

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



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

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

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

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. A. Jeffers – on holiday; Cllr. M Hayden – other commitments; County Cllr. R. Thomas - meeting clash and Ward Cllr. A. Ricketts.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Cllr. Samuelson declared he is a Trustee of Blean School PTA.

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 8th July 2024.

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

4. A short talk was given by Amanda Greenaway who is the Ramblers Association Co-Ordinator for Canterbury's Parish Footpath Observers. She explained that one volunteer does a yearly walk of every footpath in the area.

The main thing is for people to keep walking the footpaths and reporting any faults.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way>

If no joy after 3 months complete the following form and do not give up

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a748b04ed915d0e8e39909e/Notice_requesting_a_Local_Highways_Authority_to_secure_the_removal_of_an_obstruction.pdf

The Chairman thanked Amanda for her interesting talk.

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5. Finance:

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

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection August	£111.98 (Vat £18.66)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages July	£198.27
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary July	£854.72
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Ink Carts & Printer paper	£42.51
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC July	£261.41
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband August	£93.54 (Vat £15.59)
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99
DD	ICO	Annual GDPR/Data Protection Fee	£35.00
Bacs	Earth Anchors Ltd	Five benches & Fixing Kits	£2,623.20 (Vat £437.20)

Note: This was paid with CIL money of £2,091.16

Total Paid Out: £4,232.62

Received In:

BVH	Waste Collection May & June	£115.23
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Bank Statement as at 31st July 2024 - Current Account £53,473.20

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

Due to there not being a meeting in August this report was circulated and approved by Cllrs.

September Invoice Payments

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection September	£138.48 (Vat £23.08)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages August	£198.47
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Fluorescent jacket/cutting disc	
	Ballast & Postcrete		£63.95 (Vat £9.33)
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary August	£854.72
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC August	£261.21
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband September	£93.54 (Vat £15.59)
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99
Bacs	BVHMC	Hall Hire 9/9/24	£24.00
Bacs	Meadow Grange	Work carried out on the recreation	
	ground and watering of 5 planters during the summer.		£1,992.00 (Vat £332.00)

Total Paid Out: £3,638.36

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Received In:

BVH Waste Collection July & August

£125.23

Bank Statement as at 31st August 2024 - Current Account £49,213.02

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

Proposed by Cllr. Akers, Seconded by Cllr. Hutt and all Cllrs. present approved the bank payments.

Meadow Grange Nurseries Ltd had submitted a quote for the winter planting of the five planters and associated costs for £470.00 + vat which was approved by all Cllrs. present.

5.2 To Note: A Community Infrastructure Levy Parish Report has been submitted to CCC regarding the spending of the money on new benches.

5.3 To Receive: Completion Notice of AGAR 2023-2024

Published on BPC website and on BPC Noticeboard.

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

To Note: Box 11a left blank – this was regarding Trust Funds which BPC do not have.

To Discuss: Email Management – change to .gov.uk email addresses.

Cllr. Hutt explained that the website domain supplier has to be an accredited supplier which HugoFox will be shortly so that new email addresses and website address can then be set up.

6. Planning: (Planning Report for discussion circulated to Cllrs. prior to meeting)

Planning Applications:

24/01006 - wo-storey side and single-storey side extensions including roof terraces – **56 Honey Hill** – Blean Parish Council has no objections to this application.

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** – Blean Parish Council are happy to support this application and commend the applicant on his management of the area and his plans to return the site to its former use as an orchard.

24/01275 - Two-storey detached dwelling following demolition of existing single-storey detached dwelling - **8 Blean Common** – Blean Parish Council has no objection to this application subject to a request to Canterbury City Council that the Conservation Officer assess the proposals on the adjoining Conservation Area.

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Decisions by CCC:

CA/24/00234 - Variation of condition 21 (Foul Sewerage Disposal) of planning permission CA/15/02523/OUT for the (Outline application for the erection of up to 85 residential dwellings (including up to 30% affordable housing), structural planting and landscaping, informal public open space, surface water attenuation, vehicular access point from Blean Common and associated ancillary works. All matters reserved with the exception of the main site access.); to allow amendments to condition 21 so that an alternative nutrient mitigation strategy can be delivered - **Land At Blean Common Blean CT2 9JJ – GRANTED**

24/00882 - Roof extension together with juliet balcony to existing extension East elevation. - **30 Tile Kiln Hill - REFUSED**

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.

7. Reports from County Cllr. and Ward Cllrs:

7.1 County Cllr. Thomas report: Sent in his absence.

Locally, there's an update on the Chestfield Tunnel on the A299. In short traffic in both directions will be reopened within weeks. Further to that KCC Highways will then install a new and efficient ventilation system during 2025. <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-projects/in-progress-road-projects/a299-thanet-way-chestfield-tunnel>

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Within my portfolio of Environment I have opened two new facilities over the past two months.
Those being:

A new solar farm

<https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/kent-county-council-officially-opens-kings-hill-solar-park>

And a new waste transfer station at Sevenoaks

<https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/kcc-officially-opens-the-new-sevenoaks-waste-transfer-station>

Additionally, the country parks team has secured Green Flag status again this year.

<https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/eight-kent-country-parks-retain-green-flag-award>

7.2 Ward Cllr. Jupe gave her report:

Cllr. Jupe spoke of the proposed solar farm on fields at Britton Court Farm in Tyler Hill. She said it was important to get residents views on this proposal.

