

**BEKESBOURNE WITH PATRIBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 13 JANUARY 2020**

Present: Parish Cllr Andrea Nicholson (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Christine Ash
Parish Cllr Graham Duplock
Parish Cllr Christine Sladden
Parish Cllr Jill Thomas
Parish Cllr Joanne Watts
Parish Cllr Emily Young

Mrs Nicola Purcell, Clerk to the Council
There were two members of the public present.

88. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Parish Cllr Mary Evans. Resignation letter received from Cllr Tara Fisher.

89. REQUESTS FOR DPI'S OR DISPENSATIONS RELEVANT TO THIS AGENDA (WRITTEN OR VERBAL)

Cllr Duplock declared a personal interest in the Village Hall as he is on the management committee.

90. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2020

A Typo from the minutes from the previous meeting was identified at point number 80.3. The correct figure for council tax increase should read 4% not 44%. The minutes were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman as a true Record of the meeting.

91. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

92. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

See items covered under AOB.

93. HIGHWAY MATTERS

i). Incorrect diversions were placed down Bekesbourne hill during the week that the A257 at Littlebourne was closed. This was noted and Highways contacted requesting the diversion signs were moved as a matter of urgency.

ii). Old Palace Road is currently closed due to the water level at the Fords being so high. However the road is still being used, drivers are moving the signage to pass through.

iii). Correspondence has been received from a resident who has been in discussion with Kent highways to enquire about the possibility of having a pedestrian crossing on station road to access the bus stop. Kent highways responded that this was not possible at this time but have advised the Parish Council to add appropriate signage to the HIP, of which is more likely to be an option.

iv). The temporary barriers at the top of the a2 slip road which joins Bifrons hill are looking damaged and unsightly. Clerk to request if we can have more permanent barriers installed, as they are needed.

V). Funding is available to replace the temporary warning signs with permeant ones to warn road users of horses in the road.

94. FINANCE MATTERS

i). Financial statement was discussed and agreed by all.

ii). It was suggested that a statement should be prepared to support the reasoning behind the increase in the council tax contributions. This should be to include the precept amounts.

The following payments by cheque were APPROVED by all:

Cheque Number	Payee	Amount
000916	N Purcell- Feb Salary	£296.36
000917	Rivergroup- Annual Subs	£25.00
000919	N Purcell- Expenses	£55.00
000920	Village Hall Contribution	£150.00

*Note: Cheque number 000918 was void due to error.

95. RIVERGROUP UPDATE

Cllr Thomas fed back on behalf of the Rivergroup. There has been two failings of the pumping station two weeks apart resulting in flooding which has since been cleared up. Concerns were raised with Southern Water prior to this happening, but there have been no subsequent issues since this. The Rivergroup have been liaising with various agencies regarding the river flow, such as the Environment Agency and Canterbury City Council. All agencies involved have been supportive. Particular mention to Kent highways who have been both proactive and reactive regarding the situation.

Moving forward the Rivergroup are requesting that the Littlebourne bypass channel be opened to alleviate the issue. The Environment Agency are imminently preparing the 5 year model to present to the public which identifies areas that may require improvement, such as Keepers Hill/ School Lane.

In both Bishopsbourne and Patrixbourne there have been incidents of sewage backflow into homes. To combat this tankering has commenced. Cllr Thomas addressed a statement the Rivergroup released recently regarding the pumping of sewage into the river. Cllr Thomas advised that currently this statement is incorrect, but it has not been ruled out as a last resort. Signage should be erected immediately if this was to happen. Cllr Duplock suggested that the parish council should raise objections should it look like the sewage pumping will go ahead.

Cllr Watt identified concerns regarding an area of the Nailbourne that has burst its bank slightly into fields at the point where the railway crosses the river. Mr Walters was present at the meeting and advised that this area is a flood plain and not to be concerned.

To conclude: The community is prepared in case of floods. The sandbag store has been replenished and the flood alert system is working effectively.

96. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Northey distributed a document that is available on the KCC website media hub entitled "Coronavirus cases- Kent update." KCC are working in close partnership with all organisations to ensure health and social care systems are prepared for further increase in the number of Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases. Director of public health for Kent Andrew Scott-Clark is advising people not to panic. The best thing the public can do is ensure thorough handwashing, and being aware of own personal hygiene.

At a meeting with the Reform of Public Health Committee (RPHC) Cllr Northey raised the question regarding the possibility of a vaccine for COVID-19. At this time it is looking likely that it will be at least 18 months before this is a possibility. RPHC also advised that when the good weather comes this will naturally slow down the spread of the virus, and advised the public to keep an eye out for updates on the KCC website.

With regard to the flood risks in the area, Cllr Northey attended a meeting on Weds 26th Feb. Dr Martin Hurst, the chairman of Southern Regional and Coastal Flood Committee was present. Cllr Northey advised there is a budget of 60 million pounds toward the matter of flooding in the area. Members of the Environment Agency identified problems following the 2014 floods, and with this in mind Dr Hurst has been invited to take a trip down the Stour on 15th May to discuss this further.

The Clerk fed back to Cllr Northey the thanks received from members of the community regarding Cllr Northey's support with the problems with the bus service through the village.

