

Blean Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held by Zoom on Monday 7th September 2020

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Those Present: Cllr. B. Flack (Chairman); Cllr. G King (Vice-Chairman); Cllr. H. Samuelson; Cllr. A. Jeffers; Cllr. P. Hutt and Clerk D. Horswell.

Also present: Ward Cllr. A. Ricketts; County Cllr. R. Thomas; and two members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Ward Cllr. D Smith and PCSO Tom Daley.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to what was the second Parish Council meeting by Zoom.

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

No changes or Declaration of Interests from Councillors.

3. To Approve: Minutes of the last Meeting: of 9th March 2020 and Extraordinary Meeting of 27th July 2020

All Members present **AGREED** and **APPROVED** the Minutes and were **Signed** by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Approval for Invoice Payments and authorisation: (Banking Report circulated to Cllrs. prior to meeting.)

Banking Report September 2020

Approval for invoice payments

Method of payment	Payee	Description	Gross Cost
DD	Serco	Waste Collection September 2020	£80.04 (Vat £13.34)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages August 2020	£186.13
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerks Salary August 2020	£714.53
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Reimbursement for Zoom Pro Monthly Payment September	£14.39 (Vat £2.40)

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

PLANNING REPORT September 2020

Planning Applications:

1. **20/01464** - Erection of detached double carport with store and accommodation in the roof space - The Damsons, 41A Chapel Lane, Blean - **Blean Parish Council has no objection to this application.**

2. **20/00842** - Variation of condition 2 (drawings) of planning permission CA//19/00788/FUL for the proposed two-storey detached dwelling along with cycle store; to allow repositioning of dwelling within the site, change in materials, removal of solar panels, alterations to windows, doors and eaves details, introduction of 1no. window to south-west elevation together with alterations to the roof of the single-storey side extension and the replacement of a rear door with window - 16 Chapel Lane
Blean Parish Council object to this application as it does not read like a "variation", it is virtually a completely new application. There are so many requested changes that it barely has any of the original plans in it. Re-positioning, in particular, should be looked at carefully to consider the impact upon the neighbouring properties on either side of the proposed building.

Planning Applications Received since last report:

1. **20/01215** - Change of use of a part of an existing stable building to a single holiday let - Chapter Farm, Denstroude Lane - Amended plans/additional information have/has been received in respect of the above application. **Blean Parish Council stand by their previous comment to ask for this application to be called to Committee on the grounds of culminate impact on the area, residential amenity impact and visual impact in a rural area.**

There are other areas of concern from the Parish Council which include localised flooding, located in an AONB and, finally, in conflict with policy TV8.

2. **20/01706** - Two single-storey rear extensions following demolition of conservatory - 2 The Gap, Trueman Close – **Comments by 11th September.**

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3. 20/01406 - Two-storey side extension - Forge House, 1 Blean Hill - **Comments by 2nd October.**

Tree Notice:

1. 20/01838 - T.P.O. no 26, 1990 - T1) Ash tree- Fell - 121 Blean Common - **Comments by 2nd October.**

Decision Notices by CCC:

1. 20/01293 - Single-storey rear extension, entrance porch and rear dormer together with new vehicle hardstanding - 17 Tile Kiln Hill – **GRANTED**

2. 20/01464 - Erection of detached double carport with store and accommodation in the roof space - The Damsons, 41A Chapel Lane - **GRANTED**

Concerns from residents regarding Brook Farm and Chapter Farm.

Chapter Farm will be called into Committee because of the number of objections and Blean Parish Council have also called it in.

Cllr. Flack can speak as a Ward Cllr. but cannot be part of the determination. The Enforcement Officer has visited. There have been two Development Rights already permitted.

6. Report from Ward Cllrs, County Cllr. and PCSO:

6.1 Ward Cllr. Report:

Ward Cllr. Alex Ricketts reported on the following items:

Improvement work being done on the A290 which will hopefully significantly improve this stretch of road., he is particularly pleased to see the traffic calming measures at Blean School.

