

## **BEKESBOURNE WITH PATRIBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022** at 7:00pm at Bekesbourne Recreation Ground Pavilion.

### **Minutes to be agreed at the Next APM.**

**Present:** Parish Cllr Andrea Nicholson (Chairman)  
Parish Cllr Graham Duplock  
Parish Cllr Christine Sladden  
Parish Cllr Joanne Watt  
Parish Cllr David Sladden  
Parish Cllr Christine Ash  
Parish Cllr Emily Young  
Parish Cllr Mary Evans

Mrs Nicola Purcell, Clerk to the Council

There were 0 members of the public present.

#### **1. Chairman welcome and introductions**

Cllr Nicholson welcomed all attendees and thanked everyone for being present.

#### **2. Receive apologies**

None

#### **3. Agree Minutes for 2021 APM**

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes from the annual parish meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were a true and accurate record. The Chair signed the minutes.

#### **4. Chairperson report**

Welcome everybody and thank you to everyone who has contributed to our meetings and the life of our villages during what has been another difficult year while the pandemic has continued to rage. At last things seem to be getting better and we can meet and look forward to celebrating together as a community once again at, the Platinum Jubilee, next month.

I would firstly like to give my thanks to all who contribute to the Parish Council, the Councillors, all who attend the meetings or respond to the Council's website and especially to Nicola, who continued to run everything efficiently while also becoming a Mum to her fourth child Bonnie. Also, to our KCC representative Councillor Mike Sole who regularly attends meetings and sends updates. The life of the villages depends on us all as neighbours and the support of the organisations locally such as the churches, BREW and the monthly Coffee mornings has helped to sustain us.

The biggest thing to have happened during the last year has been the careful planning of the Village Hall refurbishment which is now well under way. September is the hoped-for date by which all activities can resume there, so thank you to the committee for making this happen. Nicola applied for and has received a grant from CCC for new chairs for the hall and other grants will be sought to help complete the project.

Thank you to the Recreation ground committee for enabling us to use the Pavillion here for our meetings and other village activities in this interim period. Thank you also to Cllr Young for sourcing a 'mud kitchen' to add to the play equipment on the recreation ground. Elsewhere the Post Box on School Lane has been refurbished thanks to the efforts of the residents of the Old Post Office, the Bax family, and Cllr Watt must be commended for her decorative additions to the old telephone box- make sure you see the Jubilee efforts.

The number of planning applications received this year has been high, with the Mountfield Park application re-emerging. The application to build seven houses at Rosary House, Aerodrome Road, caused controversy as did the decision by the parish council not to support the call for a footpath opposite Chalk Pit Farm with a capital donation to the costs. Council money at the moment is committed to the village hall project and there are a number of improvements across the district, especially the provision of footpaths that we include in our Highways Improvement Plan, for consideration by KCC.

The Parish Council opposed the plans for a large housing development next to the zoo at Littlebourne and this was rejected by the City Council planning Department. All proposals for development in the villages is carefully looked at by the Parish Council, but our views on plans count only the same as anyone else, so please exercise your rights and respond online to any plans in your neighbourhood.

Finally, the Jubilee. An afternoon celebration is being held on the Recreation ground here on Saturday 4th June from 12- 5pm. Please come and bring a picnic tea, although coffee and tea will be available from the pavilion. We are giving away Jubilee mugs to every child who lives in the Parish, but mugs can be ordered for anyone else who wants them- see the website for details. A dog show, traditional side stalls, beat the goalie and an ice cream van will be there to make the afternoon swing, along with a cake competition and a dog show. The play area will be officially opened, and any money raised from the afternoon will go towards a new piece of equipment, a wheelchair accessible roundabout. Volunteers are sought to help, but please come along as we look forward to seeing you there.

## **5. County/City Councillor Reports**

KCC Cllr Sole sent the following report:

It is now approaching a year since I was elected as the county councillor for Canterbury South, so I would like to present this report to you.

Firstly, some thanks. My predecessor, Michael Northey was extremely gracious when I replaced him and provided me with some helpful handover information and advice. I would also like to thank Kent County Councillor and City Councillor Rob Thomas. We may represent different political parties, but I know that we share a similar desire to get things done for the adjoining areas that we represent, and his assistance, advice and friendship are much appreciated.