97. REPORT FROM CCC LOCAL PLAN MEETING

Cllrs Duplock, Ash, Thomas, Young, Sladden and the Clerk attended this meeting on 24th Feb which was hosted by the members of the planning department at Canterbury City Council. CCC are holding these meetings with all local parishes as an opportunity to discuss the councils plans and any plans or aspirations we may have for our parish over the next 5 years. CCC wanted to identify any potential sites that could be a possibility for affordable housing. Community infrastructure was discussed and the parish council wanted to make CCC aware of the following concerns:

- Light Pollution from neighbouring areas
- Speed of traffic through the villages
- The villages being used as a 'rat run'
- The lack of footpaths
- The number of very large properties being built in the area
- The lack of 'starter homes' in the area
- What happened to the South Canterbury Bypass plans?

CCC thanked us for coming and will take this information back to the planning teams.

98. REPORT FROM KCC CONCURRENT FUNCTION MEETING

Cllr Nicholson attended this workshop style meeting on 27th Feb. Its purpose was to identify what we as a parish council would stand for with regard to the possible cuts to the concurrent functions grants. Currently the grant pays for community needs such as grass cutting, lighting and street cleaners. It was identified that villages such as ours would receive poor service in comparison to town. Bekesbourne with

Patricbourne are not the only council who have increased the precept in anticipation that the grant will be cut. KCC could not clarify what the future holds for this grant. KCC asked for suggestions for allocation. The general consensus was that parishes such as ours need the CFG. There is currently £134,500 to divide across 24 parishes.

To conclude, the representatives of the parish councils put forward strong case, now we just need to await KCC's decision

Cllr Thomas to draft a letter of support to Louise Jones at CCC.

99. GRAFFITI UNDER A2 FLYOVER

There is a significant amount of graffiti under the A2 flyover at the boundary of Patricbourne/Bridge. Cllr Thomas to email the chairman of Bridge PC to suggest a joint clearance. Clerk to contact Louise Jones at CCC to see what the city council can do to help.

100. VILLAGE HALL/PLAY AREAS UPDATES

Village Hall: Cllr Duplock advised the committee were very pleased with survey responses. The general consensus was that the community want to keep hall. However, we currently don't have the capacity to build new hall without extra help.

There is currently an underfloor GAS leak. Gas has been isolated. Current projection of approx. £2,000-£2,500 to run new pipes. Estimate for new central heating system is approximately £8,000. Cllr Duplock provided a table demonstrating the advantages and disadvantages of both jobs and requested financial support from the parish council.

After some discussion, it was agreed that 5year plan needs to be made for village hall to identify weather or not to build new hall or refurbish the current hall, taking into account current repairs such as the gas works and the structural lifespan of the current hall. Based on this the PC agreed that at this point, it was not sensible to replace the entire heating system, given the uncertainty of the village halls refurb/new build.

Moving forward Cllr Duplock is to seek a structural survey on the building.

Play area: Cllr Sladden and Young have been actively researching other play areas to identify options for ours. They raised the question regarding if safety surface is required or if grass will suffice, as other areas just have natural grass.

A budget needs to be set before any further planning can commence. Research to continue when better weather. Moving forward- Cllrs Young and Sladden to get quotes from 3 providers to compare, and identify any maintenance prices.

101. PARISH CORRISPONDENCE & CLERK'S REPORT

Correspondence:

- i) Communications from Oakleigh Lane residents regarding lack of bin collections. I have emailed CCC to investigate and assist in the matter.
- ii) Email received asking the PC to investigate who is responsible to the maintenance of the banks on Bekesbourne hill. Concerns raised over the amount of debris on the banks, and that it is causing potential hazards and locking drains. The drains have been reported the Kent Highways-
- iii) Email received from a resident of Aerodrome Road regarding light pollution concerns. Action: Clerk to contact planning enforcement on the matter

Report:

- iv) I have submitted comments as requested on behalf of the parish council regarding planning application CA/20/00205: The Barton
- v) As requested at the last PC meeting I have added a percentage column to the Budget over expenditure sheet to highlight the total amount of budget used to date. This has been made using cell formula so will automatically update when figures change. I have also added a colour code system to this column, to identify at a glance areas that are within, approaching, or over budget.
- vi) I have begun the process of archiving and backing up the folders on the parish council laptop.

102. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

CA/20/00205	Proposed single-storey detached outbuilding for use as pottery studio. The Barton, Patrixbourne Road Patrixbourne Canterbury Kent CT4 5BP	- open for comments until 6 th March
CA/20/00447	Application for listed building consent for external/internal alterations including insertion of rooflights in rear (east) elevation and replace existing glazed tiles at high level The Barton, Patrixbourne Road Patrixbourne Canterbury Kent CT4 5BP	Awaiting decision

For Information:

CA//18/01260	Retrospective application for the change of use from forestry to mixed leisure/forestry Palmsted Wood, Bekesbourne Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5DX	Awaiting decision
CA//18/02358	A Gomez and Co Distribution Services Ltd, Coldharbour Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5HL Details submitted pursuant to conditions 03 (external lighting) and 04 (external plant and machinery) of planning permission CA/17/02182/FUL.	Awaiting decision

103. AOB- FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

- i). The Annual Parish Meeting date to be delayed by 1 week to 20th April 2020. However in light of the current COVID-19 situation the parish council are inviting all organisations likely to attend to give a written report ahead of the meeting in preparation that group gatherings may be postponed. Cllr Nicholson to contact ‘On the Nail’ to advertise.

- ii) Nicola is approaching the end of her probation period in the role of Clerk. A date to be set for appraisal with Cllrs Nicholson and Sladden.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

Parish Council future meetings; April 20th 2020 (APM), May 11th 2020