2. Gladmans – needs to be kept an eye on.

3. CCC – due to the lockdown format there is nothing much to report.

6.2 County Cllr. Report – Cllr. Robert Thomas:

- Since the last parish council meeting in March obviously much work has gone on to help in the response to the COVID19 crisis. Three key areas for KCC have been care homes, schools and associated transport as well as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. On the latter the numbers of children in Kent's care has doubled since the start of the year and following discussions between KCC's Leader Roger Gough and government we've managed to secure additional resources as well as a

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- placement scheme to help allocate children to other authorities to assist in their care. A challenge which has increased due to the challenges of COVID19 and social distancing.
- Government are consulting on two parking-related issues. <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-pavement-parking> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crackdown-on-private-car-parking-firms-will-eliminate-unfair-fines>
 - The government are also consulting on planning changes too <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system>. Numbers of houses for the canterbury district are unlikely to change but elsewhere in Kent there could be a big increase. That said the numbers expected are around 1.1k per annum and sites were called for in the recent CCC consultation.
 - A government white paper on devolution could see the biggest shake up of local government in nearly 50 years. It's expected to be announced next month.
 - Much like CCC KCC will be making in year budget adjustments to help meet the expected additional costs of COVID19 emergency as well as lost income elsewhere. The meeting is this week and the agenda can be seen at <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=113&MIId=8457>
 - KCC has launched the Solar Together Kent Scheme to help reduce the 28% of carbon emissions from Kent homes. There is the initial registration phase, a timeline for a reverse auction from suppliers with the households then allowed to chose if they wish to go ahead. The installation would be complete by June 2021. Details can be seen at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/environmental-policies/solar-together-kent>
 - I have joined a cross party group called Kent Plan Bee Member Group to discuss the pollinator strategy to help oversee the action plan and implementation. A virtual workshop with invited speakers is set for 16th November but the final details are yet to be confirmed.

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- Flytipping is obviously a scourge upon our communities and Kent councils are continue to lobby to ensure those who oversee the punishments are fully aware of the challenges and costs to local tax payers <https://kccmediahub.net/kent-councils-urge-magistrates-to-take-greater-action-on-fly-tippers745>
- The Safer Roads fund has allowed for the improvement works to the A290 and the recent consultation on 20mph zones. Details of the implementation will follow.
- I'm also delighted to have supported the Blean Village Heritage Museum with a KCC Members Grant to help with the expansion of the offer. Good luck to Godfrey King and the team!
- My role as Leader at CCC as well documented will end this month.

6.3 Ward Cllr. Flack Report:

Cllr. Flack said that she is pleased about the work being done on the A290 – the Parish Council have worked hard over three meetings with Kent Highways.

Service Committee will start meeting virtually.

Full Council meeting this week with the election of the Mayor and Sheriff to take place.

CFF decisions – special meeting with parishes.

5,000 properties with EKH come under the control of CCC on 1st October.

Consultations out for comment.

Ward Cllr. Ricketts left the meeting at 7pm.

6.4 PCSO Report (printed at the end of these Minutes):

Cllr. Flack was concerned that the report mentioned on-going anti-social behaviour in the Nature Reserve as the Parish Council have had no further complaints and she has not seen any evidence herself when visiting the Reserve.

Cllr. Jeffers supported this as he said he regularly walks his dog there and has found very little evidence that there is a problem.

Cllr. Jeffers also commented about the Police speed checks – he said that they were there for about an hour outside Woodlands but the road works with traffic signals obviously would have had an impact on their readings.

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7. Reports and Updates: (Reports circulated to Cllrs prior to meeting)

7.1 Village Hall Report – Cllr. King (report attached to these minutes)

Cllr. King added that the wi-fi in the Hall is not working of which the Letting Officer is aware. He said that it is gratifying that so many hirers have returned to the Hall. Cllr. Samuelson asked what the inspection is for cleaning. Cllr. King replied that hirers have to sign to say that they have cleaned the Hall and the caretaker is going in most days to check. Cllr. Flack asked if there were any additional measures for the main hall if pre-school are in there the next morning? Cllr. King said that the caretaker is checking.

7.2 N.H.W. Report (report attached to these minutes)

7.3 Footpath Report –Cllr. Samuelson and Cllr. Hutt

Cllr. Samuelson said that quite a number of the footpaths have been re-surfaced. Cllr. Hutt will check on the footpath beside Honey Cottage which passes near the new treehouse. He said that here is still asbestos dumped on the footpath in Denstroude Lane despite being reported a number of times.

