

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th March 2023

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

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

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. A. Jeffers – on holiday; Ward Cllr. A. Ricketts – clash of meetings; County Cllr. R. Thomas – clash of meetings.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed the sadness and huge loss felt by the Parish Council and residents of Blean due to the death of Barbara Flack.

The Chairman asked the Council for approval to change the order of the agenda to allow Ward Cllr. Dan Smith to give his report before leaving to attend another meeting.
All Agreed.

Ward Cllr Dan Smith gave his report on:

- Planning Application: 21/01291 – Brook Farm, Denstroude Lane.
The application was brought to the CCC Planning Committee for determination at the request of Ward Councillor Ricketts on the grounds of the loss of agricultural land, impacts on the environment and highways.
BPC had objected to this application as had many residents but it was Granted by CCC Planning Committee.
- CCC is appointing a Tree Officer which was thought to be a good move as having a dedicated person to report tree issues to must be a positive one.
- Sad news regarding Barbara Flack's death – she gave her time to support everyone.
- Plastic-free Initiative was given official status two weeks ago. Needs more awareness.

After giving his report Cllr. Smith left the meeting at 7.35pm.

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

No changes were reported with Cllr. King declaring an interest in any matters relating to the village hall.

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3. To Approve: Minutes of the last Meeting: of 13th February 2023.

Proposed Cllr. Samuelson, Seconded by Cllr. Akers and AGREED by all Members present.

These being approved the Minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Finance:

4.1: (Banking Report circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting.)

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection March	£93.02 (Vat £15.50)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages February	£164.63
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary February	£824.26
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Disposable gloves for handyman	£19.98 (Vat £3.33)
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC February	£199.65
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband March	£70.92 (Vat £11.82)
Bacs	Imperative Training Ltd	Defibrillator Battery & Pads	£266.40 (Vat £44.40)
Bacs	Meadow Grange	Potting Compost for planters	£44.92 (Vat £7.50)
Bacs	Blean Village Hall	Hall Hire 13/3/23	£24.00

Total Paid Out: £1,707.78

Received in:

BVHMC – 50% Waste Collection Jan & Feb £87.21

Bank Statement as at 28th February 2023 - Current Account £32,357.15

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

All Members present APPROVED and AGREED the payments.

4.2 To Discuss: Tree Survey quote. This had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting.

All Members present AGREED to go ahead with the Tree Survey from Lushlands Ltd.

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

Planning Applications:

23/00168 - Dormer to front elevation - 16 Trueman Close – Blean Parish Council has no objection to this application.

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23/00390 - Single-storey rear extension, porch to front, together with dormers to both sides - **105 Blean Common – Comments by 7th April.**

Decision Notices by CCC: None

Gladmans Blean Common Inquiry

The inquiry has taken place and we now await for the decision from the Planning Inspector.

6. Reports from County Cllr. and Ward Cllrs:

6.1 In his absence County Cllr. R. Thomas had sent the following report:



Councillor
Robert Thomas

March 2023

robert.thomas@kent.gov.uk 07740347419

NEWS

- 1. Councillor Barbara Flack**, ward councillor for Blean, passes away
<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/news/council-announces-sad-death-of-cllr-barbara-anne-flack/>
- 2. Highways Improvement Plan** Short Focused Inquiry recommendations passed to Cabinet Member for Highways and Kent Highways for a response [Agenda for Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 23rd February, 2023, 10.00 am \(kent.gov.uk\)](#) (item A5)
- 3. CCC will be looking to enforce against those who leave their engines running while dropping children off at school**
<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/news/leaving-your-engine-running-could-lead-to-20-fine/>
- 4. King's Coronation Street Party fee waived**

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<https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/kent-county-council-waives-fees-for-coronation-street-parties>

Council Tax has been set for April 2023-March 2024

Parish	Number of Band D equivalent	Tax Base 2023/24	Tax Base 2022/23 properties
Blean	663.29	648.69	643.71
Chartham	1,676.20	1,639.32	1,630.66
Chestfield	1,593.37	1,558.32	1,560.37
Hackington	249.51	244.02	245.34
Harbledown	909.66	889.65	896.98
Lower Hardres	284.50	278.24	281.09
Petham	325.67	318.50	321.32
Upper Hardres	201.64	197.20	184.61
Waltham	220.02	215.18	213.08
<i>Total Band D Equivalents CCC</i>	<i>53,874.45</i>	<i>52,372.76</i>	<i>51,259.80</i>

BAND D:

Canterbury City Council element of council tax £232.92

Kent County Council £1,534.23 (including Adult Social Care Precept)

CONSULTATIONS

1. **Electric Vehicle and Infrastructure Survey**
<https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/consultations/electric-vehicle-and-infrastructure-survey/>
2. **Kent Community Services consultation**
<https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/have-your-say-and-help-us-to-frame-kents-future>
3. **Home to School Transport** <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/school-transport-policy?next=/admin/sites/editors/home-page/live-preview>
4. **20 speed limit in Tankerton** <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/tankerton-road-whitstable-in-canterbury-amendment-20-speed-limit-order>

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KENT POLICE UPDATES - link for the past month's crime statistics in each village as well as contact details for your neighbourhood team.

