

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 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 Parker; Cllr Steve Gates; Cllr Rod Dadson; Cllr Louis Newbery Upchurch Parish Council; Parish Clerk Mrs A Smith; Peter Froggatt Chairman of Friends of the Brickfields and 8 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 Dewar-Whalley; Cllr Mike Whiting and PCSO John Cork.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

b) Disclosable Non-Pecuniary Interests

**3. Public Session**

Mr Drury informed the Parish Council that he has become a representative on the steering group for the Medway Estuary and Swale Strategy (MEASS) and that consultation is being held between 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018. There will be three public drop in sessions: Eastchurch Village Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> November; Riverside Country Park, Gillingham on 6<sup>th</sup> December and Halling Community Centre on 12<sup>th</sup> December. Details are here: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/ksles/medway-estuary-and-swale-strategy/>. In respect of Lower Halstow the previous regime of a managed retreat is being set aside in favour of maintaining the sea wall so that the brickfields does not flood, but support is needed. A resident also raised the subject of the Natural England Coastal Path consultation. The Parish Council have, as yet, not had any communication from Natural England apart from a presentation last year.

**4. Visitors reports or comments**

a) SBC Councillor:

No report.

b) KCC Councillor:

No report.

c) PCSO:

Report from PCSO John Cork:

*I have been patrolling the brickfields during the evening shift to combat any ASB in the area. The owners of the Edith May has been given security alarms to combat any more burglaries to the boat.*

*Plastic garden ornament stolen from an address in Wardwell Lane taken believed to be local youths.*

*Mark Stevens has seen youths in his hay barn and took photos of them so I can ID them*

*Theft of doorbells in the area believed to be youths playing around.*

*If any residents would like to contact me please call 07772 226217*

d) Friends of the Brickfields:

Chairman of the Friends of the Brickfields reported that a Remembrance Service would be held on 11<sup>th</sup> November at the Memorial Wood. Next year he will liaise with the PCC for a plan as the 11<sup>th</sup> November falls on a Sunday and in conjunction with the lighting of the proposed beacon. There was a tidy up and clearing of the paths last weekend. The draft constitution is in progress.

**5. To agree Minutes of September meeting**

The draft minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on 3rd October was accepted as a true record and the minutes were duly signed.

**6. Planning Applications**

a) 17/505019/FULL Ridgedale Riding Stables. Retrospective application for Change of use of land to a mixed use site, to continue the equestrian use and add residential use for

three Romani Gypsy families. Site to contain three static caravans, three touring caravans, parking for 6 vehicles with associated development. (Comments extended to 9<sup>th</sup> November)

It was proposed by Cllr Gates, seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis and agreed to object on the grounds that it is outside the built up boundary, it is in the coastal change management area, that the planning regulations have been flouted and the entrance/exit is considered dangerous.

- b) 17/505275/FULL Home Farm, Breach Lane, proposed replacement bungalow (comments by 8<sup>th</sup> November)

It was commented on that footpath ZR39 to be discussed at item 9e runs through this property. It was proposed by Cllr Gates, seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis and agreed to comment that Swale Borough Council make sure that the redundant building is removed at the end of the project.

**Action: Clerk**

## **7. Planning Appeal Decisions**

None.

## **8. To discuss and agree action on the following:**

- a) Combination padlock for Brickfields Site – Update;

It was proposed by Cllr Gates and seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis to change the locks as from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and to charge £5.00 fee annually. The Clerk will manage it and advertise the change. The Emergency Services will be informed of the combination.

**Action: Clerk**

- b) Clerk holding Village CCTV data;

KALC have informed the Parish Council of a possible change in the law, the outcome of which is not yet known.

- c) Quote for grass cutting contract;

Quotes are still being sought.

- d) Quote to replace bearing in the roundabout at the Play Area;

The equipment is safe, however the bearing needs replacing. It was agreed to apply for a grant. It was agreed to ask SafePlay to replace the rubber pads around the trampoline.

- e) Quote to replace fencing at Tutt's Allotments.

**Action: Clerk**

It was proposed by Cllr Hartfree and seconded by Cllr Beerstecher to seek further quotes.

**Action: Clerk**

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

- a) **Brickfields**

Firebreak work is not going ahead yet. An alternative plan may be needed. A site meeting will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Mr Froggatt has a contact in respect of supplying the noticeboard. A costing will be required to apply for a grant.

**Action: Chair FoB**

- b) **Parks and Leisure**

No report.

- c) **Docks and Barges**

Cllr Parker is working on some ideas in respect of the repairs required to the dock area, currently there is nothing to report.

- d) **Burial Ground & Allotments**

The bank at the burial ground is currently doing well and it is now time to stop cutting and resume again in Spring.

It was proposed by Cllr Hartfree and seconded by Cllr Beerstecher to go ahead with strimming those allotments not rented or cleared already. When the allotments have been strimmed those not rented will require putting membrane on the top before the growing season.

- e) **Footpaths, Highways, Lighting**

ZR39 has recently been cleared at the Breach Lane end. The Ramblers' Association are investigating further as this is an important footpath for the area.

It has been noted that there were 10 vehicles in the car park at Westfield and only two of those had permits.

There is a local landscape designation review consultation being carried out by Swale Borough Council, which finishes on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Cllr Gates will respond to retain the status quo in it's entirety the areas pertaining to Lower Halstow which are: North Kent Marshes; the hills from Newington towards Raspberry Hill and the Brickfields. Proposed by Cllr Gates and seconded by Cllr Beerstecher.

**Action: Cllr Gates**

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

- a) KALC;  
The AGM is being held on 18<sup>th</sup> November and will be attended by Cllr Smith and Cllr Howard-Challis.
- b) Memorial Hall Rep;  
A new kitchen has been installed.

**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 Mr and Mrs Greene in respect of key for Brickfields.
  - ii) Telephone call from resident in Burntwick Drive complaining about the unkempt state in front of the shop.
- b) The Poppy wreath has been delivered.
- c) The Clerk has received £200 in allotment rent and £30 for Westfield car park
- d) The bank balance is £64,378.24

Payee	Description	Amount £	Cheque No.
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Civic Poppy Wreath – Donation	<b>50.00</b>	100322
St Margaret’s Lower Halstow Chandelier Fund	Donation in respect of Pauline Stevens’ Funeral	<b>200.00</b>	100323
Mr K Howard-Challis	Re-imburement for Christmas lights and batteries	<b>33.51</b>	100324
Mr C Mayes	Re-imburement for 3 x combination shackle	<b>103.44</b>	100325
Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual Membership - Full	<b>38.00</b>	100326
Lower Halstow Memorial Hall Trust Fund	Hire of Hall	<b>24.00</b>	100327
Streetlights	Replaced Column 29, School Lane with SL1W LED lantern	<b>354.00</b>	100328
KALC	Replacement of cheque 100274 which has been stopped Clerk In Action	<b>72.00</b>	100329

**12. Items for information only**

a) Items for Village News and Website:

Litter pick has been carried out in Wardwell Lane and will be expanded to cover the Brickfields.

Request to continue to report any anti-social behaviour to the PCSO and phone number 101, even if it is trivial.

Consultation for MEASS – to include hyperlink.

**Action: Clerk**

b) Presents, mince pies and mulled wine to be purchased for the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

**Action: Cllr Hartfree and Cllr Gates**

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

Bund for Gibbs amenity area.

The next meeting will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm

Date

Signed:  
Cllr R Smith  
Chair