

**BEKESBOURNE WITH PATRIBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 12 JANUARY 2015**

Present: Parish Cllr Andrea Nicholson (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Christine Sladden
Parish Cllr Pauline Pritchard
Parish Cllr Graham Duplock
Parish Cllr Julia Maltby

Mrs Gail Hubbard, Clerk to the Council
There were no members of the public.

52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Gibson (abroad with work), Cllr Pearson (unwell), Cllr Muggridge (work commitment), County Cllr Michael Northey, Dr Field, Julia Dale. City Cllr Simon Cook to arrive late (running Cubs that finishes at 8pm).

53 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2014 and 24 NOVEMBER 2014

The minutes from the previous meeting on 10th November and the extra ordinary meeting held on 24th November were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meetings.

54 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr Sladden said that she had attended the Emergency Planning Meeting on 17th November, which was encouraging PC's to create emergency plans. It was agreed that we would hold a subcommittee meeting in January. Clerk to email round dates and arrange.

The poor state of the repair works on the mini roundabout was noted. Cllr Maltby mentioned the works done to the triangular piece on Shepherds Close Road; the white lines have been put around it but nothing else. Clerk to report this and also the potholes on Keepers Hill.

The scheduled road closure on Station Road on 8th January to enable Highways to carry out a full cleanse and investigation of the system was disrupted by the heavy rain, which flooded the carriageway again. Works to be rescheduled.

It was noted that the footway clearance works on Station Road had now been finished and made the path much more passable.

A response had been received from Highways to our request for speed limit reductions through Patribourne to 20mph, to extend the 30mph on Station road back to the village hall, and reduce Bekesbourne Hill to 30mph. As follows;

KCC Highways and Transportation and Waste follows national guidance laid down by the Department for Transport (DfT) in setting speed limits. The police have in the past raised concerns and objections regarding the implementation of some lower speed limits, which have produced little or no change in driver behaviour, and in some cases have brought into disrepute previously well observed speed limits. It is essential to meet the right balance between the needs of local residents and drivers. For this reason speed limits will only be altered where there is recorded and quantifiable evidence of a safety problem caused by speed. This is assessed by analysing the personal injury crash record for the past 3 years of available data.

The crash record has been checked and within the last three years there have been no recorded incidents in Patribourne Road, Old Palace Road, Keepers Hill and Station Road and there has been one slight crash in The Street and two slight crashes in Bekesbourne Hill

but none have resulted from vehicles speeding. This does not provide evidence of a safety problem at these locations which could be addressed by lowering the speed limit and therefore your request cannot receive priority funding at present. Crashes involving damage only are not recorded as it is not a requirement to report these to the police.

Cllr Gibson had asked for a speed reduction right the way through to Littlebourne to be considered for safety reasons. Many pedestrians use the road to access Howletts and properties. It was agreed this could not be requested, certainly in light of the above.

55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

56 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR (FROM CLERK)

Cllr Northey had wanted to point out the KCC budget is published today and now on their website www.kent.gov.uk

57 LGBCE ELECTORAL REVIEW OF KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

In the same way that the LGBCE carried out the electoral review of Canterbury City, they are now to do the same for KCC. The consultation runs until 2 March 2015. The review aims to deliver electoral equality for voters across the county, some county councillors represent many more, or many fewer electors than their colleagues elsewhere in the county. The review aims to correct those imbalances. It will propose;

1. Total number of Councillors to be elected to the council in future
2. The number of divisions
3. Number of Councillors representing each division
4. Division boundaries
5. Names of divisions

This is a public consultation and views are sought. It was agreed the clerk would draft a letter to the LGBCE, expressing the PC's need to remain in the same KCC ward as Bridge PC. We were split from Bridge in the City Councillor review and would not want to see the same thing happen with regards to our County Councillor.

58 REPORT FROM CITY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Cook arrived at 8.10pm.

He reported that the developer Corinthian Land, who are to build the South Canterbury estate, had filed an environmental impact report just prior to Christmas. They will start consulting resident bodies and PCs, then finally the general public. But none of this will happen until the Local Plan is signed and sealed. The estate is to be known as Mountfield Park and progress can be viewed online www.mountfieldpark.co.uk . Cllr Cook will keep us updated.