7.4 Parish Council Update – clerk (report attached to these minutes)

8. Matters raised by the Public:

The residents attending the meeting commented that they were interested to have an insight into the work of the Parish Council.

They asked whether there was any news on the Blean Tavern site to which Cllr. Flack responded that there was no news yet.

They were also concerned about the pavement parking opposite the shops despite official notices banning it. Cllr. Flack asked them to report it on the CCC website.

9. Matters to be discussed:

9.1 Vacancies on the Parish Council

Cllr. Flack reported that there are now three vacancies on the Parish Council, two can be filled by co-optation now and one will be able to be in mid September when the official date is up.

Cllr. Flack asked for ideas from Cllrs. on how to recruit new Councillors.

Spread the word by NHW Street Monitors, on noticeboards, on social media. Write a job description.

9.2 Update: Parish Council Website

Cllr. Hutt reported on the progress of the new Parish Council website that he has created. He has transferred all the relevant information from the old website and he has

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created new Cllr. email addresses that are being forwarded to personal email addresses until he can instruct Cllrs. on accessing new addresses.

It was agreed to go live with the new website on 1st October.

Cllr. King left the meeting at 7.30pm.

9.3 Parish Office Utilities and 9.8 Clerk to continue to work from home

There was a discussion on the clerk continuing to work from home for the foreseeable future, this was unanimously agreed, with the situation being re-assessed in three months' time.

That being so it was thought that BVH should be informed and the thermostat turned down to frost setting on a Tuesday and Friday (previous opening days of the office). The Chairman and clerk had performed a risk assessment which showed that social distancing in the office is difficult due to the size of the office. It was agreed that the clerk working from home had not made any difference to the work being done.

This being so and, as the 6.4% share of the utility bills had been paid up to 31st July, it was proposed and agreed to write to the Village Hall Committee and offer to pay 3.2% until such times as the office is used again.

Cllr. Flack proposed that a mobile phone is purchased for the sole use of the clerk on behalf of the Parish Council so that the number can be advertised on the website etc.

This was unanimously agreed.

It was noted that NALC have published a wage increase for clerks back-dated to 1st April 2020. This will reflect in the clerk's wages from next month.

9.4 Wicksteed Play Equipment Report

The report from Wicksteeds had been circulated to all Cllrs. It was noted that the only matter flagged as needing attention is the support leg on the kicking wall. Ken will be asked if he is willing to do the work and, if not, a quote will be sought from Paul Wells.

9.5 Update: Pond restoration and creation in the Blean

It had been noted that, unfortunately, the pond in the Nature Reserve did not meet the criteria to have work done on it by KSCP.

Hazel has very kindly been following up the jobs on the Nature Reserve. The hay will be cut shortly, baled and taken away.

9.6 Gladman Appeal, Blean Common – The Way Forward

The appeal is due to be heard in November either virtually or in The Guildhall. The appeal is relating to the 5yr land housing supply and the interpretation of it. Blean Parish Council still have rights as a Rule 6 Party. Cllr. Flack and Cllr. Jeffers are to meet to discuss the written evidence to be submitted by the Parish Council.

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9.7 Parish Plan – 2020 - 2025

In view of the present circumstances it was agreed to postpone this until next year at the Annual meeting.

10. Councillors' Reports:

10.1 Cllr. Hutt commented on the re-surfacing of the A290 and that, until the road furniture is in place, the road surface is lending itself to traffic travelling faster. He also questioned whether the event to be held for the Giles Lane development was the normal way of conducting it and said that he might book a slot to attend.

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

It was agreed by all Cllrs. present to hold the next meeting in October by Zoom.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Date _____

Signature _____

PCSO REPORT

Blean, Tyler Hill, & Rough Common

August 2020

Information provided by: PCSO Tom Daley, Canterbury Community Safety Unit.

