

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025.

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

Also present: Ward Cllr. S. Jupe (at 19.47) and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

No changes were declared.

3. To Approve: Minutes of the last Meeting: of 8th September 2025.

The Minutes were **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Mohan; **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 October Invoice Payments (Banking Report circulated to Cllrs. for approval and payments paid between meetings).

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection October	£120.91 (Vat £20.15)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages September	£260.40
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary September	£885.13
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Postage- return of old defib	£7.89
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	HP Ink Cartridge	£36.89
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC September	£354.38
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband October	£108.36 (Vat £18.06)
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99
	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Charge	£6.00
Bacs	Fenland Leisure Products	Steel Basketball Hoop	£206.00 (Vat £34.33)
Bacs	BVHMC	Hall Hire October	£24.00

Total Paid Out: £2,021.95

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Paid in:

BVHMC Waste Collection July & August £100.76

Bank Statement as at 30th September 2025 - Current Account £47,220.81*

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

***Includes remainder of S106 money of £2,350.68 to be spent on play equipment maintenance.**

PROPOSED by Cllr. Jeffers; SECONDED by Cllr. Hayden and all Cllrs. present APPROVED the bank payments.

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

PLANNING REPORT October 2025

Planning Applications:

25/01693 - Single storey rear extension together with roof extension and rooflights, following demolition of existing conservatory – 57 Honey Hill – comments by 17th October

Decisions by CCC:

25/01119 - Single-storey rear extension and front porch extension - 8 Mount Pleasant – GRANTED

25/01275 - Two-storey rear extension, front porch and insertion of side first floor window following demolition of existing rear conservatory - 14 Westfield - GRANTED

Appeals

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

24 School Lane

Retrospective application for single-storey detached agricultural storage.

Awaiting Decision.

5.1 To Discuss: 25/01693 - Single storey rear extension together with roof extension and rooflights, following demolition of existing conservatory - 57 Honey Hill – Comments by 17th October.
There were no objections to this application.

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5.2 Update on Blean Common Development.

Cllr. Jeffers reported that he had sent a letter of complaint to the Ombudsman regarding the lack of response from CCC to his correspondence. He has had no response from CCC for three weeks.

Cllr. Jeffers raised a complaint in February regarding the impact on the trees.

Residents have received a letter from Fernham Homes advising there will be traffic lights on Blean Common from 20th October until 1st November.

Cllr. Jeffers also referred to Condition 25 of Outline Planning Permission – Hours of work which is:

Weekdays: 7.30am to 6pm.

Saturdays: 8am to 1pm.

However, he said the generator starts at 7am both weekdays and Saturdays.

5.3 To Discuss: Comments from BPC to CCC - Withdrawal of C12 in the Draft Local Plan.

It was agreed the deletion of C12 in the Draft Local Plan was a good step in going forward.

CCC are now juggling with housing numbers. BPC will submit a comment.

5.4 To discuss: Chestfield Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan Consultation – 1st September – 14th October. No further response.

6. Reports from Ward Cllrs and County Cllr:

6.1 Cllr. Jupe reported that Ward Cllr. Smith is unwell.

She said that CCC fully support Cllr. Jeffer's complaint regarding the Blean Common development. A tree Officer is dealing with an issue in Chestnut Avenue and she will be attending the next Broad Oak stakeholder meeting.

7. Reports and Updates:

7.1 Village Hall Report: - Cllr. Russell.

There was nothing to report as there had not been a meeting. The AGM is on 28th October.

7.2 N.H.W:

All relevant reports are circulated to Cllrs. weekly. It was noted there are lots of scams circulating.

7.3 Footpath Report: Cllr. Samuelson.

The condition of the footpaths walked is not too bad.

7.4 Highways Report: Cllr Jeffers.

Nothing further to report.

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

Nothing to report.

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7.6 Clerks Report. - October

On Saturday 27th September during the Village Hall coffee morning CCC Sheriff Cllr. Steph Jupe unveiled a new bench in the Memorial Area, paid for by the Parish Council, to recognise the dedication given to the village by Dorothy and Godfrey King.

Recreation Ground

As agreed, Meadow Grange are in the process of carrying out the work on the play equipment i.e. treating all the wooden parts with preservative and painting the pieces of equipment as needed. Also, the basketball hoop and back plate have been replaced by a more robust one and the post painted. They have refreshed the lines of the goal mouth, painted cricket wickets on the kicking wall and put up a new 'no climbing' notice.

Ref: 9.7 at September meeting - I've spoken to Hazel about the pear tree and she thinks it advisable to leave the cutting back of any trees and bushes on that side of the recreation ground until next year and see what Lushhlands suggest when we have the annual tree survey. She's worried about the ivy being cut back on that side which the bees are enjoying.

