

LOWER HARDRES AND NACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th May 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. Appointment of Chairman

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Adrian Beaumont be appointed as Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2026-2027. On being put forward, the motion was carried unanimously. Cllr Beaumont then addressed the meeting, thanking the members for their support.

The committee thanked Cllr Grundy for all of her hard work and everything she has accomplished during her tenure as Chairperson.

2. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Beaumont declared an interest in item 8.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st April 2026 and Matters Arising.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st April 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairperson as a true and correct record.

Rural crime – Motorcycle nuisance. Cllr Beaumont advised that the use of motorcycles on local farmland continued and that there had been several dangerous occurrences involving near misses with farm workers. The police are involved and taking the issue seriously.

5. Appointment of Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer

It was proposed and seconded that the Parish Clerk is appointed as the Proper Officer and the Responsible Finance Officer of the Parish Council. On being put forward, the motion was carried.

6. Finance Matters

- (i) A cheque for the sum of £759.00 was prepared for the clerk's March and April salary. A cheque for the sum of £420.00 was prepared for McCabe Ford Williams and will be sent off this week. A cheque for the sum of £26.13 was prepared for the outstanding monies owed to KALC and will be sent off this week.

It was unanimously agreed that an invoice should be raised by Carol Castle for the Internal auditing services provided last year.

The cost for funding the May bumper edition of the Village News was discussed. It was agreed to raise a cheque for the sum of £296.00 when the invoice is received.

- (ii) Members noted receipt of £13125.00 Precept from CCC.
- (iii) Section 1 - Annual Governance page of Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) Having read Section 1 Annual Governance Statement, it was proposed and seconded and the motion carried that the Parish Council has met the requirements of the Governance Statement and followed the correct procedures.

- (iv) Section 2 – Annual Accounting Statement of AGAR and all papers required for publication which include notice of public rights and dates of publication, list of variances between this year and last year, earmarked expenses and balance sheet. The Clerk explained the boxed figures on the Accounting Statement which compares the figures for the previous year and the current year, any variation between the two over a certain percentage has to be explained. The Clerk provided written details of the Audit Variations and the Balance Sheet which he is required to produce for the audit. Having agreed the figures, it was proposed and seconded approval of Section 2 Accountability Statement 2025-2026, the Variations Sheet, Balance Sheet and the full AGAR on being put the motion was carried. The Clerk then advised that the proposed Notice of Public Rights to inspect the accounts and related papers, and the Publication on the website of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) will commence on 5 th June 2026 for a 30 working day period and end on 14th July 2026.
- (v) The clerk advised that the access issues with both the dormant Santander and NS&I accounts are being resolved. The process is by mail and should be finalised by the next meeting.

7. Communications

- (i) All of the May bumper issue Village News copies have been delivered to every household in the parish. Although only just landed, the feedback we have had has been very positive.
- (ii) The village hall defibrillator has now been serviced. Cllr Reynolds has kindly offered to arrange the training with an external source. Cllr Grundy will provide dates and times to move this forward.
- (iii) The upcoming Parish Engagement meeting being held on the 19th May by CCC will be attended by Cllrs Beaumont and Taylor. The clerk is to confirm our attendance with the organisers.

8. Planning Matters

The following planning application was considered:

CA/26/00573 - T.P.O. no 4 1964 T1 Beech tree located in the rear garden - 3 metre height reduction to previous points and 3 metre reduction to NW canopy. T2 Sycamore tree located in the rear garden - 3 metre reduction to previous points. 15 Whitehill Close, Lower Hardres. Kent CT4 7AQ

Cllr Beaumont addressed the council with regard to the need to carry out maintenance to this particular tree in his garden. The members unanimously agreed that there was no objection to this application.

9. Planning Decisions.

The following planning decisions were noted:

CA/26/01910 - Single-storey front extension to outbuilding. Street End Place, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, Kent. CT4 5NP **Refused**

CA/26/00296 - T1-Lime tree, pollard back to previous points - approximately a 1.5 metre reduction from 15 metres to 13.5 metres. Located along driveway area of site. The Coach House, Sextries Farm, Church Lane, Nackington, Kent. CT4 7AF **No Objection**

10. Rural Crime

Nothing in addition to report over and above that noted in section 8 above.

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

The parish's insurance cover is due for renewal on the 1st June. The clerk is to endeavour to obtain a number of quotations. Due to the tight timescales and historically competitive pricing, if quotations are not provided in time, our cover will be renewed with Zurich.

Until the bus shelter is repaired, in order to deter people from entering, red and white safety tape will be attached around the structure. This is to be addressed as a priority. The clerk is actively seeking quotations for the repair works.

12. Any other business

Cllr Taylor gave a brief review of the Road Safety & Active Travel Group (RSATG) seminar that he attended with the clerk. One of the 2 contacts made by Cllr Taylor was very interested in our HIP. They will take it away and read through our concerns and proposals. With regards to our HIP, as it has now been several months since we received the last communication, the clerk is to write to KCC Highways to check on progress.

13. The next meeting date was confirmed as Wednesday, 3rd June 2026 at 5pm.

The Meeting closed at 5.52 pm.

Department

Signed _____

Date _____