<u>Blean</u>	<u>Chartham, Chartham Hatch, Lower Hardres, Petham, Upper Hardres & Waltham</u>
<u>Chestfield</u>	<u>Harbledown</u>
<u>Hackington</u>	<u>Rough Common</u>



APPLY	<u>Adoption and Fostering</u>
	<u>Assisted Bin Collection</u>
	<u>Births, death, marriages, ceremonies</u>
	<u>Business Support</u>
	<u>Bus and Travel Passes</u>
	<u>Community grants and funding</u>
	<u>Disabled Parking Blue Badge</u>
	<u>Film in Kent</u>
	<u>Free School Meals</u>
	<u>Garden Waste Collection</u>
	<u>Highways Permit – close a road, tourist signs, skip on highway, dropped kerb</u>
	<u>Kent Adult Education classes</u>
	<u>Library Services</u> – books, magazines, newspapers, archives, iPads and more
<u>https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/jobs</u>	
REPORT	<u>Bus Feedback</u>
	<u>Environmental issues</u> – bins, litter, dog fouling
	<u>Flytipping</u>
	<u>Illegal Parking</u>
	<u>Kent Highways – potholes, drainage, pavements, streetlighting etc</u>
	<u>Missed Bins</u>
	<u>Noise, Smoke or Smell problem</u>
	<u>Planning Enforcement</u>
	<u>Public Rights of Way</u>
<u>Trading Standards</u>	

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7. Reports and Updates:

7.1 Village Hall Report: - Cllr. King

Cllr. King spoke of the need by the Village Hall Committee to raise the hire charges from 1st March due to the rising utility costs to which all users have been understanding about. He explained that the heating is now being controlled by Hive which means there is no waste of heating. Cllr. King said that he is no longer the Secretary and Treasurer of the Blean Museum although he is still involved in the running of it.

7.2 N.H.W:

For the present time all reports are being sent to the clerk for distribution. Cllr. Russell said that she converses with the residents on Woodlands Estate to make them aware of any issues.

7.3 Footpath Report: Cllr. Samuelson and Cllr. Russell.

Cllr. Samuelson reported that the footpath behind The Hare pub is ok although muddy as all footpaths are due to the wet weather.

The clerk will let Cllr. Russell have the RSPB Warden's contact details so that she can report the information board that is broken on the footpath leading from the Woodlands Estate.

7.4 Highways Report: Cllr Jeffers.

Cllr. Hutt mentioned that traffic is still speeding with a particular motorbike that speeds on the A290 at 10.30pm every night. It was noted that in some areas drones are being used to catch speeding motorists.

7.5 KCC Meeting: Crab & Winkle/Tyler Hill Road Crossover:

Waiting for an update from KCC.

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

Cllr. Akers is to arrange more training dates and a meeting with Rough Common volunteers.

7.7 Clerks Report:

Nothing further to report that is not already on the agenda.

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8. Matters raised by the Public:

No matters raised by the public present.

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

9.1 Recreation Ground – Picnic table and planters. (Funding).

Ward Cllr. Ricketts has offered to donate towards the cost of the picnic table from his Members Allowance.

The clerk said that the handyman is going to repair the planters by the bus shelter at Tyler Hill Road and the one opposite The Royal Oak to enable planting for the summer and it was suggested that funds from the vat refund from 2022/2023 could be used to buy replacement planters.

9.2 Upcoming Election Process.

The clerk distributed the nomination papers to Cllrs. who wished to stand again. Cllr. King indicated that he would not be standing again after all his many years on the Parish Council. He offered to still be the Village Hall representative and send a report for each Parish Council meeting.

All Members present AGREED.

10. Councillors' Reports:

10.1 Cllr. King reported that the Doctor's Surgery in Tyler Hill Road now has a Doctor in on a Monday and is hoping to completely re-open shortly with physio, blood tests, prescription pick-ups being offered at the present time.

10.2 Cllr. Russell spoke of the plastic-free initiative and whether Cllrs. were happy for her to sign the pledge on behalf of the Parish Council. All Members present AGREED.

Cllr. Samuelson offered to talk to Blean School about the initiative.

Cllr. Russell mentioned the resident, Rosie Cullen, who is litter-picking in the village for which the Parish Council is very appreciative. It was noted that this by no means takes away the hard work undertaken by Ken, the handyman, in his work in keeping the village tidy.

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11. Any Other Business for discussion at the next meeting:

The next meeting will be the Annual Assembly on **Monday 17th April 2023 at 7.00pm** in the Community Area of the village hall where there will be a talk given on the Wilder Blean Project update. This will be followed by the Parish Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.31pm.

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

Date _____

Signature _____