

BLEAN PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th February 2024. **Sheet 2349**

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

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

1. Apologies for absence; Cllr. G. King - Family Matters; Ward Cllr. S. Jupe and Ward Cllr. A. Ricketts.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Changes to DPI's & Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed: No changes in DPI's.

3. To Approve: Minutes of the last Meeting: of 11th December 2023.

Proposed by Cllr. Russell, Seconded by Cllr. Jeffers.

The Minutes were approved and AGREED by all Members present and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Finance:

4.1 January Invoice Payments (Banking Report circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting.)

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection January	£126.48 (Vat £21.08)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages December	£222.27
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary December	£868.12
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC December	£254.01
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband January	£81.13 (Vat £13.52)
Bacs	BVHMC	Annual Utility Bill for office	£391.25
Bacs	Meadow Grange	Plant up planters by memorial gates	£337.20 (Vat £56.20)
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99

Total Paid Out: £2,292.45

Paid in:

SE Power networks PLC – Annual Wayleaves Rental **£50.19**

Bank Statement as at 31st December 2023 - Current Account £41,962.83

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

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February Invoice Payments (Banking Report circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting.)

DD	Lili Waste Services	Waste Collection February	£102.38 (Vat £17.06)
Bacs	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages January	£180.57
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Clerk Salary January	£868.12
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	Gravel & Varnish	£12.00 (Vat £2.00)
Bacs	Mrs D Horswell	4 x litter pickers	£12.99 (Vat £2.17)
Bacs	HMRC	PAYE & NIC January	£243.61
DD	XLN	Telephone & Broadband February	£81.13 (Vat £13.52)
Bacs	BVHMC	Hall Hire 12/2/24	£24.00
Bacs	Zurich Insurance	Annual Insurance Renewal	£889.35
DD	HugoFox	Monthly Website Charge	£11.99
Bacs	Cutters Garden Services	Hedge & 3 x footpath cut	£320.00

Total Paid Out: £2,746.14

Paid in:

BVHMC – Waste Collection for November & December **£85.32**

Bank Statement as at 31st January 2024 - Current Account £39,797.59

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

Proposed by Cllr. Hutt, Seconded by Cllr. Jeffers.

All Members present **APPROVED** and **AGREED** the payments.

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

PLANNING REPORT January & February 2024

Planning Applications:

23/02220 - Single-storey rear extension following the demolition of existing garage - **34 School Lane** – BPC has no objection to this application.

Decision Notices by CCC:

There have been no decisions due to the Cyber Incident at Canterbury City Council.

Note: The broken pavement outside 47 Blean Common has been repaired by KCC. This occurred as a result of a creation of a new vehicle crossover which has, of yet, not been granted planning permission.

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6. Reports from County Cllr. and Ward Cllrs:

6.1 Ward Cllr. Smith reported on:

- Litter bin collection and fly-tipping in Denstroude Lane which he has reported to the relevant CCC Officer. He asked the clerk to forward the resident's emails on further problems that have occurred with litter in this road.
- Consultations on a Whitstable Town Council being formed.

6.2 County Cllr. Thomas reported on:

- KCC Budget - meeting on Monday.
- KCC are working with Kent College on a trial bus service through Rough Common which will operate on Mondays and Wednesdays starting on 3rd March. This is to replace the lost bus service which was cut by Stagecoach.
- KCC have received an extra £10 million from the Government and, although, seemingly a large sum, will not go very far.

7. Reports and Updates:

7.1 Village Hall Report: - Cllr. King

The hall is very busy at present, with several new private groups booking one offs and most of the existing groups continuing for the year ahead.

7.2 N.H.W:

All relevant reports are circulated to Cllrs.

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

Cllr. Samuelson has walked several footpaths in the village which are, obviously, muddy at this time of the year.

7.4 Highways Report: Cllr Jeffers.

Local road closures have all been circulated. There is a large puddle at the bottom of Honey Hill/Pean Hill.

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

Nothing to report.

7.6 Clerks Report:

Recreation Ground

Ken has spread shingle on the pedestrian gate access to the recreation ground.

Community event Kent Police Engaging Communities Team attended Faversham Market on Friday 12th January 2024 offering a Meet and Greet the community day.

