

**BEKESBOURNE WITH PATRIXBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020  
(Meeting held on Zoom due to Coronavirus lockdown)**

**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

Kent County Cllr Michael Northey  
There were no members of the public present

**10. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Parish Cllr Mary Evans sends her apologies.

**11. TO AGREE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020**

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed by all. In line with government advice regarding social distancing- this is to be noted as a verbal agreement- signatures to be collected at a later date.

**12. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Cllr Sladden suggested that now things have settled, it would be a good time to re-arrange Nicola's appraisal, as the last one got cancelled due to lockdown.

**13. ELECT CHAIRMAN FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2020-2021**

Cllr Duplock proposed that Cllr Nicholson stand as chairman, Cllr Watt seconded this proposal and there were no other nominations for chairman. All were in favour. Cllr Nicholson accepted the office of chairman

**14. ELECT VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2020-2021**

Cllr Sladden proposed that Cllr Duplock stand as vice chair. Cllr Ash seconded this proposal and there were no other nominations. Cllr Duplock accepted the office of Vice-Chairman.

**15. APPOINT MEMBERS TO SIT ON COMMITTEES/REPRESENT PC; VHMC; RGMC; LS&NRMG**

It was agreed that the following Councillors would represent the Council on these bodies:

VHMC- Cllr Watt

RGMC- Cllr Young

LSNRMG- Cllr Nicholson

The other Cllrs are back up to any of the above committees when required.

**16. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST FORMS AND DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FORMS**

In line with government advice regarding social distancing- this is to be noted as a verbal agreement- signatures to be collected at a later date. Clerk to email to Cllrs, the declaration of acceptance of office forms, now these positions have been agreed, and the declaration of pecuniary interest forms. These to be signed and returned to clerk..

**17. REPORT FROM KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Northey had sent an email in advance of the meeting which the clerk circulated. The focus of which was to identify that there is a great deal of help available for those who are struggling with mental health during the lockdown period. 'Connect Well East Kent' are working with the council to provide 24hour support. On the document there are useful addresses and contacts for community help.

## **18. FINANCE MATTERS**

- i) There are no new payments to be approved.
- ii) The budget sheet cannot be accepted at this time as there were errors. Omission on Budget over Expenditure of: Website £1000, Recreation Ground £1500, Village Hall £2000. Figures to be added and new sheet circulated.
- iii) Cllr Duplock updated that the village hall has now received the government income grant of £10,000. The VHMC are in the process of getting quotes to have the electrics updated. The survey came back that the hall is structurally safe for another 40-50 years, with some maintenance. Cllr Duplock to circulate survey report to PC. Cllr Ash recommends gas for the village hall. Cllr Thomas seconded that. His will now be discussed by Cllr Duplock with VHMC. Cllr Young suggested solar panels?
- iv) Cllr Thomas has paid £200 of NHWS money into the PC treasurers account after the closure of the NHWS bank account. All in agreement to that this amount to be ring fenced for future NHWS needs.

## **19. GREEN BINS**

Concerns were expressed over the council's new green bin collection proposal. Cllr Ash proposed that we suggest to the City Council that they should run a collection service for 12 months a year rather than 10 if there is a charge. There are also still ongoing concerns regarding waste collection around the villages. Clerk to email Cllr Louise Jones highlighting issues.

## **20. BUS SHELTER GRANT**

Prior to the meeting, the clerk circulated an email regarding bus shelter grants from KCC. It was discussed and agreed that we would not qualify for this at present, However it was mentioned that perhaps seating is needed at the Aerodrome Rd stop. Clerk to look up details of the family who wanted a memorial bench and forward to Cllr Thomas.

## **21. GARDEN THEFTS**

Nicola spoke about witnessing a group of people stealing garden shrubs. It has been reported to the police, and there has also been reports of similar thefts in Bridge and Wingham.

## **22. CLERK REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr Louise Jones has been in touch. Although she is on maternity leave she is still monitoring her inbox, where possible, to help with the current stresses caused by the COVID-19 situation. She discussed the Bin collection concerns and has advised that she had made contact with the department manager and she will update in due course.

### **PLANNING**

I submitted the comments to CCC as requested on behalf of the parish council regarding planning application CA/20/00616: Lion Cottage. As yet there has been no response.

## ACCUSTOMISING MYSELF WITH THE ROLE OF CLERK

This month has been an interesting one for me. I am learning new things about the role as I go, and have not been able to take on any sort of formal training as planned, with the current situation changing things significantly. I just wanted to take a moment to thank all Cllrs for being so patient and supportive, while I find my feet.

## AUDIT

As discussed at the closed meeting, there has been no change in the audit status. Deadline extended until 31st July 2020

## ALLOTMENTS

Payment has now been received for all allotment holders. The new padlock has arrived and keys have now been distributed. All plots are now let. Concerns have been raised over the use of weed killer. The PC suggested that we review our tenancy agreement terms and conditions, to include recommendations on the use of pesticides and insecticides.

## WEBSITE

As discussed previously the website funding ends at the end of August. The Clerk has been pricing up costs and her recommendation is that we do not use a provider to maintain the PC web site, as it seems an unnecessary expense. To do it ourselves we are looking at approximately £1-£10 to purchase the domain name (e.g. [www.bekesbournewithpatrixbourne.org](http://www.bekesbournewithpatrixbourne.org)) and then approximately £75-£90 per year for a website building programme. As an example, 'Wix' is a recommended programme.

Cllr Thomas proposed that we should review Nicola's working hours and salary to reflect the extra work involved with hosting a website. Cllr Sladden seconded this. All in agreement that this should be reviewed in Nicola's upcoming appraisal. Cllr Nicholson suggested that Cllr Thomas may like to support Nicola in planning the website content as she has previous experience. Cllr Thomas agreed.

## 23. PLANNING

No new applications.

For information:

<b>CA/18/01260</b>	Retrospective application for the change of use from forestry to mixed leisure/forestry  Palmsted Wood, Bekesbourne Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5DX	<b>GRANTED</b>
<b>CA/18/02358</b>	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.	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
<b>CA/20/00616</b>	Proposed two-storey, self build detached dwelling with associated access and parking.  Lion Cottage The Street Patrixbourne Canterbury Kent CT4 5DA	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
<b>CA/20/00205</b>	Proposed single-storey detached outbuilding for use as pottery studio.  The Barton Patrixbourne Road Patrixbourne Canterbury Kent CT4 5BP	<b>APPLICATION WITHDRAWN</b>
<b>CA/20/00447</b>	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	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
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**24. AOB- FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**

Cllr Thomas updated everyone that the Southern Water tankering for sewage difficulties has now ceased. Although the water level in the sewers is decreasing, it is still not below safe level, but seemed to have stopped causing problems for residents.

Cllr Thomas also informed all that the 'On the Nail' magazine didn't publish a copy in May, but the Benefice is planning to publish a digital copy in June.

Cllr Nicholson mentioned that there is a vacant Cllr position that we need to fill. Nicola said that the advice from KALC currently is run as we are for now.

Cllr Thomas asked if a statement had been prepared to reflect the increase in council tax. Cllr Watt suggested that there is no need for one if no complaints have been made. Cllr Nicholson recommends it is left until the results of CCG review are decided.

Cllr Thomas recommends that we investigate obtaining a paid account with Zoom as this will benefit the PC if the 40min time limit on meetings returns. Nicola to look into costs.

The next Parish Council meeting is to be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7:30pm Via Zoom

The meeting closed at 8:42pm.

Signed .....(Chairman)

Date .....