CCC's budget consultation is now complete and should be published by the end of the month. There is also to be a best value review of the concurrent funding, PCs will be contacted very soon to take part in this.

Cllr Cook departed at 8.30pm.

Cllr Duplock then reported to the Councillors that he would be standing as the Liberal Democrat candidate for the City Council elections.

59 PARISH MATTERS

DISCUSSION ON FUTURE STORAGE OF PARISH HISTORY BOARDS

The clerk brought along an example of the history boards that are currently stored in Jill Thomas's house. It was agreed that the PC did wish to keep these parish history boards but Cllrs were concerned over the location of the proposed storage cupboard and the cost involved. The VHMC is meeting tomorrow night and the PC would like the VHMC to look again at the best location for the cupboard.

Cllr Maltby departed at 8.50pm.

REPORT BACK FROM POLICE FORUM

Cllr Pritchard attended the Police Forum on 25th November. The main points were;

- Feedback was requested from PCSOs, to give a report for PC meetings
- www.crashmap.co.uk records accident data
- Crime and disorder data can be found at www.police.co.uk you then enter the postcode to give the local statistics
- www.immobilise.com is the national property register. Register your valuables online for free and help Police identify the owners of recovered property. Property updates you make are immediately available to the Police nationally, combat the sale of stolen gadgets & valuables, alert the second-hand trade & publicly checkable stolen goods database. Simplify insurance claims and Police reports with certificates of ownership.
- Any Policing concerns we have we are to contact Sharon Addley.

60 CORRESPONDENCE

A. Kent Resource Partnership – campaign ‘Pledge4Plastics’

Details of a new campaign to increase recycling. In essence, the Pledge4Plastics campaign seeks to encourage residents to recycle more plastics items from rooms around the home, especially plastic bottles. The national capture rate of plastic bottles (and pots, tubs and trays where collected by councils) is known to be far less than the potential amount. Capturing more of these items provides better value for money for councils, increases recycling performance, and reduces use of virgin materials in the production of new plastic items. Residents will be receiving leaflets through their doors.

B. Community Resilience and Emergency Planning

The KRF(Kent Resilience Forum) would like help in promoting the availability of the electronic version of their handbook “What should I do in an Emergency” to residents and its availability on the Kent Prepared website <http://www.kentprepared.org.uk> I have put this leaflet onto our website and the leaflet on power cuts on the noticeboard. Clerk has ordered 40 hard copies which need to be collected.

C. Warden Consultation outcome

KCC have announced that it is proposing to its full Cabinet meeting in January that they should retain their current level of community wardens, which is about 70. The original consultation proposal was to reduce the number of wardens to 46 but they have re-considered it following nearly 1,200 responses. More than 100 responses were from district and parish councils.

D. DCLG has just published its consultation on Parish Polls. It can be accessed via the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/parish-polls>. The deadline is 30 January 2015. The lists of questions are as follows:

Q1. What are your views on the proposed trigger? The proposal is to provide in regulations that:

No poll shall be taken unless the poll is demanded by the majority of local government electors present at the meeting and the electors demanding a poll constitute not less than – 1) 10% of local government electors for the community, or 2) 60 electors (if 10% of electors exceeds 60)

Q2. What are your views on the Government's proposal to modernise voting arrangements?

The proposal is to provide in regulations:

- that a poll must be open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.;
- that the same facilities for disabled people as used in other polls/referendums must be provided (e.g. allow documents to be translated into braille and provided in audio format, and the use of ramps at polling stations to make them accessible for disabled voters);
- that the poll may be conducted in accordance with such rules as applicable to the conduct of other polls as the Returning Officer considers appropriate, subject to the inclusion of postal and proxy voting for the poll being with the agreement of the parish council;
- that, at the discretion of the principle council's Returning Officer, a parish poll may be combined, if timing permits, with another poll. In this situation a parish poll must be conducted according to the rules of the other poll.

