BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th October 2026.

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Those Present: Cllr. P. Hutt (Chairman); Cllr. H. Samuelson (Vice-Chairman); Cllr. J. Russell; Cllr. A. Jeffers; Cllr. S. Mohan and Clerk Mrs D. Horswell.

Also present*:* Ward Cllr. S. Jupe; Ward Cllr. D. Smith and two members of the public.

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence.
Apologies: County and Ward Cllr. A. Ricketts – Childcare.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Changes to DPI's & Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed:
No Changes or Declarations of Interest.

3.To Approve: Minutes of the last Meeting: of 14th September 2026.
Cllr. Mohan commented that he thought a more positive stance had been agreed which was not reflected in the Minutes reference **Minute item 4.2 To Discuss: Save the Blean - Barrister's Fees - Reg 19 - Local Plan.**
This being noted the Minutes were **PROPOSED by Cllr. Hutt, SECONDED by Cllr. Samuelson and APPROVED by all Members present. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

4. Finance:
4.1 Invoice Payments October (Banking Report circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting).

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection October	£126.58 (Vat £21.10)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages September	£220.18
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary September (includes annual pay award + 5 months x £36.83 back pay).	£1,080.60
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Ink Cartridge & Printer Paper	£44.99
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC September	£442.01
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband October	£116.07 (Vat £19.35)
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Email Charges	£20.99
Fee	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Charge	£7.00
Bacs	Meadow Grange	Handyman Supplies	£39.96 (Vat £6.66)

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Bacs	BVHMC	Hall Hire October	£24.00
Bacs	Meadow Grange	Litter-picking Jan – July, Hedge Cut & weeding	£2,688.00 (Vat £448.00)

Total Paid Out: £4,822.37

Received in:

BVHMC – Waste Collection July & August **£125.06**

Bank Statement as at 30th September 2026 - Current Account £69,027.77*

(This does not include the outgoing or all the incoming transactions in this banking report).

***Includes the remainder of S106 money from previous years of £351.16 to be spent on play equipment maintenance.**

£24,273.51 Community Infrastructure Levy money from 2025/2026.

PROPOSED by Cllr. Jeffers, SECONDED by Cllr. Hutt and all Cllrs. present APPROVED the bank payments.

4.2 To Accept: Audited AGAR & Completion Notice 2025-2026 and Rights of Inspection Notice.

Following the AGAR 2025/2026 and relevant documents being sent to the External Auditors, Forvis Mazars LLP, the following completion certificate was issued:

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Proposed by Cllr. Hutt, Seconded by Cllr. Mohan and all Councillors present RECEIVED the Completion Notice.

In accordance with regulations both documents will be published on the Parish Council website and put on the Parish Council noticeboard.

4.3 To Discuss: Save the Blean - Barrister's Fees - Reg 19 - Local Plan.

Cllr. Mohan reported that a good discussion had been had at the latest STB meeting which Cllr. Jeffers attended and explained about the planning process. STB are finding out about the pre-planning application and the timescales. An application is expected but not imminent. The funding drive hasn't started in earnest yet although Cllr. Bobrowicz is trying all avenues for funding.

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Cllr. Hutt will contact the Chairs of Hackington and Harbledown & Rough Common to have a discussion.

4.4 To Discuss: Grant to Blean Pre-School.
Cllr. Samuelson declared an Interest.
After discussion it was decided to invite Lorraine to the next Parish Council meeting in November so that she can answer any questions before a decision is made.

4.5 To Approve: Quote for autumn planting.
A quote has been received for winter planting the village planters by Meadow Grange which has not increased from last year and has been circulated by email to Cllrs.
Proposed by Cllr. Mohan, Seconded by Cllr.Samuelson and all Cllrs. present accepted the quote.

4.6 To Discuss: Quote for repair of concrete path on The Green.
A quote has been received from GGL Groundbreaking Gardens & Landscaping to repair the path which borders The Green. The damage to the path has occurred as a result of tree roots growing under and lifting the path. Total cost of labour, materials, waste removal & VAT = £2,280.00.
Proposed by Cllr. Hutt, Seconded by Cllr. Jeffers and all Cllrs. present accepted the quote.