I would also like to thank the parish councillors and clerks of all 16 parishes in my county division for their warm welcomes. Shortly after being elected, I took tours around all of the 11 parishes that were new to me (I already covered 5 as Canterbury City Councillor for Nailbourne ward) and I am grateful for the time taken to introduce me to the areas.

Canterbury South is a large county division, stretching from Waltham in the west to Grove Ferry in the east. It also includes a large part of urban Wincheap that is not parishes. I enjoy walking and cycling around all of the area. I try to be pro-active and get things done. You'll often see me reporting potholes, worn white lines, fly-tipping, overgrown footpaths and many other things. I want us to live in an area that we are proud of, is well maintained, kept clean and safe.

As one of six Liberal Democrat councillors as KCC, out of a total of 81 councillors, I know that I may have little impact of on the direction of KCC, but that doesn't stop me trying by raising items at committees and council. Where I believe that I am achieving things though is by working with councillor officers, cabinet chairs and other councillors of all parties to make the improvements that we need locally.

In particular I have done a lot of work with the local highways officers. By working with them and parish councils, often assisted with grant money from my KCC members fund, we have seen a reduction in the speed limit at Bramling, with another reduction coming at Stone Street, Petham as well as improvements to road surfaces and road and drainage maintenance.

We are making headway with a 30mph limit in Woolage Village and have had meetings about a potential 20mph limit in Bridge and an additional crossing in Thanington, although budgetary issues are an issue there.

On school issues I have helped families with the recent chaotic Special Education Needs home to school transport changes and helped where possible with schools places appeals. I have particularly enjoyed getting to know so many of the local community groups and through those I have been able to support grants through my Covid Recovery Grant, which has now unfortunately finished, and Combined Members Grant which is also used on highway projects.

In addition to Highways grants, I have been able to support the following organisations:

Love Hambrook Marshes – benches

Little Stour & Nailbourne River Group – publicity and education project

Fifth Trust – redevelopment of skills centre

Barham Football Club – defibrillator

Petham Primary School PFTA – bounce back to school project

Adisham Village Hall – dishwasher

Ashford Road Community Centre – outdoor furniture

Bridge Village Playgroup – literacy and outdoor equipment

Littlebourne Youth Cricket – indoor training

Hilltop Community Association – defibrillator

If there are any local organisations in the area that would benefit from some grant assistance, please ask them to get in touch.

At KCC I sit on the Growth & Economic Development committee and the Flood Risk Management Committee. I also represent Canterbury City Council on the River Stour Internal Drainage Board.

At Canterbury City Council I sit on the Community Committee and Regeneration Committee, although as we move away from a committee system to a leader and cabinet role I do not yet know what role I may have in the future.

I try to attend as many parish council meetings as possible and usually manage about 4 or 5 a month. I am also happy to meet up with residents and parish councillors outside of the formal parish meeting to discuss issues.

As I am also the Canterbury City Councillor for Nailbourne ward I have also dealt with many issues for residents including bin collections, litter, council housing and fly-tipping. I take the lead for the Lib Dem group on Climate Change and Finance at the City Council.

We have a lot going on in the next year at Canterbury City Council. There is the controversial move away from the committee system of governance to a cabinet system and of course the continued development of the local plan that could see up to 17,000 additional homes in the district on top of those already in the current plan but not yet built, like the 4,000 at Mountfield Park between the city and Bridge.

We have a difficult time ahead of us with rising costs which will put huge pressures on council services and families' income and wellbeing. I know that many local families are looking to host Ukrainian refugees in their homes. There will be huge demands for support services and I will do all I can to assist and share relevant information.

I have very much enjoyed my first year as a Kent County Councillor and my continuing term as a Canterbury City Councillor, the highlight so far was being invited to be Father Christmas in Adisham, visiting children with gifts on Christmas morning in a sleigh pulled by a vintage tractor.

Please do continue to get in touch if I can help with anything.

