

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th February 2026

In attendance were Cllrs Jane Grundy, Mike Taylor, Adrian Beaumont, Jo Fox, Peter Reynolds, the Parish Clerk and two members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

All councillors declared an interest in 4(i)

3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th January 2026 and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairperson as a true and correct record.

Matters Arising

Cllr Reynolds has initiated arrangements for CPR and defibrillator training. The training is to be open to all local groups and take place in the village hall on a weekday evening. A suitable date is to be advised by Cllr Grundy with a notification placed in the March issue of the Village News publication.

4. Finance Matters

- (i) The members were reminded that in the recent quadrennial Review of Town and Parish Council Allowances, the East Kent Joint independent Parish Remuneration Panel confirmed the latest allowances for the attendance and work carried out by the Chair and councillors whilst conducting their duties. These allowances are discretionary. The members unanimously agreed that, as the work they carry out is for the direct benefit of the local community, they do not wish to be paid this allowance.
- (ii) No payments were due for consideration.
- (iii) Due to online technical issues, Cllr Grundy is to visit the bank branch to progress the online banking arrangements.
- (iv) Cllr Grundy advised the council that the village hall defibrillator maintenance and pad replacement is scheduled for the 8th March. Thereafter, a yearly service plan will be in place. The cost of the maintenance is to be borne by the Parish Council.

5. Communications

- (i) Cllr Fox has kindly produced copy for the website which has been updated. During the meeting, Cllr Taylor provided Cllr Fox and the clerk with information previously gathered to assist with the building of the website. The text is to be reviewed, and where appropriate, the additional information will be incorporated into the website pages.

A Facebook link button is to be added to the bottom of each page of the website. The Lower Hardres and Nackington Facebook page is an active social media platform for local events, groups and community news.

In order to comply with GDPR and further improve security, where possible, it is highly advisable for parish councillors and clerks to use an official domain-based mailbox for Parish Council communication. As hosting is already in place, multiple mailboxes can be arranged easily and are inexpensive to maintain. The members unanimously agreed to each have a Parish council email address. The clerk will liaise with KIKK in this regard.

- (ii) With regard to future website maintenance, it was agreed that once the site was fully populated, little updating would be necessary throughout the year. With the exception of the monthly meeting agendas and minutes, all other updates will continue to be carried out by the website maintenance provider.
- (iii) It was agreed that the quarterly larger issues of the Village News publication be made available freely to all households in the parish. The cost of these particular issues is to be borne by the Parish Council.
Cllr Grundy is liaise with Claire Taylor in regard to the required publication timescales and delivery options.
As the printing deadline for the Easter bumper edition is the 19th March, it will be necessary for the contributions from the Parish to be available for review at the next Parish meeting on the 4th March.
Cllrs Beaumont and Fox have kindly volunteered to write articles on the upcoming local government changes and communications. An article concerning Speedwatch was also suggested.

6. Planning Matters

The following planning application was considered:

- (i) **CA/26/00046** – Fell Silver Birch tree and Walnut tree located in rear garden. 2 Highfield Cottages, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, Kent, CT4 5NP. Members did not raise any objections.

7. Planning Decisions

The following two planning decisions were discussed and noted:

- (i) **CA/25/01924** - Variation of condition 2 of planning permission CA/24/01516 for the front elevation roof slope, extension to porch and external alterations to allow replacement of existing garage door with a window for use as a home office and gym. The Vines, Bridge Road, Lower Hardres. Kent CT4 7AG. **GRANTED**
- (ii) **CA/25/02122** - Application for Listed Building Consent for external alterations including replacement of roof covering from sheeting to slate roof to carport together with the removal of garage doors and window to rear elevation. Court Lodge, Church Lane, Nackington. Kent CT4 7AE. **GRANTED**
- (iii) **CA/25/02253** - Single-storey side and rear extensions, together with single-storey double garage following demolition of existing garage. 2 Whitehill Close, Lower Hardres. Kent CT4 7AQ. **GRANTED**

8. Highways issues and PROW

An online Teams meeting with KCC Highways is scheduled for Monday, 16th February. Councillors Taylor and Fox, the clerk and South Canterbury Councillor, Mike Sole will be in attendance.

The meeting is to discuss the contents and way forward of the Lower Hardres and Nackington 2025 Parish Highways Improvement Plan.

9. Rural Crime

Nothing of significant interest to report.

10. Correspondence, Letters and other Matters of an urgent nature

Nothing to report.

11. Any other business

The clerk noted that there are various online short training courses available for councillors and clerks. The March 2026 topics have been distributed to all members. The clerk is to investigate if any of these courses would be beneficial for their own skill development.

12. Next meeting of the Parish Council

The next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 4th March 2026 at 5pm.

The Meeting closed at 6.15pm.

Signed _____

Date _____