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Parish Councillor Planning training by CCC on 16 or 23 January 2024 – online sessions.

New Planters: I met with Peter from Meadow Grange at the beginning of January to establish the siting of the two new planters and which have now been ordered. They will be planted up in May when the summer planting will be done in all five planters.

8 Blean Common – bungalow has been sold and the hedge is overgrown onto the pavement – has been reported to KCC – Ref 750751 - Enquiry attended - more work required.

29 School Lane – property sold – overgrown vegetation onto the pavement – reported to KCC - Ref 776087 – this has now been cleared.

Manhole cover on A290 by bus stop at Tyler Hill Road which is noisy as vehicles drive over it has been reported to KCC Ref 772298 – has been passed to other authority.

Ditches in Tyler Hill Road – The University Estates Dept. will instruct their Land Agent to contact each of their tenant farmers and remind them of their responsibilities included within their tenancy agreement which does include the maintenance of ditches.

Nature Reserve

Stuart, the beekeeper for the bee hives in the Nature Reserve, has told Hazel that due to the concern of Asian Hornets attacking the hives it may be necessary to put traps up to catch them. She doesn't know at the moment what this entails but will let us know more when she has spoken to him.

CCC Parish Engagement Meeting – 18th April – The Guildhall – 7pm – 9.30pm.

Internal Audit – booked for 9th May.

Dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings in the coming year unless for any reason they have to be changed. 11th March; 8th April (Annual Assembly); 13th May (Annual Parish Council meeting); 10th June; 8th July; 9th September; 14th October; 11th November; 9th December.

7 Newsletter: Cllr. Akers.

The feedback from the first newsletter is that it has been very well received. It is expected that the next issue will be produced around spring/summertime.

8. Matters raised by the Public:

Following on from the last meeting when it was raised that the only option for payment of garden waste bins is online due to the cyber incident affecting the CCC website this is not now an option at the present time, however, it was thought that you can phone CCC to pay.

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

9.1 Drainage on Honey Hill.

This has been raised by a resident on Honey Hill who has complained about the bad state of the sewerage system on Honey Hill. Just before the end of 2023 the sewer burst again following an earlier burst a few hundred yards away a few months earlier. Following the first burst the polluted soil has not yet been removed. On New Year's Day the pumping station at the bottom of Honey Hill had to be unblocked and sewerage removed by tanker.

Unless Southern Water undertake major structural improvements to the system these bursts are set to get worse. The storm pipe in the ground overflows into the adjacent Swalecliffe Brook. The storm drain cover outside 73 Honey Hill has lifted with the storm overflow running into the road. The gully nearby is blocked and the road floods. This has been reported to Kent Highways and no action has been taken. BPC will contact Southern Water.

9.2 Drainage ditches in Tyler Hill Road.

As reported in the clerk's report the clerk has written to the University and the University Estates Dept. will instruct their Land Agent to contact each of their tenant farmers and remind them of their responsibilities included within their tenancy agreement which does include the maintenance of ditches.

9.3 Update: Village Sign.

The clerk has spoken to both contractors involved in the erection of the sign.

9.4 KCC 30mph Toolkit.

The toolkit has been received from KCC and includes posters, a large banner and various size stickers for the 30mph area. The Councillors had a discussion on where they could be put. We also have 30mph bin stickers for residents to put on their bins. It was agreed that it would be put on Blean Residents Facebook page for residents to contact the clerk either by email or popping into the office on a Tuesday to collect bin stickers if required.

9.5 Annual Assembly agenda and speakers for 8th April.

It was suggested to contact Kent Wildlife Trust again this year to see if they were willing to give a talk on the update in Blean Woods.

10. Councillors' Reports:

10.1 Cllr. Russell reported on the Christmas evensong service at Blean Church where she had read one of the lessons. It was very well attended with mince pies and wine following the service. She mentioned that they have produced a cookery book.

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11. Any Other Business for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting on 11th March 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.16pm.

Dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings in the coming year unless for any reason they have to be changed.

11th March; 8th April (Annual Assembly); 13th May (Annual Parish Council meeting); 10th June; 8th July; 9th September; 14th October; 11th November; 9th December.

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

Date _____

Signature _____