Mike Sole

## 6. Local group reports

Reports from the following local groups were received:

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|--|----------------|
| • Bekesbourne Book Club                            | See Appendix A |
| • The Bekesbourne explorers                        | See Appendix B |
| • Bridge C Of E Primary School                     | See Appendix C |
| • The Friends of Bekesbourne Church                | See Appendix D |
| • VHMC- The Village Hall Management Committee      | See Appendix E |
| • St Peter's Church Bekesbourne                    | See Appendix F |
| • St Mary's Church Patixbourne                     | See Appendix G |
| • The A257 Traffic Management Group                | See Appendix H |
| • 'BREW'- Bekesbourne Rec Every Week               | See Appendix I |
| • RGMC- The Recreation Ground Management Committee | See Appendix J |

## 7. AOB

None

- Meeting ended at 7:45 Pm. -

Signed..... (Chairperson)

Date .....

**Bekesbourne Book Club Report**

Bekesbourne village book club meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Red Lion in Bridge. We are a group of 14 female members now (a slight increase on last year) and we range in ages. We pull texts at random from the pot of suggestions that all members are free to contribute too, which ensures a great variety- ranging from modern murder mysteries,(The Thursday murder club) To classics such as Jane Eyre. Amy researches and supplies a set of 10 questions a week before we meet and we discuss them over a drink and have a chat about the book always culminating in a score out of 10 for from each member. Our highest rated book to date is 'Where The Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens which we rated 9/10. Our lowest book so far is 'A Room Of One's Own' by Virginia Woolf with 3/10

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**Bekesbourne Explorers**

Finally freed from the constraints of lockdown the export explorers have again been walking around the Kent countryside. Recently our monthly walks have been ably led by Peter Boyce who has been able to introduce us to some new routes. Normally we collect at the village hall car park at oh 9:45 on the first Wednesday of every month but because of the building works there we have had to change the meeting point recently. If anybody wants to walk but isn't on our email list please contact me at: tomwebster@waitrose.com or on 07796954973. New walkers are always welcome.

Tom Webster

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**Bridge Primary School**

*"Wisdom, Trust, Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Friendship, Compassion"*

A year of great leadership change, we began with acting Head Mathew Harper and appointed James Tibbles as new Head in March, to start from September. With Mr Harper on secondment from September, James Taylor was appointed acting Deputy Head, subsequently permanent following interviews once it was known Mr Harper was moving to Headship at Aylesham. Wendy Slight our long time Office Manager retired in June and Jessica Haines was appointed Business Manager.

These transitions have been achieved smoothly whilst continuing to ensure our children are challenged and developed creatively through a wide range of academic, artistic, cultural and sporting experiences in the classroom and through a variety of visits and afterschool activities. Quality Marks have been achieved for Literacy, Music and School Games.

Behind the scenes changes are gradually being introduced to simplify and ensure efficiency of school financial systems and office systems.

The appointment of Estella has resulted in school developing stronger links with Church including re-establishing the community village fete. Children now visit the church for more events and performances. Messy Church has started monthly in the school hall.

School had a successful Short OFSTED inspection in Spring 2018 (right in the middle of new headship interviewing!) and were again judged to be "Good".

From September 2018 school took over provision of After School provision as the BASC Charity closed and now provides all Breakfast and After School care.

We continue to be well supported by our strong PTA who organise the village Firework display and other fundraising events. Their funds have provided furniture for the new library and one of the two mini-buses we have recently obtained.

The HT has said, in his report to Bridge PC, the main challenge to the school is Funding.

Finally, thanks to James, Matthew, Michael and all the staff for their hard work towards another successful year.

Graham Duplock, Foundation Governor

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Appendix D

BWPPC APM May 2022

### **The Friends of Bekesbourne Church**

Members: Vicki Woolnough, Graham Duplock, Sheena Gall, Eve Pearson and Wendy Howard.

I would like to give you a brief report on the first-rate work the Friends Committee undertake, and I am very happy and proud of the work we have undertaken in 2018.

The Friends of Bekesbourne Church was formed in 1994 when a nucleus of like-minded villagers strongly believed action was needed to protect the future of the Church building, and this has been the Committee's commitment ever since.

At the same time we are very keen to encourage all villagers to be involved and support the events we organise throughout the year. These events also bring together newcomers and encourage them, and the stalwarts, to enter into the community spirit, which we also endeavour to achieve.

We would like to thank the villagers who have supported our events during 2018 with their generosity in giving of their time. We hope you continue, and more villagers will follow your example in the future. Please spread the word.

