

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th October 2024.

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Those Present: Cllr. H. Samuelson (Vice-Chairman); Cllr. A. Jeffers; Cllr. G. King; Cllr. M. Akers; Cllr. J. Russell; and Clerk Mrs D. Horswell.

Also present: County Cllr. R. Thomas; Ward Cllr. A. Ricketts; Ward Cllr. D. Smith; Ward Cllr. S. Jupe and two members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. P. Hutt – family illness; Cllr. M Hayden – family illness.

Due to the absence of Cllr. Hutt, Cllr. Samuelson took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Changes to DPI's & Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed:

Cllr. King declared an interest in any item related to the village hall.
No other DPI changes or Declaration of Interests were declared.

3. To Approve: Minutes of the last Meeting: of 9th September 2024.

The Minutes were **Proposed by Cllr. King and Seconded by Cllr. Russell, APPROVED by all Members present and signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

4. Finance:

4.1 September Invoice Payments (Banking Report circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting).

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection October	£111.98 (Vat £18.66)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages September	£243.87
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary September	£854.72
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Postmix Concrete	£8.00 (Vat £1.33)
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC September	£273.01
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband October	£93.54 (Vat £15.59)
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99
Bacs	BVHMC	Hall Hire October	£24.00
Bacs	Meadow Grange	Nature Reserve Hedge Cutting Part paid with S106 money	£900.00 (Vat £150.00)

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Bacs Meadow Grange	Nature Reserve Pond Project Paid with S106 money	£750.00 (Vat £125.00)
Bacs Forvis Mazars LLP	External Audit y/e/31/3/24	£252.00 (Vat £42.00)
Bacs Ben Bowles	Cutting/Baling/Clearing Nature Reserve	£516.00 (Vat £86.00)
Bacs Cutters Garden Services	Cut park hedge & Peacock House Hedge	£875.00

Total Paid Out: £4,914.11

Received In:

Bacs - CCC – S106 Funds **£3,203.04**

Bank Statement as at 30th September 2024 - Current Account £45,708.39

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

Proposed by Cllr. Jeffers, Seconded by Cllr. King and all Cllrs. present approved the bank payments.

To Note: It was noted that the five new recycled plastic benches and two recycled plastic planters recently purchased have been added onto BPC's insurance schedule along with the three recycled plastic planters taken over by BPC from Friends of Blean Church with no extra premium being required by Zurich Municipal. They have all been added onto the BPC Asset Register.

5. Planning: (Planning Report for Discussion circulated to Cllrs. Prior to the meeting)

Planning Applications:

24/01558 - Erection of conservatory to rear elevation and rear dormer, following demolition of existing conservatory - **1 Trueman Close – Blean Parish Council has no objections to this application.**

24/01723 – Single-storey side extension - **Badgers Farmhouse Badgers Close – Comments by 25th October.**

24/01724 – Listed Building consent for the above.

24/01651 - Porch to side elevation - **3 Westfield - Comments by 25th October.**

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Decisions by CCC:

24/01273 - TPO No.4_2013, Fell to ground level twenty-four ash trees to the **land at rear of 43 to 47 Chapel Lane – GRANTED**

Appeals

Appeal Ref: APP/J2210/W/23/3332825

24 School Lane

Retrospective application for single-storey detached agricultural storage.

Application Ref: CA/23/00521

Appeal Ref: 3335774

Butlers Court Farm Blean Common

6 detached dwellings consisting of 3 no. one and a half storey, 2 no. two and a half storey and 1 no. 2 storey dwelling together with formation of access and associated hardstanding following demolition of existing industrial buildings.

Any additional comments by 21st June.

Cllr. Jeffers raised the issue of the discrepancies on the CCC Planning website for the Badgers Farmhouse application history which shows a previous application with one showing as granted and one as refused. This has been raised with the relevant planning officer a number of times but has not been corrected.

A discussion was had on 3 Westfield and whether this application will reduce the parking as it only leaves one parking space.

Cllr. Samuelson reported that prior to the Parish Council meeting he had attended a public consultation regarding Monte Bre at 5 Whitstable Road. The plans are for Kent College to have a 40 room house for year 13's. This is set back from the road and makes use of the site. The planning application will be out for comments soon.

5.1 Proposed Britton Court Solar Farm & Battery Storage facility:

Ward Cllr. Jupe spoke about this proposal following the drop-in session on 8th October at St. Stephens. She said that it will need to have a consultation in the area surrounding Tyler Hill. She can

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see no planning reason why it should not go ahead. It will have non-evasive traffic while being built, will be quiet and will go back to greenfield to the farmer/landowner after 40 years. It doesn't require 'change of use' of the land.

6. Reports from County Cllr. and Ward Cllrs:

6.1 County Cllr. Thomas report:

A New Council of Nations and Regions has been set up but Kent has no seat at the table at present.

KCC Budget to be published at the end of the month.

Bus Fares – there will be a rise in the cap maybe to £2.50.

6.2 Ward Cllr. Ricketts report:

Parish Charter Meeting – a good update from CCC Victoria Asimaki. Parish Councils are working in co-operation with CCC.

CCC Consultations will go out earlier.

Concurrent Funding – no change for the coming year.

Going through budget soon.

Local Plan – timings have changed.