8. Reports and Updates:

8.1 Village Hall Report: - Cllr. King

The summer break has seen quite a number of private hirings, particularly during August. Two regular hirers have ceased using the hall, but this has been more than compensated by new hirers. Concerns have been raised concerning the amount of rubbish being placed in and around the refuse bin at the end of the building. Examples of this are packaging still with addressees' names attached. The address labels were removed and returned to the addressees with a note informing them that the bin was solely for the use of hall users and the parish council

8.2 N.H.W:

All relevant reports are circulated to Cllrs. weekly.

8.3 Footpath Report: Cllr. Samuelson.

Nothing to report.

8.4 Highways Report: Cllr Jeffers.

No report.

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

Cllr. Akers reported that he is trying to arrange a session but more volunteers are needed.

8.6 KALC Canterbury Area Meeting Report – Cllr. Russell.

The main topics of this meeting were the cost of courses and the collective approach by parishes on planning issues. The Minutes will be circulated when they are received.

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8.7 Clerks Report:

Recreation Ground & Nature Reserve

The new benches have been positioned, four in the recreation ground and one in the Nature Reserve.

Three new tyres have been put in the tyre climber as the old ones were starting to perish and split.

The new basketball hoop has been put up on the existing pole and Ken is going to paint the pole.

Update - it has now been broken off the backplate and we are waiting to see if it can be mended.

The area underneath the cabin slide has been de-mossed and swept.

All the above work has been carried out by Meadow Grange Nurseries Ltd.

Faults reported to PROW

Amery Court fingerpost broken down – reported Ref: 240817240.

240717052/240782146 – Amery Court - Bridge missing.

Vegetation on Westfield paths need cutting back – Reported.

Written to Dunkirk Parish Council offering support regarding the Winterbourne Planning Application.

Reported overgrown vegetation on pavement on land next to Royal Oak car park.

Reported dying tree in Chestnut Avenue Ref: 825168

BPC have had notification that, due to unforeseen circumstances, our Annual Play equipment

Inspection has been delayed and will be notified in due course when it can be carried out.

Part of the wooden fencing structure in the Recreation Ground entrance has fallen down and Ken will be repairing it next week.

Funding Applications and Surveys

Southeastern Customer and Community Improvement Fund – closing date 31st August.

CCC Consultation and Engagement Strategy.

CCC Parish Capital Grant scheme – September

CCC Final recommendations on the electoral review of Canterbury.

Notification from CCC that their new postal address is 14 Rose Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2UR

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

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

2024: 14th October, 11th November, 9th December.

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

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9. Matters raised by the Public:

A resident asked about the timescale for the Draft Local Plan.

It was stated that the date when the Plan is circulated has been delayed due to the Government's new policies.

The Save the Blean group have had new placards and banners made for distribution in the villages. There is a Save the Blean tour at which Cllr. Samuelson will be attending as a Blean Parish Councillor.

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

10.1 Broken Basketball Bracket and backboard.

This has very kindly been repaired by Paul Clifford for which the Parish Council are very grateful.

10.2 Broken Wooden Railings Entrance to the Recreation Ground.

Ken is repairing it by digging out and concreting the posts. It will also be secured to the wall for extra strength.

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

A discussion was had on the history and background of these. Kent Wildlife Trust have been contacted but say their Area Manager has advised that this appears to be in the RSPB's Blean Woods area. Cllr. Samuelson has offered to contact them.

10.4 Misuse of the VH/BPC bin located by the village hall.

As reported in Cllr. King's village hall report, people who are not residents of Blean have been putting cardboard boxes in the large bin. They have been advised that the bin is for sole use by Blean village hall and the Parish Council who jointly pay for it to be emptied. Notices are going to be put on the bin to that effect and if it still continues a further decision will need to be made. The Parish Council are not in favour of having it removed altogether as it was thought it could encourage fly-tipping in that area.

10.5 Update: Expenditure of s106 money.

£2,355.48 – children's Outdoor Play Area - The matter of a suitable piece of equipment is still being explored.

£745.20 – Semi-natural open space – Hazel is meeting with Peter from Meadow Grange on Monday to discuss the pond project which consists of removing a willow tree from the pond

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and widening the paths around the pond. He will also give a quote for hedge maintenance in the Nature Reserve which is already included in BPC's budget for 2024/2025. We have been advised that we have an additional £102.36 – Parks & Gardens category. The Parish Council thought the suggestion of a new bird bath for the memorial garden to replace the old one is a good idea.

11. Councillors' Reports:

11.1 Cllr. Akers said he is trying to organize a Speedwatch session but more volunteers are needed.

11.2 Cllr. King reported that there is 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. To be reported.

11.3 Cllr. Samuelson asked whether he could spend £50 on paint for repainting the noticeboard at the school. This was agreed by all Cllrs. present.

11.4 Cllr. Hutt reported that he and Cllr. Jeffers had attended a meeting with Rubix Estates regarding Mill Field to hear what they had to say.

11.5 Cllr. Hutt had received a letter regarding the maintenance of the track and car park leading to the Church and asking if the Parish Council would be willing to contribute towards the upkeep. This was discussed and thought that as the track is owned by Eastbridge Hospital it is their responsibility to maintain it and no funding for this has ever been included in the Parish Council's budget.

12. Any Other Business for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting on 14th October 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.38pm.

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

Date _____

Signature _____