5. **PLANNING REPORT October 2026**

Planning Applications:

26/01495 - T.P.O no 3 1995, Willow- Crown reduce by 2-3 meters in height and 2 meters laterally - 12 Honey Hill – Comments by 16th October.

26/01560 - TPO No.4/2013, trees marked as blue on sketch plan- Fell located to land at rear - The Damsons , 41A Chapel Lane - Comments by 23rd October.

Decisions by CCC: None.

Appeals
Appeal Ref: APP/J2210/W/23/3332825
24 School Lane
Retrospective application for single-storey detached agricultural storage.

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Appeal DISMISSED.

Appeal Reference: APP/J2210/X/26/3378139
Application for lawful development certificate for existing use of agricultural land as residential garden - Lyndale, 24 School Lane, Blean, Kent, CT2 9JA
Decision 20th January 2026 – WAS NOT LAWFUL.
Appeal Start 30th March 2026

5.1 Update: 25/02369 – 140 Blean Common – application for car wash – still awaiting decision.

5.2 Update: Blean Common Development.
Large amounts of soil are now being taken off site. An Open day is planned for this month.

5.3 Update: Nomination of The Royal Oak as an Asset of Community Value.
The letter of approval has been received with thanks given to Cllr. Mohan for all his work on this. Cllr. Mohan said he will contact James Ross from CAMRA to let him know the outcome. Cllr. Jeffers mentioned that A.C.V. can be green spaces.

6. Reports from Ward Cllrs:
6.1 Ward Cllr. Smith spoke of the meeting on the planning enforcement process which he said was very informative.

6.2 County & Ward Cllr. Ricketts sent a report in his absence.

6.3 Ward Cllr. Jupe spoke of the A290 road closure, due to a gas leak, which was causing a huge disruption. Cllr. Samuelson said there was poor lack of communication from SGN who should be held to account. Cllr. Jupe will formulate a letter.
Cllr. Jupe spoke of the three water leaks on Honey Hill which she has reported by email every two days.
Elections will be held on 5/5/27.
The 2nd Whitstable Cubs and Beavers raised money for Porchlight by sleeping overnight in the village hall.

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7. Reports and Updates: Reports circulated to Cllrs prior to meeting)

7.1Village Hall Report: - Cllr. Russell:
No report as the AGM is to be held on 29/10/26.

7.2 N.H.W:
All relevant reports are circulated to Cllrs. weekly.

7 .3 Footpath Report: Cllr. Samuelson.
The footpaths walked are all pretty good.

7.4 Highways Report: Cllr Jeffers.
Nothing further to report.

7.5 Speedwatch Report: Cllr. Russell and Cllr. Mohan:
Nothing to report.

7.6 Clerks Report.
October Report
Recreation Ground
A quote has been received from Meadow Grange to plant up the planters in the village for Autumn – 5 large planters, 2 outside the parish office and 1 outside the shops which has not increased on last year's price.
The roots from the cherry tree on The Green has caused the concrete path to raise up – a quote has been sought to repair it and make it safe.
The hole in the safety surface under the swings has been repaired by Kompan Ltd.
Faults Reported:
Dead trees outside shops reported to Landlord 1/8/25 – response received. Further correspondence has been had with the owner of Clocktower Parade. 7/10/26 who is now disputing whether he is responsible for the frontage.
28/10/25 CB18 – Overgrown vegetation and blocked drainage - Ref: 251014820– Awaiting Allocation.
3/9/25 CB14 – Fallen Tree – Ref: 251227405– In progress.
22/4/26 CB7 – Ruts in pathway Ref: 260419264– Awaiting Allocation. This issue with ruts in the pathway at Monkey Court has also been raised with Southeast Water and the RSPB Reserve

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Manager – further correspondence on 8th Sept. from RSPB to SE Water asking for an update.

Correspondence Circulated:

KALC Canterbury Area Committee - Draft Minutes 11 September.
Canterbury Housing Advice Centre – 7th October 3.30pm Friends Meeting House.
KALC Canterbury Area Committee - CGR Stage 2 Consultation Possible Engagement with CCC.
Bus Focus Group - Rural Parishes Representatives.
CCC - Online Parish Engagement Meeting – 7th October at 6pm.
CCC - Canterbury Community Awards.
KALC NEWS - OCTOBER 2026
On Thursday 22nd October join thousands of people across the country taking part in Glow Rides , shining a light on women's safety and helping create safer street for everyone.
Community Safety - working with our Parish Councils – attend PC meeting.

