

# BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Sheet 2342**

**Those Present:** Cllr. P. Hutt (Chairman); Cllr. M. Akers; Cllr. J. Russell; Cllr. G. King and Clerk Mrs D. Horswell.

**Also present:** Ward Cllr. S. Jupe; County Cllr. R. Thomas and one member of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence;** Cllr. H. Samuelson - Family Matters; Cllr. A. Jeffers – Family Matters; Ward Cllr. D. Smith – on holiday.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Changes to DPI's & Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed:** No changes in DPI's. Declaration of Interest declared by Cllr. King in all matters to do with the Village Hall.

**3. To Approve: Minutes of the last Meeting: of 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

**Proposed by Cllr. King, Seconded by Cllr. Russell.**

**The Minutes were approved and AGREED by all Members present and signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

### **4. Finance:**

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

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection December	£102.38 (Vat £17.06)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages November	£222.27
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary November including annual wage rise and backdated pay to April 2023	£1,280.74
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC November	£428.17
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband December	£81.13 (Vat £13.52)
Bacs	BVHMC	Hall Hire December	£24.00
Bacs	Wicksteeds	Annual Play Equipment Inspection	£158.40 (Vat £26.40)
Bacs	SLCC	Annual Subscription	£183.00
Bacs	Meadow Grange	Peat & Jeyes Fluid	£21.98 (Vat £3.67)
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99
Bacs	Mr M D Akers	Reimbursement for printing	£270.00
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Reimbursement for bulbs	£7.46 (Vat £1.24)
Bacs	Commercial Services	Grounds Maintenance April – Sept	£2451.94 (Vat £408.66)

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Bacs Mazars External Audit Fee £252 (Vat £42.00)

**Total Paid Out: £5,495.46**

### Paid in:

Advertisement money for newsletter £100.00

**Bank Statement as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - Current Account £47,230.39**

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

All Members present **APPROVED** and **AGREED** the payments.

**Note:** It was noted that the clerk's salary has increased as agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

### **4.2 To Receive:** Landscape Services contract for 2024/25

The contract for the grass cutting for 2024 has been received at an increase of £203.61 per year which is a 7% increase.

All Members present **APPROVED** and **AGREED** the increase.

### **5. Planning:** (Planning Report for discussion circulated to Cllrs. prior to meeting)

#### **PLANNING REPORT December 2023**

#### **Planning Applications:**

**23/01887** - Detached single-storey garage and new boundary wall - **3-5 Tile Kiln Hill – no objections by BPC.**

**23/02220** - Single-storey rear extension following the demolition of existing garage - **34 School Lane – Comments by 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

#### **Decision Notices by CCC:**

**23/01436** | Application for Listed Building Consent for external and internal alterations including insertion of doors, replacement windows from timber to timber, window to door, installation of wood burner and flue with flue cap to chimney, removal of ceiling, rooflights, replacement bay window to ground floor. | **Church Cottage, Tyler Hill Road – GRANTED**

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## **Sheet 2344**

**Note: The broken pavement outside 47 Blean Common has been repaired by KCC.** This occurred as a result of a creation of a new vehicle crossover which has, of yet, not been granted planning permission.

## **6. Reports from County Cllr. and Ward Cllrs:**

### **6.1 Ward Cllr. Jupe reported on:**

- CCC Consultations
- Corporate Plan
- Canterbury Market Consultation
- Traffic regulations
- The working group are still working on the draft budget.

### **6.2 County Cllr. Thomas reported on:**

- KCC Budget - final proposal next week
- Judicial Review - young asylum seekers - KCC had won judgement at the High Court.
- Community Transport Scheme
- Kent Wildlife Trust – maybe an idea for a speaker at the Annual Assembly.

## **7. Reports and Updates:**

### **7.1 Village Hall Report: - Cllr. King**

The craft group has closed after many years due to shortage of members, but there are several new groups, together with a number of private hirers in the New Year.

It was a very successful Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto on December 2nd with £950 raised for the hall.

We need any unwanted books to raise funds for the village museum, so if any Councillors have any which they could bring to the meeting I would very much appreciate it. Thanks.

### **7.2 N.H.W:**

All relevant reports are circulated to Cllrs.

### **7.3 Footpath Report: Cllr. Samuelson and Cllr. Russell.**

The footpaths are not in a bad condition although muddy at this time of year.

### **7.4 Highways Report: Cllr Jeffers.**

It was noted there had been drain cleaning being carried out in the area.

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

Cllr. Akers has had communication with the new contact. It was noted that there had been police presence in the area.

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## Sheet 2345

### 7.6 Clerks Report:

Canterbury City Council has today begun consultation on various proposals, including:

- [General Fund budget consultation 2024/25](#)
- [Housing Revenue Account budget consultation 2024/25](#)
- [Proposed changes to charges and conditions in council car parks](#)
- [Canterbury city market and market trader fees](#)

Each of these proposals is different, so please read the articles thoroughly before giving us your views.