The events we organised included, the very popular Wine and Wisdom, which is always a sell out, (profit £410.00) and the Jumble Sale in January (profit £345.00). We held the Boot Fare in the Recreation Ground, which worked very well again, (profit £259 to PCC) and the Christmas Bazaar in December, with again, an extremely good profit (profit £581.00 to PCC).

For a musical evening, and an extremely hectic and very entertaining evening, we held a Village Dance in the Hall. It proved to be an extremely popular (event profit of £130.00). Didn't know so many of you had all that energy!!!

We funded Church Roof repairs at a cost of £852.00 and the annual Church Insurance of £1,961.00

A big thank you, again to Steve Thomas, a resolute supporter, with his organisation of the '100 Club'. Thank you very much Steve.

The above-mentioned people are but a few, and the Committee would like to thank all who have supported us, and hope you will continue to do so.

The Committee have new, exciting and innovative ideas for 2019 ~ so watch this space.

We would also welcome any ideas or suggestions for new Village Events that you feel would encourage the community spirit. Please email or call me.

Again, thank you all for your continuing support, and I look forward to reporting that 2018 was a highly successful and profitable year in order for us to support the fabric of our beautiful church.

Christine Dutfield  
01227 830828

[hristine.dutfield@gmail.com](mailto:hristine.dutfield@gmail.com)

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Appendix E

BWPPC APM May 2022

### **VHMC- The Village Hall Management Committee**

Following design work the committee undertook with PFM Ltd, planning permission for the proposed refurbishment of the Village Hall was received in May.

Unfortunately, in late summer our partners PFM Ltd informed us they were unable to continue supporting the project (which they had done without cost).

We then engaged Bridge architect Mervyn Gulvin to complete the drawings and specification for the internal work and went to tender at the end of October. Tenders were received by the end of 2021 and CD Construction Ltd was appointed to carry out the refurbishment work with a finish date of 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Work commenced in mid-March and is proceeding well.

The outside of the hall is to be finished with Silver Grey composite horizontal cladding, refurbished windows and new main entrance doors to approve the “kerb appeal” of the building.

Inside, following complete stripping the layout is changing to provide:

- Large kitchen facilities across the rear, with serving hatch, across the rear of the hall
- Two storage rooms to the car park side, with inclusion of the recess between the current kitchen and lobby
- Enlarged lobby
- Remodelled toilets across the front of the hall
- All new heating and electrics
- Wall and ceiling insulation (where there was previously none!)
- Complete redecoration and new floor coverings

We are currently seeking further grant and sponsorship funding to complete fitting out of the hall.

New bookings are being sought to start from this Autumn. Unfortunately, the Short Mat Bowls Club, one of our regulars has folded.

Graham Duplock  
Chair VHMC

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**St Peter's Church- Bekesbourne**

The Bekesbourne team wishes to thank all those people who voluntarily give their time and money to serve our village church in many different ways enabling Bekesbourne to flourish as a Christian community.

There were no services in the first few months of the year. The church was open on Sunday morning and the bells were rung when permitted with regard to Covid restrictions. Our Songs of Praise service recommenced in May. It is a lay-led service which takes place on the first Sunday of the month at 10.00. At first we required booking in advance, masks and social distancing rules were observed. Coffee, biscuits and lots of chatting took place outside in the churchyard while restrictions were in place.

The bells are rung to welcome us to church before each service. The bell-ringers normally join us in our worship and play an active role in all aspects of Bekesbourne church.

This year we were able to celebrate on Christmas Day with our traditional Carol Service at 11.00. In 2021, there was 1 funeral; 3 weddings; 2 baptisms and 1 interment.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our Christian faith. Charitable donations were made during the year to Send a Cow, Friends of Kent Churches, Mercy Ships, Porchlight, The Children's Society, Women's Refuge and British Humanitarian Aid. The church actively supports the Canterbury Food Bank.

We are grateful to Peter Rothwell and the members of the buildings sub-group of the PCC who organise any necessary work and monitor the condition of the fabric of the church and keep the Terrier and Log Book up to date. In April some electrical work was carried out. A new control box was fitted behind the font. Our Bevington organ is regularly serviced and would normally be played at all services. Andrew, our organist, plays at all our Songs of Praise services. We would welcome visiting organists to come and play as the organ would benefit from being used more often. The bells and bell tower are inspected annually and are in good condition. The enthusiastic band of bell-ringers have grown in number and are now able to resume their Monday practice nights. They have been busy with weddings this year. We love to hear the bells. It's part of what makes Bekesbourne so special!