Consultations:

CCC - Have your say on our draft Licensing Policy - Read the draft Licensing Policy and share your views by completing our survey by 9am on Tuesday 17 November 2026.
CCC - Have your say on the Community Governance Review: proposals - Please give us your views by completing the consultation form by 9am on Thursday 17 December 2026.
CCC - Have your say on the timing of parish and town council elections - Please give us your views by completing the consultation form by 9am on Thursday 19 November 2026.

8. Matters raised by the Public:

Email from a resident regarding the A290 closure.

9. Matters to be discussed and updates on pending projects: (Any relevant papers circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting)

9.1 Update: BPC Highway Improvement Plan. Update next meeting.

9.2 To Approve: Permission to site Harbledown & Rough Common white gate on Blean Parish land. This had been circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting. It is to be sited on the grass area on the corner of Rough Common Road and Whitstable Road.
Proposed by Cllr. Hutt, Seconded by Cllr. Samuelson and all Cllrs. present AGREED.

9.3 Update: Local Government Reorganisation and Community Governance Review.
CGR proposals for Blean are:

- Expand Blean parish up to the A299.

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- Blean parish will be split into wards , one for Blean with six parish councillors and one for Yorkletts and Clapham Hill with three parish councillors.
- People who live in a ward are able to vote for who their parish councillor is for their ward.
- The parish councillors all work together but have a specific role representing their ward and serving their community.

Have your say:
Online: have yoursay.canterbury.gov.uk
In writing: Policy Team, 14 Rose lane, Canterbury CT1 2UR
Email: consultations@canterbury.gov.uk

The Parish Council will formulate a response. Residents are encouraged to respond to the consultation. Have your say' CGR Leaflet is published on the village noticeboards.

9.4 Update: Martyn's Law. Cllr. Samuelson will keep BPC updated.

9.5 Update: recruitment of new Parish Councillors.
Poster published on BPC website and noticeboards.

9.6 Update: 'Dog Poo' notices from CCC for Keirs Meadow & Recreation Ground.
Ward Cllr. Jupe will chase up.

10. Councillors' Reports.
10.1 Cllr. Hutt referred to an email received from Harry Russell, a Specialist Community Safety Officer within the Community Safety Unit (CSU) at Canterbury City Council.
A key part of the role is working collaboratively with partners and local communities to tackle anti-social behaviour, crime and other community safety concerns and work alongside a range of agencies, including Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, the NHS and Kent County Council. They are keen to strengthen their engagement with Parish Councils and would welcome opportunities for officers from the CSU to attend meetings where appropriate. Hearing directly from Parish Councils and residents can help better understand local concerns, including issues that may not yet have been reported or brought to our attention through other channels.
These meetings would also give an opportunity to provide information about the powers and options available to address community safety concerns, discuss relevant local issues and share information about the wider work taking place through the Community Safety Partnership.

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Cllrs. agreed to invite him to the November meeting.
Cllr. Hutt also said the café is now open and is operating a loyalty scheme.

10.2 Cllr. Mohan gave thanks for the award that the Save the Blean group received at the latest Blean coffee morning**.** Their name is now on the awards board in Blean village hall.
Cllr. Mohan mentioned the litter pick that Save the Blean do at Hackington and suggested it could be done in Blean. It was thought a good idea although Blean PC employ Ken who litter picks in the village and Cllr. Samuelson said the children from Blean primary school do the path at the back of the school.

10.3 Cllr. Jeffers reported that he had attended the CCC planning enforcement meeting which was a good exercise on the basic understanding of planning enforcement. He will share the slides when he receives them. He mentioned he will be attending the next Save The Blean meeting.

10.4 Cllr. Samuelson received a F.O.I. regarding Kent College farm and nothing has changed since the letter went out in January.

11. Any Other Business for discussion at the Parish Council meeting on 9th November.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.55.

Dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings in the coming year, unless for any reason they have to be changed.
9th November and 14th December.

These Minutes remain as draft minutes until approved by the Parish Council at the next meeting.

Date _____ **Signature** _____