You can respond to all of these consultations by:

- completing each of the **surveys** on CCC website
- [General Fund budget consultation 2024/25](#)
- [Housing Revenue Account budget consultation 2024/25](#)
- [Proposed changes to charges and conditions in council car parks](#)
- [Canterbury city market and market trader fees](#)
- **emailing your comments** to [consultations@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:consultations@canterbury.gov.uk), or
- **writing to Victoria Asimaki, Principal Policy Officer (Engagement), Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW**

### **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024-2034: Consultation information**

KCC, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), has an overview role for local flood, which is flooding that arises from surface runoff, ordinary watercourses, and groundwater. As LLFA, we have a duty to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) that sets out how local flood risks will be managed in the county organisations on. We are proposing that the next strategy will cover a 10-year period with a review after the first 5 years.

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## **Sheet 2346**

The draft Local Strategy builds upon lessons learnt from the previous strategy. Through it, we aim to improve the safety and wellbeing of Kent's residents and the economy of Kent with appropriate flood risk management. We will do this by working with communities and partners, adapting to climate change, and utilising natural processes to provide multiple benefits, where possible.

The draft Local Strategy retains the objectives of the previous strategy, which are 'Understanding flood risk', 'Reduce the risk of flooding', 'Resilient planning', and 'Resilient communities'. The actions proposed to achieve the objectives have been updated.

The draft local strategy was discussed at the Kent Flood Risk and Water Management committee meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the papers and webcast can be seen [here](#).

The consultation on the draft Local Strategy will open on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 and run until the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The consultation can be found at [www.kent.gov.uk/localfloodrisk](http://www.kent.gov.uk/localfloodrisk), where you can let us know your views by completing the online questionnaire.

Please share details of this consultation with any organisations or contacts you feel have an interest in the Local Strategy.

If you have any questions or queries relating to the Local Strategy or the consultation you can email at [flood@kent.gov.uk](mailto:flood@kent.gov.uk).

**Parish Councillor Planning training** by CCC on 16th or 23rd January 2024 – online sessions.

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

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (Annual Assembly) and Annual Parish Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

## **7.7 Newsletter: Cllr. Akers.**

The newsletters have been delivered. Thanks were given to Cllr. Akers for writing and producing the newsletter and the helpers for delivering it.

## **8. Matters raised by the Public:**

It was raised that the only option for payment of garden waste bins is online. Ward Cllr. Jupe will look into it.

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## Sheet 2347

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

**9.1 Play Equipment Annual Inspection** – report has been circulated – nothing of high priority identified in the report. Ken suggests using shingle on the gate entrance where the surface is worn this was thought to be a good idea.

A rubber mat/buffer which is missing on the Air Skier will be ordered from Fresh Air Fitness.

### **9.2 Crab & Winkle/Tyler Hill Road Crossover - HIP meeting with KCC 28.11.23**

Report from the KCC Officer following the online meeting:

*It is reassuring to know that we have signage on all approaches (for both vehicles and cyclists).*

*I will still arrange for some lining to be reinstated at the edge of the carriageway. With the lining completed and the now confirmed signage, I believe there is a suitable amount of warning for both cyclists and drivers.*

A 30mph toolkit will be ordered from KCC which includes posters and bin stickers. It was noted that there are 30mph bin stickers in the office which were purchased by the Parish Council a few years ago and although there are some on bins on the A290 they could do with being distributed again for the recycling bins and to residents who didn't take up the opportunity to have them the last time.

**9.3 Update: Repair of the fort** - Ken is fitting the caps on the posts.

**9.4 Update: Village Sign** – The contractors are liaising to have the job completed soon. Cllr. Hutt has spoken to Daniel Postgate about a Bagpuss plaque but Daniel needs to speak with the Firmin family to confirm if they are in agreement.

**9.5 Update: Basketball Hoop** – on hold.

### **9.6 BPC to take on the cost of the upkeep of the planters at the Memorial Gates and to purchase two new planters (one at each bus stop).**

It had been agreed for the Parish Council to take on the upkeep of the planters at the Memorial gates and they have now been planted up for the winter by Meadow Grange Nurseries. The quote for replacing the planters at the two bus stops and the cost of watering all five planters in the summer had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting for consideration.

Proposed by Cllr. Hutt, Seconded by Cllr. Akers and all Cllrs. present agreed to the proposal for watering and to purchase two square planters.

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## Sheet 2348

### **10. Councillors' Reports:**

**10.1 Cllr. Russell** gave an update on the Plastic Initiative and the companies that KCC send the waste to. SWEEP in Sittingbourne is used a lot.

It is important that residents put the right rubbish in the right bins.

**10.2 Cllr. King** reported the hedge at 9 Vicarage Lane which is overgrowing onto the pavement. The property has been sold. Clerk to report to KCC.

Cllr. King also reported that the Parish Council/BVH waste bin is being used by people to dispose of vapes etc. Clerk to look into whether it can be changed for a lockable bin.

### **11. Any Other Business for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

There being no further business the Chairman wished everyone a good Christmas and Happy New Year and the meeting closed at 8.17pm.

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

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (Annual Assembly) and Annual Parish Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_