

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th October 2023.

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

Also present: Cllr. A. Ricketts; Ward Cllr. D. Smith; Ward Cllr. S. Jupe; County Cllr. R. Thomas and two members of the public including Ken Waddington, the village handyman.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. M. Akers – Work Commitments.

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 11th September 2023.

Proposed by Cllr. Samuelson, Seconded by Cllr. Jeffers.

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 October	£130.80 (Vat £21.80)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages September	£180.77
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary September	£809.26
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC September	£218.45
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband October	£81.13 (Vat £13.52)
Bacs	BVHMC	Hall Hire October	£24.00
Bacs	Earth Anchors Ltd	Picnic Table & Bolt Down Kit	£808.80 (Vat £134.80)
Bacs	Kompan Ltd	Replacement Swing Bracket	£108.87 (Vat £18.14)

Total Paid Out: £2,362.08

Paid in:

BVHMC – Waste Collection July & August & Grass Cutting £119.34

Bank Statement as at 30th September 2023 - Current Account £50,701.90

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

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

4.2 To Accept: External Auditor's Report – Conclusion of Audit 2022 – 2023

The report states that Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return are in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to the External Auditors attention. The report had been circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting.

To accept the report - Proposed by Cllr. Jeffers, Seconded by Cllr. Samuelson and agreed by all Cllrs. present.

The report and Conclusion of Audit are published on the Parish Council website and noticeboard.

4.3 To note: Community Infrastructure Levy

Blean Parish Council have been notified that there is Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money of £2,091.16 from the following developments;

- * CA/21/02703 16 Chapel Lane
- * CA/22/01011 Brook Farm, Denstroude Lane, Denstroude

BPC will receive CIL funding in this financial year 2023/2024 and will be required to produce and publish a report on CIL receipts and spend by 31st December following that financial year (December 2024).

So that it goes out to public consultation it was suggested that it should be included in the forthcoming newsletter and discussed at the Annual Assembly in April 2024.

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

PLANNING REPORT October 2023

Planning Applications:

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 – Blean Parish Council has no objections to this application.**

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Decision Notices by CCC:

23/01317 - TPO No 26 1990, To Coppice area of woodland approx. 2 acres but retaining all single stem trees – **117 Blean Common – GRANTED**

23/01088 - Retrospective application for single-storey detached storage building - **Lyndale 24 School Lane – REFUSED**

23/01354 - Two-storey side and rear extension, porch to front elevation, single-storey detached garage together with replacement boundary fence following demolition of single-storey side extension – **2 Honey Hill – GRANTED** The amount of extra demolition compared to the submitted application was commented on.

23/01231 - Detached two-storey dwelling - **51 Whitstable Road – REFUSED**

23/00848 - Two-storey side extension to existing outbuilding GRANTED including 3 dormer windows to front elevation together with single-storey detached outbuilding – **The Willows, Pean Hill – GRANTED**

Note: The broken pavement outside 47 Blean Common has been reported to CCC Planning and KCC. The damage has occurred as a result of the creation of a new vehicle crossover which has, of yet, not been granted planning permission although the work has been done. Unfortunately, the damaged pavement caused a gentleman to tumble out of his electric wheelchair. County Cllr. Thomas asked for the details of the damaged pavement to be sent to him so that he can escalate it to KCC.

6. Reports from County Cllr. and Ward Cllrs:

6.1 County Cllr. Thomas reported on:

- Change of Members roles
- New climate member
- Kent and Medway Bus Fund who will provide small loans – KMBF.co.uk
- Low finances of KCC

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Cllr. Thomas also spoke of two new special needs schools which are potentially to be built by 2026 in Swanley and Whitstable as 228 children are attending schools outside of the area.

6.2 Ward Cllr. Ricketts reported on:

The Local Plan Working Group which is still meeting every week to discuss the Draft Local Plan which, hopefully, will be out for consultation in the next few months.

The local listing of buildings.

6.3 Ward Cllr. Smith reported on:

The City Council is preparing the budget for next year.

PSPO consultation is still open.

7. Reports and Updates:

7.1 Village Hall Report: - Cllr. King

Bookings are increasing again, including a group which is teaching children with behaviour problems which impacts upon their education. It is booked for a year, so is a very good hiring. The car park posts will be installed shortly.

A very successful coffee morning and lunches on Saturday 30th raised a sum of money which will be shared with the local League of Friends of Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

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 some are overgrown. Cllr. Ricketts has cut the nettles down on the footpath by the school.