The churchyard is an 'open churchyard' and is maintained by volunteers. It continues to be our policy to maintain the churchyard by balancing ecologically sound management, good accessibility for present and former parishioners to visit their family graves, and a beautiful setting for the church. A number of working parties organised by Ian Gillanders tidy the churchyard and cut back trees and shrubs where necessary. Visitors often comment on how well the church and churchyard are maintained. Routine mowing is done by a local contractor. We are again grateful to the Parish Council of Bekesbourne with Patribourne who give a substantial grant towards this work.

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Nicky Fry, Churchwarden

**St Mary's Church- Patribourne**

Saint Mary's church was closed for most of 2021 because of COVID. Initially it began to open two times a week for private prayer with full services resuming on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. Following an

electrical inspection, my project some of the lights within the church were deemed unsafe because of the damp within the building and these were since replaced. Since then we have been raising money for an extension on the side of the building which will help accommodate pilgrims when they stay as part of the British pilgrimage trust. Planning permission was given for the extension, and new Via Francigena notice board was installed. £5000 was donated from the friends of Kent churches and a further £2500 was raised from an online auction. Additional funds have come in from coffee and cake concert's meaning we are almost halfway to reaching our target for the extension.

Visitor numbers are still down but they have increased over the last few weeks. Currently there is one service a month held at the church, which is well attended, with attendees giving generous donations to our well supported church. The vicar now records and live-streams services which gets 70 to 80 views a week online

Andrea Nicholson, Churchwarden

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Appendix H

BWPPC APM May 2022

### **The A257 Traffic Management Group**

The a 257 group has been meeting for approximately 20 years and looks at traffic issues along the a 257 from Canterbury all the way to Sandwich. The group is an effective way of reporting areas of danger and looking at possible solutions. KCC have used it for a template for other areas to action traffic issues. The group had success in reducing the speed on the bend by the Haywain pub an extended speed limits in the Littlebourne gateway. The group will be reviewing the plan in 2023 and hope to include some issues in the beak's born area to work in conjunction with KCC CCC and EDC. The group meets approximately 6 to 8 times a year.

G.Duplock

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Appendix I

BWPPC APM May2022

### **Bekesbourne Rec Every Week (BREW)**

Since restrictions lifted, BREW has been meeting again every Monday 1-3pm. There is a wide spectrum of ages that attend. There is often craft activities available. BREW meet all year round- utilising the outdoor space in the summer and enjoying the shelter of the pavilion in the winter months- often with soup provided. There is still defiantly a need for the group to meet, and it always attracts a lot of people when special events are held. For example the Pancake race saw 50-60 people attend and everyone had a lovely time.

Next year, the meeting time may have to change but this will be confirmed when we know more.

Emily Young

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Appendix J

BWPPC APM May 2022

### **The Recreation Ground Management Committee (RGMC)**

This year has been one of recovery after the various constraints of the pandemic.

It has been a great pleasure to see the regular return of football matches, football training for children, BREW and neighbourhood coffee mornings to the ground and to the pavilion. We have also welcomed a local group studying mushrooms, several parties for children and the use of the pavilion by Pilgrims. Given the refurbishments taking place at Bekesbourne Village Hall the Parish Council has met in the pavilion after the end of the Zoom meetings.

Amongst these positive developments we have also been able to begin work on the provision of an accessible lavatory. The pandemic and interruptions to the supply chains of building materials have made this work subject to various delays but the work is now progressing well.

We have terminated the grass cutting contract with Serco and now have a contract with Bourne to Garden. We thank them for their exemplary service. The usual business of maintaining the pavilion and the ground (insurance, registration with the charity commissioners, fire safety certification) has been completed.

There are many people to thank for their help this year, in particular Kevin Toms (for his meticulous diary keeping for football matches), Chris Norris (for his patience with the delays on building work) and the staff at Bourne to Garden .

Mary Evans,  
Committee Chair

- **End of reports-**