

**LITTLEBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING 3 JANUARY 2024 HELD AT 7PM IN THE LWMH
MEETING ROOM**

Present: Parish Cllr Peter Farrow (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Mick Giles
Parish Cllr Brian Hurlow
Parish Cllr Cate Reid
Parish Cllr Lee Castle
Parish Cllr Melanie Moore
Parish Cllr Andy Fraser
Parish Cllr Nick Posener

Mrs Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council
There was one member the public present for part of the meeting, Mrs
Rees of Wickhambreaux PC.

114. THE CHAIRMANS OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There had been no apologies received.

115. DECLARATIONS OF CLLRS INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were none however Cllr Castle did advise that he is now a Cllr for Womenswold Parish Council. CCC have had to step in and appoint Cllrs following the mass resignation of all their standing parish cllrs.

116. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 6 DECEMBER 2023

The minutes from the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Hurlow, seconded by Cllr Moore and unanimously AGREED as a true record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Chairman.

117. POLICING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/COMMUNITY WARDEN

There were no reports received.

Cllr Castle mentioned he was to attend a meeting on the Policing model changes later this month.

Cllr Posener raised an issue that had been flagged up to him by some of the residents of Ellen Court; on a number of occasions a large amount of bread (whole slices/chunks) have been thrown on the recreation ground presumably to feed the birds, this has been in the Ellen Court corner of the rec. Unfortunately, this encourages rodents to the area and also dogs exercising on the rec will eat the bread. Clerk to make a poster to display on the noticeboard on the footpath crossroads asking people to refrain from doing this.

118. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs Rees, Parish Cllr at Wickhambreaux addressed the council to advise that long serving Wickhambreaux Cllr and previous Canterbury Area KALC Chairman Robin Treacher was stepping down and moving away from the area. Any personal/goodbye messages greatly received via email to Mrs Rees or via the clerk.

Mrs Rees departed the meeting at 7.10pm.

119. CITY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Lee Castle gave a verbal update to Cllrs on several items and others in his monthly update

- The Swanton lane application CA/23/01781 has now been removed from the CCC planning site
- I have been engaging with Canenco over residents missed bins. There are still a small minority of missed cases, fortunately these numbers are starting to go down
- The Nailbourne is flowing and is being closely monitored by the City Council and Local Volunteer Flood Wardens across the district. If you have any flooding issues, please call the City Council to be directed to the flood coordinator.
- At City Council level, I attended a planning meeting and my continued dismay at the approval of sites (outside the Stodmarsh catchment) due to the City Council missing its national targets (to protect the environment) The District is now in presumption and as such, sites within the Stodmarsh catchment must be fought for even harder now.
- Some good news from Councillor Mike Sole, confirming that changes to waste at recycling centres have been made to allow more DIY waste with charges (please check the KCC website for more information)
- Finally, it has been lovely to have had some family time with plenty of food and drink over the festive period! Wishing everyone a Happy New Year and heres' to a great 2024!

120. COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Mike Sole had sent round his monthly report, the main points below:

- The financial position at KCC continues to deteriorate and we will be seeing more cuts to services next year. The lack of adequate government funding to local authorities, and increased demands and costs, particularly in social care are extremely worrying. Only safety critical road repairs are being carried out and budgets for highways improvements slashed.
- As we reach the end of 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on 2023, thank everyone from their support during the year, and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

121. PLANNING

There were no new applications or notifications received this month.

CA/23/00484

It was noted that a number of new documents had been loaded onto the CCC website for this application; this included details of the proposed Puffin crossing that would need to be supplied by the developer, updated nutrient neutrality and transport documents. The Chairman flagged up the length of time that has past since a decision should have been made on this application, CCC seem to be giving the developer the opportunity to come back and provide more and more information on the objections already raised. The Chairman asked Cllr Castle if we could make an appointment to speak with Andrew Gambrill the officer dealing with this application to discuss the status of the application and when a decision would be likely.

122. HIGHWAYS

GATEWAY

KCC had advised that it was not possible for LPC to go ahead and privately install a matching gateway on the Pine wood side of the road to match the newly re-sited gate on the other side of the road. It would need to be passively safe and approved by KCC as well as meeting the required specifications. This would be discussed further at next weeks HIP meeting.

PARKING REVIEW 2023

CCC had provided a draft copy of the requested yellow lines for Court Meadows; these had been amended to reflect the parishes initial request. A draft copy of proposals for double yellow lines down the entire side of Jubilee Road (from the list to Church road) had also been shown to LPC for comment. As per discussions at the October meeting; LPC would not support this scheme.

It was reported that the A257 30/50 mph sign on the entrance to Littlebourne has now been spun round several times so could do with being set properly back in the ground. Clerk to report and request for this to be done.

