

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th July 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: County and Ward Cllr. A. Ricketts; Ward Cllr. S. Jupe and one member of the public.

1. Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence.

Apologies: None.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To Note: Resignation of Cllr. Matthew Hayden – the official notice of the vacancy had been posted on the BPC website and noticeboards for the required length of time but as there have been no applications to CCC the post can be co-opted. There are now four vacancies on the Parish Council.

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

Cllr. Jeffers declared an interest in Agenda Item 10.5 as the supplier is known to him.

4.To Approve: Minutes of the last Meeting: of 8th June 2026.

The Minutes were **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Jeffers, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mohan 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 July	£141.64 (Vat £23.61)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages June	£220.18
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary June	£903.82
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC June	£364.66
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband July	£116.07 (Vat £19.35)
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Email Charges	£20.99
	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Service Charge	£7.00
Bacs	BVHMC	Hall Hire July	£24.00
Bacs	Lushland Ltd	Annual Tree Survey	£550.00

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Bacs Guardian Security Replacement Fire Extinguisher £231.60 (Vat £38.60)

Total Paid Out: £2,591.95

Received in:

BVHMC – Waste Collection March/April	£117.91
CCC – Capital Grant for two new seats on The Green	£535.00
(Match funded by BPC)	

Bank Statement as at 30th June 2026 - Current Account £73,379.74

Includes:

£24,273.51 Community Infrastructure Levy money from 2025/2026 and £351.16 from previous years.

CCC Capital Grant - £535.00 funding for two replacement seats on The Green.

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

To Note: The agreement for Concurrent Funding for 2026/2027 from CCC has been signed by the Chair & Clerk and relevant documents submitted to CCC.

Following the recent fire inspection a new fire extinguisher (see finance report) had to be purchased for the office as one of them was close to expiry date.

5.2 Discuss Future membership of KALC.

It was thought that the yearly payment is quite considerable for the level of service received. However, on reflection it was thought it will be more important to have membership with the unitary issues coming up in the future. It was agreed to discuss it again next year before the next payment is due.

6. PLANNING REPORT

26/00952 - T.P.O no 8/1990, Goat Willow, fell to ground level - Southern Gas Networks, Honey Hill – Blean Parish Council have no objection to this application.

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Decisions by CCC: None.

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

6.1 Update: 25/02369 – 140 Blean Common – application for car wash. The decision has not yet been published online.

6.2 Update: Blean Common Development. – No update.

6.3 Update: Save the Blean.

Cllr. Mohan reported that STB are still waiting for an estimate from the barristers. A complaint has been submitted regarding the loan acquired by UKC which had not followed due process.

It was noted that Greenwich University will be taking over on 1st August 2026.

It was also noted that Kent College have sold their farm.

7. Reports from Ward Cllrs:

7.1 County and Ward Cllr. Ricketts:

CCC

Cllr. Ricketts reported that the new planning regulations prevent Ward Cllrs. from 'Calling in' applications. Under nine homes will have no 'call in' and over nine homes the Head of Planning and the Chair will determine whether an application should be called in. More than 150 houses must be referred to the Secretary of State.

There will be two full Council meetings before October.

Local Government Review – the results will be published on Wednesday.

Community Governance Review process has had lots of feeds received in.

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KCC

Due to current operational pressures, KCC have taken the difficult decision to pause all Parish meetings for a period of approximately 12 weeks. Therefore, Cllr. Ricketts will move all Highway Improvement Plans onto his H.I.P.

7.2 Ward Cllr. Jupe:

Cllr. Jupe mentioned the bins outside the shops which are constantly full and overflowing, she advised residents to report any full bins on CCC website and she has had a word with CCC to see if the bins can be emptied more frequently.

She reported that Cllrs. delivered water to vulnerable residents in view of further water outages.

There had been some confusion as to where local water stations were.

She also mentioned the Broad Oak Reservoir meetings.

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

8.1 Village Hall Report: - Cllr. Russell:

Cllr. Russell reported that bookings continue to be ok with discussions at the VH meetings as to whether hirers cancelling bookings should have to pay.

The padlocks on the four lockable posts in the car park have been looked at due to them being rusty.

The village hall is looking at advertising on Google.

8.2 N.H.W:

All relevant reports are circulated to Cllrs. weekly.

8.3 Footpath Report: Cllr. Samuelson.

The footpaths are not overgrown but are very dry.

8.4 Highways Report: Cllr Jeffers.

The matter of speeding is still a concern.

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

It is ongoing to get the sessions up and running again. Volunteers are needed.

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8.6 Clerks Report. July Report

Recreation Ground

The annual Tree survey has been carried out by Lushlands Ltd on 10th June on the recreation ground, Nature Reserve and The Green– awaiting the report for discussion.

Three new seats have been ordered from Earth Anchors as BPC have now received the Capital funding from CCC for the two on The Green (to be match-funded by BPC), the other one is to replace the wooden one on the recreation ground in memory of former Cllr.Hazel McCabe. They are to be delivered to Meadow Grange for them to install.