Q3. Do you consider that the proposed criteria sufficiently tighten the subject matter so that a poll can only be held on a parish issue? The proposal is to provide in regulations that:

A poll can be called on any question arising at a meeting which concerns affairs which relate to a parish council/meetings functions and meets the following criteria: 1. The subject matter was discussed at the parish meeting. 2. The subject matter directly affects those who live and/ or work in the parish; and 3. The parish council/meeting has the capacity to make a decision on the subject matter including any decision as a statutory consultee, but not including a decision simply to agree a declaratory statement on the matter.

Q4. What are your views on the proposals to:

A: Change the calculation date for the number of electors on the electoral register to 1 December - bringing calculation time in line with other legislation.

B: Provide that only one poll can be called on the same subject in a 12 month period.

C: Provide that principal councils should place the results on their website and also on parish and town council websites, where these are available.

D: Issue guidance and encourage Returning Officers to provide a parish with an estimate of costs once a poll has been called and election arrangements agreed.

E: Provide that after a poll has been called, the parish council should be able to publish a short, factual, balanced and objective statement about the question of the poll.

E. Reply from KALC Clive Powell to query over land ownership/maintenance

He said that strictly speaking it is a legal matter of fact whether you own the land, have an interest or abut to it (i.e. you are affected). The PC would have no direct connection or insurable interest and are therefore just third party because of your status as an LA.

The issue for a Local Council is the extent to which we are "front of house": this is generally accepted but of course it is not really prescribed in law and our powers are "as and when" here. He thought that the LC must monitor and articulate on issues so certainly having the issued raised, discussed and offering our good services falls within our remit. This could well mean that what you have done in attempting to ascertain ownership and maybe contacting the owners and Highways Authority to alert them and express your concerns. He also pointed out the dangers of for example using S137 powers in these circumstances: sets a direct and indirect

precedent (the owners may expect it in future and other owners with similar problems may come to us in the future).

F. KALC election awareness event

KALC are organising 13 awareness events around the County from January to March in the run up to the local elections in 2015, for those considering becoming a councillor. Our local event is to be held on Wednesday 28th January 6.30pm for refreshments for a 7pm start to 8.30pm, this is at Tyler Hill Memorial Hall. Notice advertising the Canterbury event displayed on village hall noticeboard. It was suggested that an item is put in the Gazette column by Jill Thomas advertising for new Cllrs for Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne.

61 APPROVE PAYMENTS/TRANSFERS

The following cheque payments were APPROVED by all;

CHQ734 Southern Water allotment bill	£22.57
CHQ735 Clerks salary November & December	£622.54
CHQ736 Clerks expenses November & December	£47.19

62 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

For information only;

CA/14/02423/LB – 2 The Green, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne CT3 5BS. Relocation of bathroom and soil vent pipe and installation of new partitions. AWAITING DECISION

CA/14/02420/FUL & CA/14/02421/LB The Gate House Old Palace Road, Bekesbourne CT4 5ES. Single carport with store. AWAITING DECISION

CA/14/02448/LB. The Gate House, Old Palace Rd, Bekesbourne CT4 5ES. Internal alterations to increase head height of ground floor passage and installation of wood burning stove. AWAITING DECISION

CA/14/-2472/FUL – Waterfall Cottage, Patrixbourne Rd, Patrixbourne CT4 5BL. Erection of a single storey rear extension. AWAITING DECISION

CA/ 13/01033/FUL - Land off Cranmer Close, Station Road, Bekesbourne. Erection of a 3 bedroom chalet bungalow. AWAITING DECISION

CA/14/02186/FUL- Handforth, School Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5ER. Proposed loft conversion and new rear pitch roof dormer. GRANTED

The PC had received a complaint about the height of the new fences at the bottom of Bifrons Road, clerk to investigate with CCC what is allowed close to the Highway and a junction and report back to the PC.

63 AOB – FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Cllr Duplock is to attend next week's KALC meeting on our behalf and report back. Cllr Nicholson is interested in attending the CPRE flooding conference, clerk to look into booking a place.

During the Christmas period the high winds affected some of the trees on the Wappings footpath, Cllr Muggridge removed one which was blocking the path but there are others that need removing. Clerk to check the current state of the path and report any further work required to Network Rail.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....