

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th December 2024.

Sheet 2413

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

Also present: County Cllr. R. Thomas and four members of the public. Ward Cllr. S. Jupe (at 19.39)

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. M Hayden – previous engagement and Ward Cllr. A. Ricketts – CCC Cabinet meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

No DPI changes or Declaration of Interests were declared.

3. Items to be taken in a private session.

It was agreed that no items to be heard in a private session.

4. To Approve: Minutes of the last Meeting: of 11th November 2024.

The Minutes were **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Samuelson, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Akers and **APPROVED** by all Members present. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5. Finance:

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

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection December	£138.48 (Vat £23.08)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages November	£244.07
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary November	£907.03
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Jeyes Fluid	£24.00 (Vat£4.00)
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Batteries for Christmas Lights	£22.00
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC November	£294.83
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband December	£93.54 (Vat £15.59)
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99
Bacs	BVHMC	Hall Hire December	£24.00
Bacs	Commercial Services	Grounds Maintenance July - Sept	£703.55 (Vat (117.26)

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Sheet 2414

Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Charge	£6.00
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Total Paid Out: £2,469.49

Bank Statement as at 31st October 2024 - Current Account £40,492.80

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

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

Note: Precept request of £25,000 for 2025/2026 has been submitted to CCC.

5.2 To Approve: Landscape Services Agreement 2025/2026

£404.61 increase which is a 13% increase. £500 increase had been allowed in the 2025/2026 budget.

Approved by all Councillors present.

5.3 To Discuss: BPC Donation to Save the Blean Project.

Legal advice had been sought from KALC legal Advisor and the Internal Auditor which had been circulated to Cllrs. for their consideration along with further information from Julia Kirby-Smith. Following further discussion, it was decided to discuss it further in January after the National Planning Framework has been published and studied.

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

Planning Applications:

24/01967 - Single-storey side extension - Holmcrest Farm , Denstroude Lane – No objections from BPC.

24/02024 - Reserved matters application for approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the development of up to 85 residential dwellings (including 30% affordable housing, structural planting and landscaping, informal public open space, surface water attenuation, vehicular access from Blean Common and associated ancillary works pursuant to outline planning permission CA//15/02523/OUT.

Land At Blean Common – Comments by 13th December.

Cllr. Jeffers spoke of the various concerns expressed by the Parish Council and residents and will put together the comments to be submitted to CCC Planning.

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Sheet 2415

Decisions by CCC:

24/01723 – Single-storey side extension - Badgers Farmhouse Badgers Close –GRANTED

Appeals

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

24 School Lane

Retrospective application for single-storey detached agricultural storage.

Awaiting Decision.

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.

Awaiting Decision.

7. Reports from County Cllr. and Ward Cllrs:

7.1 County Cllr. Thomas report:

Cllr. Thomas confirmed the Bus Cap will be £3.00 from next April.

He also spoke of fundamental changes in May 2026 which could affect Parish Councils. Leaders from County Councils as well as those from second-tier authorities, will be invited to be part of a wide-ranging consultation. They will make submissions to the government in January detailing how they see the best way to proceed. The English Devolution White Paper launches on Monday and will outline new structures which could see a new mayor for the county and the abolition of borough and district councils. These could be replaced by a small number of much larger unitary authorities reporting to the mayor.

7.2 Ward Cllr. Jupe report:

Cllr. Jupe had nothing to report.

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Sheet 2416

8. Reports and Updates:

8.1 Village Hall Report: - Cllr. King

The hall continues to be well supported. The main focus at the Christmas Market will be Santa's Grotto, Christmas Lunch and refreshments.

7.2 N.H.W:

All relevant reports are circulated to Cllrs. weekly.

7.3 Footpath Report: Cllr. Samuelson.

Nothing to report.

7.4 Highways Report: Cllr Jeffers.

Nothing to report.

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

Cllr. Akers said there are restrictions which means it is difficult to conduct sessions this time of the year due to weather conditions. He reported that a Police Officer was near the Royal Oak in the week monitoring vehicle speeds.

7.6 Clerks Report.

Recreation Ground & Nature Reserve

Still waiting for the Annual Play inspection – Wicksteeds have been contacted again.

Monthly checks are carried out by Ken on the play equipment and general state of the recreation ground and Nature Reserve which are recorded.

Winding Pond – response from William Leetham:

The information board is still there, but it has been torn out of the ground and requires resiting.

Regarding the seat, there was red tape around it which has gone. The seat is 25 years old and is rotting away and requires replacement. Kent Stourside estimates the cost of a replacement at over £5k and are seeking funding.

BPC could consider a grant to wards the cost of a replacement or else Blean residents?

There was one piece of litter which I took home.

The site is owned by Forestry England and they rarely come to inspect it. Spokes do keep an eye on things when they litter pick.

Kindly contact Jon Shelton regarding the information board and the replacement seat.

Overall, the Winding Pond was reasonably tidy for winter.

Correspondence Circulated:

Kent Wildlife Trust – Parish Council News Dec 2024

Coffee with a cop @Blean village hall. : Wed 22 Jan 10:00

Canterbury Pathways Project

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Sheet 2417

Consultations:

CCC Annual Budget Consultation

As part of our annual budget consultation process, we recently launched several consultations and are inviting you to share your views on key proposals.

These consultations are an important part of ensuring that our decisions reflect the needs and priorities of our community.

We are currently consulting on the following budget proposals:

- [General Fund budget for 2025/26](#)
- [Housing Revenue Account \(HRA\) budget consultation for 2025/26](#)
- [Proposed changes to charges and conditions in council car parks for 2025/26](#)
- [Taxi and private hire licence fees](#)
- [Scrap metal dealer licence fees](#)
- [Street trading licence fees](#)
- [Boat licence fees](#)

The links provided include further details on each of these proposals. For the first three listed, you will also find surveys where you can share your feedback directly.

Given the rising costs we face and the growing demands for council services, the budget proposals for 2025/2026 are being shaped by these significant pressures. Your input will play a crucial role in helping us make informed decisions as we navigate these challenges.

Your feedback is invaluable, and we encourage you to participate in these consultations to ensure your voice is heard.

Consultation is open until 5pm on Monday 6 January 2025, and we look forward to hearing what you think.

If you have any questions or need assistance with any consultations, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at consultation@canterbury.gov.uk.

CCC Canterbury Biodiversity Grants scheme is now live.

You can access information on the scheme and the link for applying, by pasting the following link in your web browser: canterbury.gov.uk/biodiversitygrants

Please note that all applications must be submitted by Monday 9 December 2024.

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Sheet 2418

9. Matters raised by the Public:

No matters raised by the public.

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

10.1 Update: S106 money – Play Equipment maintenance.

The maintenance is to be arranged in the New Year.

10.2 Update: Donation of Bench by a resident for the Nature Reserve (Keirs Meadow)

It was thought wise to wait for better weather next year for this to be completed.

10.3 Donation towards a new seat at The Winding Pond.

Jon Shelton has been contacted.

11. Councillors' Reports:

11.1 Cllr. Samuelson reported that the Blean Pre-school consultation has now closed with no feedback as yet.

11.2 Cllr. Hutt reported that he has set up the .gov.uk website. Emails addresses are to be set up for Councillors.

12. Items to be taken in a private session: As agreed in Agenda Item 3.

To resolve: that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.

No items to be discussed.

13. Any Other Business for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting on 10th February 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.23.

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

Date _____

Signature _____

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



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

10th February, 10th March, 14th April, Annual Parish Council meeting on 12th May, 9th June, 14th July, 8th September, 13th October, 10th November, 8th December.