123. THE RIVER

The LPC Flood Plan has been updated to reflect new contacts and numbers, this has been circulated to Flood Wardens. The sandbags in Nargate Street have all be checked and are ok. The EA have been clearing out debris from the bypass channel and are now considering removing one of the boards at the alleviation channel. CCC have all the necessary plans in place. Tankering out from the sewer in Nargate Street began in December along with the other villages.

124. FINANCE

AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

There were receipts totalling £140.02 NOTED this month. The expenditure list previously circulated to Cllrs as Appendix 3 totalling £547.00 and Appendix 3a totalling £2113.02 was proposed by Cllr Castle, seconded by Cllr Fraser and AGREED. So it was RESOLVED that the payments set out be authorised – attached at end of minutes

2024-25 REVISED BUDGET & PRECEPT

CONSIDERED AND AGREED following the receipt of the tax base figures from CCC the previously agreed precept figure had been revised and it was proposed by Cllr Farrow that the precept be set at £45,552.00 for 2024-25, this was seconded by Cllr Moore and AGREED by all. This figure would give an approx. 2.7% increase on Littlebourne properties. Approx a £1.82 increase per year on a band D property. The Clerk explained that the budget had been reduced in a couple of areas and some additional income had factored in to achieve this revised amount. Clerk to confirm this figure with CCC.

END OF QUARTER BUDGET EXPENDITURE REPORT

RECEIVED the end of 3rd quarter budget expenditure spreadsheet as previously circulated to Cllrs. Overspend on concurrent funding noted, as previous years this is topped up from the precept.

125. CLERKS REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Thank you card From Mrs Clayson for her Christmas bonus from LPC.
- B. Email from resident Helen Howard
Suggesting the concept of a show and tell of green energies and electric cars (circulated to Cllrs). Helen is looking mainly for publicity support from LPC. This was deemed to be a good initiative and the PC would indeed support Helen in this. Clerk to liaise.

All other correspondence was noted.

CLERK REPORT

LAMPOST OUTSIDE YOUTH SHELTER

Lamp dangling by wire from the top prior to Christmas. The lamp is not live as redundant, area lit by other LED lamppost. This was made safe and capped off on 22nd December by the electrician. Over Christmas it was reported that none of the school pathway lamps were working; clerk to contact electrician to rectify (maybe linked to the lamppost issue).

HOLE AT ENTRANCE TO LONG CARPARK

The block pavers have lifted and there is a dip formed (where the middle bollard used to be) at the entrance to the long carpark. Clerk to obtain quotes for repairs.

DIP IN BLOCK PAVING AT SIDE OF SHOP/HALL

The dip in the block paving is still an issue, either as a puddle or area of mud. Clerk to obtain quote along with the above works.

YOUTH SHELTER PAINTING

Clerk has one quotation but additional quotes to be sought for works. Cllr Castle suggested that maybe the youth group could paint the inside when the weather improves. Clerk to approach the youth leader to see if this is something they would be willing to do if LPC supplied all the materials.

PUBLIC TOILET

Awaiting further communications from Quinns regarding the warranty and the contractors attending site. Light now water damaged again and not working due to damp in the ceiling.

PITCHPOWER PITCH SURVEY

Survey has been done but waiting for information to be loaded onto the app and then the full report to come back from Kent FA.

126. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

A discussion on possible speakers for the APM ensued, Clerk to approach our new Police Officers to see if they would be willing to do a brief talk on rural policing and scams, it would be a good opportunity for them to introduce themselves to the parish.

Clerk has booked the lounge again this year as it worked well last year.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Please note these minutes will remain unapproved until the next LPC meeting

Dates of future meetings: 7 February, 6 March, 20 March (APM), 3 April, 1 May, 5 June, 3 July, 4 September, 2 October, 6 November, 4 December 2024.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

(A) FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) **RECEIVED** the bank statements for November 2023, and TO RESOLVED the signature of the Chairman thereon.
- (b) **NOTED** the clerk has submitted the CIL spending report to CCC for the year 2022-23 reflecting the zero expenditure.
- (c) **NOTED** the clerk had prepared an invoice for the Christmas tree expenditure to the LPC Community Fund totalling £306.00.

(B) RECEIPTS

UK Power Networks wayleaves payments	140.02
TOTALS	£140.02

(C) DIRECT DEBITS

1x1 Ionos	Website monthly charge Jan	19.20
NEST	Pension payment Jan	110.72
TOTALS		£129.92

(D) AUTHORISATION OF ACCOUNTS

BACS	AHA property services – toilet cleaning Nov	98.00
BACS	The Vineyard Garden Centre – Fifth Trust Services	324.00
BACS	Expense reimbursements January	137.95
BACS	Mrs Clayson – litterpicking and sweeping	468.00
BACS	Salary payments	1632.07
TOTALS		£2,660.02