Nature Reserve

The main area of the nature reserve has been cut and the hay baled and taken away.

BPC was copied into the following reply from the CCC Senior Environment Manager, Transport and Environment Officer to a request from a leader with the Whitstable 2nd Sea Scouts, Cubs section who had applied with a bid for the 2nd round of the Biodiversity scheme 2025 for a tree planting project in Blean village with the group.

'We can't support tree planting at Keir's Meadow due to loss of species-rich neutral grassland and good existing tree cover. I believe the wildflower meadow was created by Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership more than 10 years ago, and that work would be compromised by planting more trees. The City Council's Pollinator Action Plan includes measures to retain and expand existing habitat for this threatened class of invertebrates'.

Crab and Winkle Way

We have had notification from William Leetham that work has taken place on the Crab and Winkle Way at Blean Church to alleviate the flooding. The drainage ditch has been extended with verge lowered. This should stop water collecting on the cycle path.

Sculptural seat at Clowes Woods

Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership are currently putting together a funding bid application so that they can replace the sculptural seat at Clowes Woods and put on some community environmental events around this. BPC will be sending a letter supporting the application.

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Faults Reported:

Dead trees outside shops reported to Landlord 1/8/25 – **response received.**

Surface of the Crab and Winkle Way – Reported to PROW - **Ref 250880766.**

Correspondence Circulated:

KCC Highways and Transportation Parish Seminar 2025:

Draft Canterbury District Local Plan: Focused consultation 2025

KALC Canterbury Area Committee - 30th September 2025 Agenda

South East Water Broad Oak Water Stakeholder Advisory Group - December 11th meeting and September Minutes.

South East Water – **next public meeting date: 15 October 2025**

Venue: The Stage, The Whitstable School, Bellevue Rd, Whitstable, CT5 1PX

Consultations:

Draft Consultation and Engagement Strategy – closes on 3rd October.

Consultation on Draft Tenant Engagement Strategy - closes on 3rd October.

Consultation on Draft Net Zero Action Plan - closes on 3rd October.

Chestfield Regulation 14 Neighbourhood Plan – 1st September – 14th October.

Kent PCC's Summer Newsletter

Annual Policing Survey

Your councils - change is coming and we want your views

Save The Blean - Respond to the Consultation

Design Vision for Canterbury District

8. Matters raised by the Public:

No matters raised.

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

9.1 Update: CCC 2026/2027 Parish Capital Grants. Open from 1/7 to 28/10.

The application form has been completed and submitted for two new replacement seats on The Green. If the bid is successful, the Parish Council will match fund.

9.2 Update: Trees in front of the shops. The Landlord is aware.

9.3 To Discuss: BPC Highway Improvement Plan. In progress.

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9.4 To Discuss: Future of the village handyman role.

Due to Ken being unwell there was a discussion on the future role of handyman if Ken is not able to continue.

Meadow Grange are now taking on the heavier jobs in the recreation ground i.e. maintaining the play equipment etc.

The main handyman jobs now are:

- Emptying the bins in the recreation ground weekly.
- Litter-picking in the recreation ground, Nature Reserve and around the village especially around the shop front area. Looking after the general tidiness of the village.
- Maintaining and looking after the small planters outside the office and by the shops.
- Maintaining the existing old seats in The Green - these are due to be replaced if we are successful in receiving a CCC grant.
- Maintaining the seats on the recreation ground and Nature Reserve – these have now all been replaced with non-maintenance ones.
- Reporting any problems to clerk - streetlights/potholes/vegetation etc - Most residents now report these themselves on the KCC fault-reporting website.
- Visually checking the play equipment monthly.

To consider:

- Do we replace the small planters with recycled plastic ones and get Meadow Grange to plant up and maintain them in addition to the large ones they already do?
- The village to have a volunteer litter-picking scheme? The Scouts and Cubs have recently done this.
- Someone to empty the three teddy bear bins on the recreation ground weekly and do the monthly play equipment checks?

It was unanimously agreed to ask Meadow Grange to take over the role for the time-being including emptying the teddy bear bins weekly, litter-picking the recreation ground, Nature Reserve and around the shops and doing the visual play equipment checks monthly. All subject to quotes.

10. Councillors' Reports:

10.1 Cllr. Mohan reported on the Swing Riots Bicentenary in 2030 which is being looked at by the Canterbury Commemorative Society.

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10.2 Cllr. Jeffers reported that the hatch at the Royal Oak is in a terrible dangerous state. Cllr. Hayden said he will speak to the previous landlord.

11. Any Other Business for discussion at the next meeting on 10th November.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.56.

Dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings in the coming year unless for any reason they have to be changed - 10th November, 8th December.

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

Date _____

Signature _____