I've also walked around the recreation ground with Peter from Meadow Grange to discuss the jobs that need doing as identified in the annual play equipment inspection report. The wooden fort by the mound is quite rickety so we might have to think about replacing it at some point and he's going to take down the 3 tyres as the wooden structure is rotten.

He's going to pressure wash all the equipment to give them a new lease of life and carry out the minor repairs.

The metal bar on the front of one of the baby swings has come off so I will see if I can order just the part from Kompan who supplied the swings, if not, it might need a complete new swing.

He is also going to replace the rosemary bush and small planter in the memorial area which has died and clear out the drain which runs across from the Hall to the Memorial Area.

Faults Reported:

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

CB18 – Overgrown vegetation and blocked drainage - Ref: 251014820 – Awaiting Allocation.

CB14 – Fallen Tree – Ref: 251227405 – Awaiting Allocation.

CB7 – Ruts in pathway Ref: 260419264 – Awaiting Allocation. This issue with Monkey Court has also been raised with South East Water and the RSPB Reserve Manager.

Correspondence Circulated:

NALC - Chief executive's bulletin -11 June 2026

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Kent Highways - New Canterbury Contact.

KALC Bulletin Week Ended 19 June.

Protecting the Countryside: The First Century of CPRE.

Rural Affordable Housing Seminar – online - 7th July 11am-12.30pm.

Behind the reservoir: Broad Oak Water newsletter.

KCC Road Safety and Active Travel Newsletter.

KALC NEWS - JULY 2026

KALC Canterbury Area Committee - Call for Volunteer for Bus Focus Group.

Home Office Martyn's Law Webinar - between 14:30 and 15:30 on 20 July 2026 via Teams to provide more information on the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, commonly known as Martyn's Law.

NALC Chief executive's bulletin - 9 July 2026

CCC Parish Council Briefing - Planning Enforcement – CCC have arranged to hold a briefing for Parish Councils on Planning Enforcement in the Canterbury district. The briefing will be online from **5.30pm - 7pm on Monday 12th October 2026**

Consultations:

In Connections GBR update, Modelling World and CoE Capability Survey

CCC - Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2030. Read the draft [Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy](#) and share your views by [completing our survey](#) by **9am on Wednesday 2 September 2026**.

CCC draft Tenancy Strategy 2026 and draft Tenancy Policy – closes on **9am on Monday 7 September 2026**.

Canterbury City PSPO Consultation - The consultation is open until **9am on 11 September 2026**.

Public engagement event

CCC have organised a public engagement event to support this consultation, on Thursday 9 July, between 5:30pm and 7pm, at The Beaney, 18 High St, Canterbury, CT1 2RA. **No booking required.**

9. Matters raised by the Public:

No matters were raised.

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

10.1 Update: BPC Highway Improvement Plan.

Deferred to September meeting.

10.2 To Discuss: Community Assets.

A discussion was had on BPC taking over the ownership of the two bus shelters in the village but after deliberation it was decided this would not be a wise move.

10.3 Update: Replacement of the wooden seat on the recreation ground.

This has been ordered from Earth Anchors Ltd.

10.4 Update: Community Governance Review (CGR) Change of Parish Boundaries/Merging and Grouping of Parish Councils.

The response from BPC has been submitted which included a wish to extend the boundary of Blean to the A299 subject to consultation with the residents.

10.5 To Discuss: Lushlands Annual Tree Survey.

The recent survey resulted in only 2 items being identified as needing work:

Recreation Ground

H1 Leyland Cypress (*Cupressus × leylandii*) 3 1 EM F Regularly clipped single lined hedge along old ditch line. Maintain at current dimensions by annual trimming (preferably outside bird nesting season). Work priority - Low.

The Green

T1 Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) 5 4 Mat G Multi forked at 1m. Broad crown. Large protruding surface roots in surrounding grass. Low branches over path. No visible defects noted. Crown lift over path to give a height Clearance of 2.5m by removing sub branches where possible rather than whole limbs. Work Priority – Medium.

It was agreed to ask Goodfellers Tree Surgeons to carry out the work.

11. Councillors' Reports.

11.1 Cllr. Mohan spoke of the excellent recent walk organised for Save the Blean by John Moss.

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Save The Blean are delighted that John Moss, one of the Blean Church churchwardens has agreed to lead us around Blean's medieval church, the famous salt road of the Crab and Winkle and the ancient Blean landscape. A walk of between 1 and 2 miles, with pauses to talk about its history and how it shaped the Blean and the wider Canterbury area.

Cllr. Mohan also reported that the application for Community Asset Value has been submitted.

11.2 Cllr. Jeffers asked for an item for the September meeting agenda to include ideas for recruitment of new Parish Councillors.

11.3 Cllr. Samuelson referred to the policy of Martyns Law which is an act regarding protection against terrorism amongst large groups of people. A draft policy will be investigated.

11.4 Cllr. Hutt drew attention to an online auction of Peter Firmin's artifacts on 31st July and 1st August.

12. Any Other Business for discussion at the Parish Council meeting on 14th September.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.42.

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

14th September, 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 _____