to the internal audit. The RFO will organise submitting the accounts for internal inspection and final external audit as soon as possible. Covid-19 has held up the setting up of digital banking, however the RFO will continue to press for the new facility, in the meantime cheques will be issued and represented at the full council meeting for signature.



**20/07 PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVISOR FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN & HEATHLANDS DEVELOPMENT**

Cllr. R Greenwood recommended a coordinated approach to media content concerning the Neighbourhood Plan (LNP) and the Save Our Heathlands (SOHL) campaign. He presented a quote from a Public Relations Company (previously circulated) which would advise the Council on the best way forward; to ensure the message of the Plan and SOHL is professionally and widely advertised on all media coverage, including newspapers, radio, tv and social media.

Cllr. J Britt proposed, Cllr. P Scrivens seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Steve Loader Communications as per the quote of £900.

**20/08 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES MEETING**

Cllr. A Ratcliffe will re-engage with REME concerning marking the celebration of the end of the Second World War and the Freedom of the Parish award, at the appropriate time. He also reported the Nursery scheme is ready to submit to planning. Cllr. R Greenwood proposed, Cllr. M Cockett seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to submit the plans to MBC. Cllr. A Ratcliffe will submit the plans on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr. M Lowe has secured MBC funding for new play equipment at Ham Lane play area, he will progress the removal of the slide in readiness for the new rope swing installation.

Maidstone Road car park drainage quotes have been on hold during the Covid 19 lockdown. Cllr. R Greenwood will reopen negotiations with RB Plant concerning extra parking provision.

Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. J Britt seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations contained in the reports of the meetings of the **18<sup>th</sup> March 2020** be approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the F & GP Committee.

**20/09 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Cllr. A Walmsley reported planning applications have been dealt with using the MBC website and LPC email, the application responses are on the MBC and LPC website. The committee will continue to work this way during Covid 19 lockdown.

Cllr. A Ratcliffe proposed, Cllr. R Greenwood seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that the recommendations contained in the report of the meeting on the **18<sup>th</sup> March 2020** be approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

**20/10 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT & HEATHLANDS UPDATE**

Cllr. J Britt reported the NHP Regulation 16 is now with the Examiner. The Examiner has undertaken a walk around the parish and has not asked any further questions, it has been confirmed the examination may be a desk top exercise without the need for a public hearing.

Cllr. K Hammond reported the SOHL campaign has been busy working on the next phase; they are working with other action groups. The KCC mineral site at Chapel Farm potentially means the land will not be available for development until 2050. The group continues to talk to MBC members and officers and ensures all actions are widely advertised and the parishioners are kept informed.



PARISH COUNCIL

**20/11 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL SPOKEPERSONS INCLUDING OUTSIDE MEETINGS**

Cllr. R Greenwood confirmed the contract for the sale of the strip of land at the William Pitt Field should be ready for signing at the next full council meeting.

The works being carried out on Faversham Road at Highfields is subject to an enforcement action. The spoil from the site which has been moved to the meadow south of the site will be monitored.

Cllr. J Britt has contacted the Community Pay Back Team to see if the works at the Cross can be started following the shutdown, in the meantime a quote to weed spray and clean the Cross from S Waring costing £400 was discussed. Due to the unusual circumstances Cllr. R Greenwood proposed, Cllr. J Britt seconded and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote and engage the contractor to undertake the works. Cllr. N Osborne will submit an article to Focus magazine asking for volunteers to take responsibility for keeping the Cross maintained. Cllr. A Ratcliffe suggested a village event to re-chalk the Cross could be considered.

Cllr. M Ballard submitted a report covering the S106 monies due. He also reported on the Paddocks ongoing problems with the adoption of the sewer pipe from the site, there had been no further developments to date. Cllr. M Ballard intends to stand down from the Planning Committee and the F & GP Committee. Cllr. K Hammond will join the Planning Committee.

Cllr. R Greenwood confirmed more discussions concerning the extension of the 30mph zone on Headcorn Road close to the railway bridge, will take place with County Cllr. S Prendergast. Cllr. A Walmsley said in principle he agrees with the proposed changes, but would like to see a pavement up to two metres wide over the railway bridge up to the access of the new development site. Cllr. J Britt and A Walmsley will draft a letter on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr. P Scrivens was pleased to report all the local businesses have survived the shutdown thus far.

Cllr. A Walmsley asked Cllrs to submit a wish list of Highway improvements, which could include the request from a parishioner in Lenham Heath for extended 30mph zones. This would allow for budgeting in the 2021-22 financial year.

Cllr. A Ratcliffe requested the Parish Council meetings return to the usual pattern of meeting times, subject to government advice from the 4<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr. N Osborne will confirm booking availability.

Cllr. M Lowe will meet with contractors to organise the removal of the slide at the Ham Lane play area, Cllrs. agreed the works could be progressed subject to Covid 19 restrictions.

Cllr. J Britt is monitoring the LPC website visit numbers for information.

**20/12 THANK YOU LETTER FROM LPC TO BUSINESSES FOR THEIR SUPPORT DURING COVID 19**

Cllr. J Britt proposes a thank you letter should be distributed to the shops and businesses who have served the village during the very testing times of the Covid 19 lockdown. A letter will also be posted on the LPC website.

Cllr. N Osborne reported issues between the Len Valley Surgery and the Saxon Warrior Chemist during the lockdown, which, he feels as a Parish Council we should try and resolve the problem.

The meeting closed 12.45pm