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Crimes of note:

- 05/08/2020 Abusive male, outside The Royal Oak Pub Blean. Shouting abuse at speeding cars.
- 07/08/2020 Burglary, Theft of dog from home, Rough Common Road. Crime reference 46/137730/20 please report anything known about this theft quoting the number.
- 20/08/2020 Theft of roof tiles from garden in Whitstable Road approx. 3000 taken.
- 20/08/2020 Drunk driver from Royal Oak Pub Blean.
- 21/08/2020 Hackington Road, Tyler Hill , Youth removing for sale signs.

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Anti-social behaviour and other incidents of note:

- There are ongoing problems on Blean Nature Reserve, Youths are drinking and smoking on the green. The local Rural Police Task Force have been made aware and will look to make this part of their patrols.
- Speeding is continuing to be a problem through, Blean, Tyler Hill and Rough Common. The Local Policing Team have been made aware and are continuing to set up speed checks.
- Nuisance motor bikes are becoming a problem in most areas, Again the Rural Team have been made aware.
- To combat anti-social behaviour and attempted break ins historically, the wood yard at the top of Monkey Common, Blean has installed CCTV cameras.

Items of good work:

- On the 18th August I conducted speed checks accompanied by a PC. We were in Blean, Rough Common, and Tyler Hill we managed to stop several vehicles, to try and get the message across. I intend to do this a lot more in the future.

Updates of previous reported issues:

- The speeding issues are still very much a problem. I am very much trying to get on top of this and will continue to monitor and request my police colleagues to conduct as many speed checks as possible.
- I will continue to patrol as much as possible in order to deter crime.

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VILLAGE HALL REPORT

The hall re-opened on August 17, with 2 existing groups returning in August.

7 existing groups returning this month, and 5 more returning in October. Most of the other existing groups have registered to return in January. 2 small groups have left us due to declining numbers in their groups.

There have been a number of enquiries for birthday parties, but this will be dependent upon permitted numbers due to Covid 19.

There has been a substantial increase in the number of new hirers who wish to start in the New Year.

Overall, a very satisfactory return to our previous situation.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT- August 2020

Blean village co-ordinator:- David Greenman, 3 Vicarage Lane, Blean, CT2 9ET
Phone: 01227 450853/mob 07843962986
e-mail: david.greenman@btinternet.com

3 reports, relevant to the village, were received from Kent Police between Aug 1st and Aug 5th 2020 and forwarded electronically to the 17 links around the village of Blean.

In a rural environment, like Blean, gardens are particularly vulnerable. The following is advice from Kent police setting out some pointers which will help to protect a garden:

Protect your garden

•

Maintain hedges and fences to prevent unwanted visitors from entering your garden.

•

Close your garden gate and lock it from the inside.

•

Store bins and ladders carefully so they can't be used as climbing aids.

•

Store tools and equipment somewhere secure after use so they don't get stolen or used to break into your home.

•

Secure sheds and garages with suitable locks and consider fitting shed alarms and security lights.

•

Disable lawn mowers and other large machinery when not in use and chain items together or to a solid anchor point.

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Security-mark valuable items – taking photographs and recording details such as serial numbers and identifying marks can also help to identify items if they get lost or stolen.

David Greenman
NHW coordinator for Blean.
Friday 4th September 2020

Parish Council Update

September 2020

1. Vacancies

Laura Harvey has handed in her resignation as Parish Councillor due to pressure of work and family commitments so there are now three vacancies on the Parish Council.

2. Work around the village

Ken has been unwell for the past two weeks but is feeling better now so will be back to work on Tuesday 8th September.

3. Recreation Ground

The annual play equipment inspection took place on Thursday 13th August by Wicksteeds.

The report has been received and circulated to Cllrs. for discussion.

4. Arby's café – Blean Woods – residents' concerns have now been passed onto Swale Borough Council as it is in their District.

5. Manston Airport Consultation – Cllr. Hutt responded.

6. Pond Restoration Scheme – Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership say that the pond at Kier's Meadow is functioning (even if it dries out by early summer) and so, in this case, wouldn't qualify for the scheme as it still has value for biodiversity.

7. New Parish Council website – Cllr. Hutt is continuing working on the new website to include the new web accessibility regulations.

8. Rural Forum meeting scheduled for Monday, 14th September, 2020, 6.30 pm has been cancelled.