

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th September 2026.

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

Also present: Ward Cllr. D. Smith and one member of the public.

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

Apologies: County and Ward Cllr. A. Ricketts – attending another meeting; Ward Cllr. S. Jupe – attending another engagement.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

No Changes or Declarations of Interest.

3.To Approve: Minutes of the last Meeting: of 13th July 2026.

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

4. Finance:

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

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection August	£158.52 (Vat £26.42)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages July	£220.38
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary July	£903.82
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC July	£364.46
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband August	£116.07 (Vat £19.35)
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Email Charges	£20.99
Fee	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Charge	£7.00
Bacs	Earth Anchors Ltd	3 seats and fixing kits	£1809.60 (Vat £301.60)
Bacs	Commercial Services	Grounds Maintenance April/May/June	£1470.53 (Vat £245.09)

Total Paid Out: £5,083.36

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Received in:

BVHMC – Waste Collection May & June	£118.99
CCC – Concurrent Funding Function 2026/2027	£5,844.00

Bank Statement as at 31st July 2026 - Current Account £70,889.90*

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

***Includes the remainder of S106 money from previous years of £351.16 to be spent on play equipment maintenance.**

£24,273.51 Community Infrastructure Levy money from 2025/2026.

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

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection September	£128.26 (Vat £21.38)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages August	£220.38
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary August	£903.82
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC August	£364.46
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband September	£116.07 (Vat £19.35)
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Email Charges	£20.99
Fee	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Charge	£7.00
Bacs	Cutters Garden Services	Cutting of Hedge & Footpaths	£625.00
Bacs	BVHMC	Hall Hire September	£24.00
DD	ICO	Data Protection Annual Renewal	£47.00
Bacs	Goodfellers Tree Surgeons	Cutting back of cherry tree	£120.00 (Vat £20.00)
Bacs	Kompan	Bridge for cradle seat swing	£158.40 (Vat £26.40)

Total Paid Out: £2,747.37

Bank Statement as at 31st August 2026 - Current Account £71,648.40*

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

***Includes the remainder of S106 money from previous years of £351.16 to be spent on play equipment maintenance.**

£24,273.51 Community Infrastructure Levy money from 2025/2026.

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

4.2 To Discuss: Save the Blean - Barrister's Fees - Reg 19 - Local Plan.

A discussion was had on the amount needed to cover the barrister's fees which Cllr. Mohan said still stands at £24,000. The next meeting of STB is in two weeks' time. It was thought that a meeting of the three parishes, Blean, Hackington and Harbledown and Rough Common, would be a good idea.

5. PLANNING REPORT August/September 2026

Planning Applications:

26/01279 - Change of use of existing detached garage to annexe together with single storey rear extension following demolition of existing single-storey rear extension - 1 Honey Hill.

Blean Parish Council has no objection to this application subject to a condition that the proposed annexe shall not be occupied at any time other than for purposes ancillary to the residential use of 1 Honey Hill.

Decisions by CCC:

26/00952 - T.P.O no 8/1990, Goat Willow, fell to ground level - **Southern Gas Networks, Honey Hill GRANTED.**

Appeals

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

24 School Lane

Retrospective application for single-storey detached agricultural storage.

Appeal DISMISSED.

Appeal Reference: APP/J2210/X/26/3378139

Application for lawful development certificate for existing use of agricultural land as residential garden - Lyndale, 24 School Lane, Blean, Kent, CT2 9JA

Decision 20th January 2026 – WAS NOT LAWFUL.

Appeal Start 30th March 2026

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5.1 Update: 25/02369 – 140 Blean Common – application for car wash – still awaiting decision.

5.2 Update: Blean Common Development – buildings going up quickly.

5.3 Update: Nomination of The Royal Oak as an Asset of Community Value.

The eight week window for the decision finishes on 15th September. Cllr. Mohan will chase it up after then.

6. Reports from Ward Cllrs:

6.1 Ward Cllr. Smith spoke of the planning changes.

6.2 Ward Cllr. Ricketts sent a report in his absence: attached to these minutes.

7. Reports and Updates: Reports circulated to Cllrs prior to meeting)

7.1 Village Hall Report: - Cllr. Russell:

Cllr. Russell reported that the Gardeners Group are 100 years old next year. July has been very busy with bookings, August was quiet but September and October are busy.

7.2 N.H.W:

All relevant reports are circulated to Cllrs. weekly.

7.3 Footpath Report: Cllr. Samuelson.

The footpaths are all good.

7.4 Highways Report: Cllr Jeffers.

Cllr. Jeffers mentioned the track in Monkey Court that has been damaged by tankers going to the reservoir. There has been further correspondence on 8th Sept. from RSPB to SE Water asking for an update.

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

Cllr. Mohan said he has logged in again.

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7.6 Clerks Report.

August/September Report

Recreation Ground

The two new seats have been installed on The Green to replace the old ones and the replacement seat between the Hazel trees on the recreation ground is now in place. The original inscription to Cllr. Hazel McCabe, which was on the old seat has been inscribed on the new one.

The replacement part for the cradle swing has been fitted and a date for the contractors to repair the safety surface under the swings is 2nd October.