7.4 Highways Report: Cllr Jeffers.

Cllr. Jeffers said that he had reported potholes by the Royal Oak on the KCC website three months ago but there has been no action. Cllr Thomas asked for the reference number to be sent to him and he will look into it.

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

One of the SW volunteers reported that there were no speeding vehicles at the last session that had been carried out. It was noted there has been more of a Police presence since the Speedwatch has been in action.

7.6 Clerks Report:

The part for the baby swing has been delivered and Ken has fitted it.

Cllr. Hutt and the clerk attended the Parish Charter/Parish Engagement meeting online – notes and slides from the meeting have been circulated to Cllrs.

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Issues on PROW Reported:

CB7 hedge and overgrown vegetation reported to KCC PROW as needing cutting.

CB27 – Inspected and work scheduled.

CB16 – reported and waiting allocation to officer.

CB24 - reported and waiting allocation to officer.

Wicksteed Annual Play Inspection booked – ETA 14th November unless the inspector is in the area earlier.

Polling district review

Further to the recent parish briefing, CCC are contacting us to let us know that the review of the arrangements for polling districts and places in the Canterbury area.

CCC are required to carry out a full review of all polling districts and polling places for parliamentary constituencies every five years. The next full review period runs from 1 October 2023 and must be completed by 31 January 2025.

Given the uncertainty about when the general election will be, and other scheduled workload in 2024, we are starting the review now with a condensed timetable. There will be a further review to reflect new ward arrangements following the outcome of the Local Government Boundary review.

CCC are currently seeking feedback on [current arrangements](#) until 23 October.

Proposals for future arrangements will be published on 30 October when a further period of consultation will start. You can view more information about the review on our website

<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations/review-of-polling-districts-and-places/>

Local Government Boundary Review

Further to the update given about the Local Government Boundary Review, please see information about the next stage of the review and how you can have your say

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/canterbury>

The Local Government Boundary Commission will be hosting a briefing on this and further details will be sent in due course.

Wilder Blean, We need your help, please.

Kent Wildlife Trust and Wildwood Trust introduced bison to see whether they can help improve the sustainable management of our woodlands, starting at The Blean.

We would love to hear your views about the project, Please help us by completing a short anonymous survey. Thank you!

The link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wblean>

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

KALC Chairmanship Conference 17th October.

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

13th November, 11th December, 12th February 2024, 11th March 2024, 8th April 2024 and Annual Parish Council meeting on 13th May 2024.

7.7 Newsletter: Cllr. Akers.

The draft newsletter has been circulated to Cllrs. for their comments. This was discussed and any comments are to be sent to Cllr. Akers.

8. Matters raised by the Public:

8.1 The handyman raised the matter of the heaviness of the new picnic table and how we need to organize how it is going to be moved to its position in the recreation ground.

8.2 A resident reported that the streetlight in School Lane opposite Chestnut Avenue is not working. Clerk to report on KCC website.

8.3 The resident also reported that visibility is limited when turning into Bourne Lodge Close from School Lane due to three vans being parked in Bourne Lodge Close. It was noted that if the parking continues an application for double yellow lines can be applied for in the Annual Parking Review.

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

9.1 Crab & Winkle/Tyler Hill Road Crossover.

Waiting for HIP update online meeting with Annaliese Mortlock from KCC.

9.2 Update: Repair of the fort.

The supplier has been contacted and has said there is nothing to worry about regarding the splits in the posts, this is known as checking or shaking, is purely cosmetic and will open and close as the timber breathes.

The post tops are to be filled with wood glue and caps purchased and fitted.

9.3 Update: Village Sign – Waiting for the sign to be put back up in position.

9.4 Update: Purchase of Basketball Hoop – has been ordered. It was noted that the branches on the overhanging tree will need to be cut back before it can be put up on the post.

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9.5 Update: Purchase of new Picnic Table – it was delivered last Friday. It is being stored in the office until a way can be found to get it over to its position on the recreation ground as it is very heavy. Ken to take apart the old wooden picnic table.

10. Councillors' Reports:

10.1 Cllr. King mentioned the wooden cottage in Chapel Lane that is totally overgrown. It was noted that planning permission had been granted for side extensions some time ago, which was granted, but nothing has happened.

10.2 Cllr. Jeffers is interested in attending the Planning training being organized by CCC in January and urged other Cllrs. to attend as it will be very useful.

11. Any Other Business for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting on 13th November.

The budget for 2024/2025 to be prepared for discussion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.33pm.

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

Date _____

Signature _____