Digital Access Working Group

Stagecoach – very good on responding to complaints.

7. Reports and Updates:

7.1 Village Hall Report: - Cllr. King

The hall AGM is on October 24th when we have to confirm our nomination to represent groups. I am happy to continue as the PC rep, so will need councillors to confirm my nomination when we meet on the 14th October.

All Cllrs. present AGREED for Cllr. King to continue as PC rep on the Hall Committee.

7.2 N.H.W:

All relevant reports are circulated to Cllrs. weekly.

7.3 Footpath Report: Cllr. Samuelson.

Cllr. Samuelson reported that he had joined the Ramblers Association. He reported that all the footpaths are wet and overgrown. Cllr. Akers is also a member of the Ramblers Association.

7.4 Highways Report: Cllr Jeffers.

Nothing to report.

7.5 Speedwatch Report: Cllr. Akers and Cllr. Russell.

No report.

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7.6 Clerks Report:

Recreation Ground & Nature Reserve

The wooden railings at the entrance to the Recreation ground have been repaired.

All the hedges in the Nature Reserve (Keirs Meadow) have been cut. They should not need cutting for a few years now.

The Nature Reserve has been cut, baled and cleared.

The Recreation Ground hedge has been trimmed and Peacock House hedge cut back on all sides and the top with all waste removed.

The Pond Project has been completed consisting of the removal of a willow tree in the pond and pathway cleared at the back of the pond. This has been funded by S106 money (as agreed by CCC). The five planters have been winter planted by Meadow Grange – part funded by S106 money (as agreed by CCC).

Faults reported to PROW

Email from Mr Atkins: 'I'd like to point out that in the damage to PROW (Sheet 2393) in latest meeting states that Amery Court Bridge is missing. This is not part of any PROW. It simply joined two for convenience. I removed the bridge because of the rubbish being thrown in the land drainage ditch.'

Ref: 825168 – Dying tree in Chestnut Avenue. Response from KCC – It has been inspected and it has a fungal infection which is a slow process which makes it look worse than it is so there is nothing to be done at the present time. They are inspected every five years. If it gets any worse we are to phone KHS.

Blocked drain Chestnut Avenue/School Lane – reported 27/9 Ref: 833262

Correspondence Circulated:

CCC Parish engagement meeting (online) for Parish Clerks and Parish Councillors – 9th October.

Renewable Connections Event – 8th October 3 – 7pm St Stephens.

The second edition of the KHS Road Safety and Active Travel Group's (RSATG) newsletter which covers the second quarter between July and September.

Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner has begun a consultation on the new Police and Crime Plan. This forms the priorities the police should follow for the next few years.

The presentation and question-and-answer session on the proposed **Gorrell Valley and Stour Parks Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)** has been rescheduled to Thursday 24 October at Tower House, Westgate Gardens, Canterbury, CT1 2DB. The presentation will begin at 6pm.

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Dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings in the coming year unless for any reason they have to be changed.

2024: 11th November, 9th December.

2025: 10th February, 10th March, 14th April and Annual Parish Council meeting on 12th May.

7.7 CCC Parish Engagement meeting

This had been reported on by Cllr. Ricketts earlier in the meeting.

8. Matters raised by the Public:

Mr. Gammon asked about devolution regarding the wetlands. Ward Cllr. Ricketts explained that a meeting had been set up by Canterbury City Council with Ashford Borough Council to set up a company to offset measures created by developers and will be designed to stop the situation getting worse.

9. Matters to be discussed: (Any relevant papers circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting).

9.1 The reinstatement or re-siting of the WW11 Tank Dragons Teeth – Reservoir Road, Monkey Court.

Cllr. Samuelson has emailed R.S.P.B. who have stated there are no plans for them to be re-sited so they will stay where they are.

9.2 Update: Expenditure of s106 money.

The paperwork for the pond project has been sent to CCC which has been agreed. Because of the difficulty of trying to find a piece of play equipment and safety surface for approx. £2,000 BPC asked whether we could use the play equipment section money for the maintenance of our existing equipment which was agreed. An invoice has been sent from BPC for the whole amount of £3203.04 which has now been received. It was suggested that maybe the money can be spent on the rocket cone being welded. It was also agreed to the £102 (Parks & Garden section) being used against the cost of the planters being planted up for winter by Meadow Grange.

9.3 Donation of Bench by a resident for the Nature Reserve (Keirs Meadow)

A resident would like to make a donation for a bench, like the new ones we already have, to be sited just inside the entrance of the Nature Reserve as she, and probably many others, find it difficult to walk right over to the other side of the Meadow to sit and enjoy it.

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If agreed, Hazel and Michael will discuss where the best place is for it to be sited.

Proposal to install another bench in the Nature Reserve.

Proposed by Cllr. Samuelson, Seconded by Cllr. King and all Cllrs. present AGREED.

10. Councillors' Reports:

10.1 Cllr. King had reported at the September meeting of an overhanging tree near the bus stop opposite the Royal Oak which is obstructing both the sight of the bus for passengers and bus drivers. Clerk to chase up with KCC.

10.2 Cllr. Samuelson asked whether a newsletter will be out before Christmas to which Cllr. Akers said he will start to compile the winter edition.

11. Any Other Business for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting on 11th November 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.09pm.

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

Date _____

Signature _____