Part of the tree work as identified in the tree survey has been completed i.e. the cutting of the cherry tree on The Green. The trimming of the conifers bordering the recreation ground will be done in October when the nesting season is over. The large bush on The Green has also been cut back.

Peter from Meadow Grange has looked at the concrete path bordering The Green that has risen due to tree roots and thinks the cheaper option would be to lay cold tarmac on the part that has risen to create a small ramp incline to avoid the trip hazard. The other option is to mix some concrete and to create a ramp which would be a fix to stop trip hazards temporarily. I have asked for quotes for both options.

I have also asked them for a quote to clear out the ditch that borders the recreation ground.

Faults Reported:

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

28/10/25 CB18 – Overgrown vegetation and blocked drainage - **Ref: 251014820– Awaiting Allocation.**

3/9/25 CB14 – Fallen Tree – **Ref: 251227405– In progress.**

22/4/26 CB7 – Ruts in pathway **Ref: 260419264– Awaiting Allocation.** This issue with ruts in the pathway at Monkey Court has also been raised with Southeast Water and the RSPB Reserve Manager – further correspondence on 8th Sept. from RSPB to SE Water asking for an update.

Correspondence Circulated:

Broad Oak Water Stakeholder Advisory Group - 13 July 2026 - Slides and notes.

Broad Oak Water: Stakeholder Advisory Group - We're holding our next Broad Oak Water Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting on Wednesday 23 September 2026 at Broad Oak Village Hall
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from 2pm-4pm. An agenda will be circulated closer to the date.

Parish Forum – LGR – slides circulated from meeting on 20th July.

UK Housing & Planning | CPD Event - Can Britain Really Deliver 1.5 Million Homes?

KALC News August

Stour Valley Riverfest - Riverfest is a community run festival from 20-27th September, celebrating the River Stour, its wildlife, habitats, landscape and heritage. Events are free and for all ages.

KALC Canterbury Area Committee meeting will be held on **Friday 11th September 2026 at 6pm** in Chartham Village Hall.

The Clerk - New planning rules & preparing for severe weather resources.

CCC - CGR Update/Invite and Parish Elections Letter.

Invitation - Canterbury Housing Advice Centre – 7th October 3.30pm – 5.00pm.

KALC NEWS - SEPTEMBER

CCC - Community Governance Review Stage 2 recommendations – General Purposes Committee meeting - 16th September.

KALC - Free Parish Online Wellbeing Sessions for Clerks and Councillors

Broad Oak Water: Stakeholder Advisory Group #7 - Broad Oak Village Hall from 2pm-4pm – 21st October.

CCC - Parish Capital Funding for 2027/28

Consultations:

Have your say on Homelessness & Rough Sleeping - The consultation will close at **9:00am on Wednesday 2 September.**

Canterbury City PSPO Consultation - The consultation is open until 9am on **11 September.**

CCC - Preventing Wildfires in the District - The consultation is open until 9am on **11 September.**

8. Matters raised by the Public:

No matters were raised.

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

9.1 Update: BPC Highway Improvement Plan – In progress.

9.2 Update: Replacement of the wooden seat on the recreation ground – Completed.

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9.3 Update: LGR and CGR – CCC General Purposes Committee meeting on 16th Sept.

9.4 Update: Martyn's Law – Cllr. Samuelson said that he will have additional training at Blean school so will report back.

9.5 To Discuss: recruiting new Parish Councillors – it was suggested that a poster should be made and published within local groups, Blean School newsletter, the village shop, Church and village noticeboards, BPC website and Blean Residents Facebook page.

9.6 To Discuss: Clearance of ditch bordering the recreation ground – A quote has been received from Meadow Grange for £1,200. It was thought it would be best to leave the work until next year to allow for it to be included in next year's budget.

10. Councillors' Reports.

10.1 Cllr. Mohan spoke of the excellent recent walk organised for Save the Blean by John Moss. He also reminded Cllrs. of the talk in Tyler Hill Memorial Hall to be given by Ward Cllr. Ricketts on 21st September.

10.2 Cllr. Jeffers mentioned the 'Dog Poo' signs for the Nature Reserve and the recreation ground that have still not been received from CCC. **Action:** Ask Ward Cllr. Jupe to chase.

10.3 Cllr. Hutt referred to the matter of a grant to Blean Pre-school to which Cllr. Samuelsson declared an interest. It was noted that there were three pre-schools in the immediate area. There were more questions to be asked, such as how many children attend and how many staff are employed. More information is required before a decision can be reached. Cllr. Hutt said that there is now a defibrillator on the Woodlands Estate. He also drew attention to the forthcoming road closure on Pean Hill due to a water leak.

The National Joint Council has agreed a 3.3% increase in local-government pay rates and allowances for 2026/27, effective from 1 April 2026. Councils employing staff on the relevant NJC or model-contract terms should update payroll and calculate any back pay due. This was **APPROVED** by Cllrs.

11. Any Other Business for discussion at the Parish Council meeting on 12th October.

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There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.38.

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

12th October, 9th November and 14th December.

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

Date _____

Signature _____