

**BEKESBOURNE WITH PATRIBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 9 MARCH 2015**

Present: Parish Cllr Andrea Nicholson (Chairman)
Parish Cllr Christine Sladden
Parish Cllr Pauline Pritchard
Parish Cllr Graham Duplock
Parish Cllr Julia Maltby
Parish Cllr David Muggridge
County Cllr Michael Northey
City Cllr Cook (arrived at 8pm)

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

64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Gibson (working). City Cllr Simon Cook to arrive late (running Cubs that finishes at 8pm).

65 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2015

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting. Sharon Adley's name altered to one 'd' under item 59.

66 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The archive cupboard discussed at the last meeting has now been built in the village hall. Jill Thomas had arranged this and sourced the majority of the funds, £100 from herself, Village Hall £200 and £100 from the Bridge and District History society, this left a shortfall of circa £100. It was proposed by Cllr Pritchard that we pay this to make up the difference; this was seconded by Cllr Duplock and agreed by all. There is some shelving available in this cupboard for planning archives from the PC which will be very useful.

The state of the road surface on Bifrons Hill was flagged up again, some potholes had been marked to be filled but this would still leave more. Cllr Maltby also raised the state of the triangular piece of verge on Shepherds Close rd. Clerk to report further potholes and situation on Shepherds Close Rd.

Cllr Duplock mentioned that he had attended the A257 Group meeting last night week which he found useful, they had talked about the use of 20mph limits being accepted in urban areas but being refused in rural areas. The secretary was to be writing to KCC regarding this.

67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

68 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Northey had four items to mention;

- 1) Firstly Cllr Northey usually attends this A257 Group meeting but was unable to this time. He had been piloting a scheme of accidents being reported direct to KCC, so they have a record of 'damage only accidents' as these often go unreported to the police or KCC. He is hoping this scheme can be rolled out elsewhere, once a new pro-forma has been agreed.
- 2) The boundary review of KCC
On average each County Cllr has 13,200 electors. This review will see the number of County Cllrs cut from 84 to 81, so areas will be widened and boundaries changed.

Cllr Northey said we were right to have submitted our response calling to remain with the same ward as Bridge.

- 3) Litterpicking. A litterpick has been booked for the A2, this will include the laybys. Serco will then carry out the A2 slip road litterpick up to our junction. The problem with HGV's resting in and littering the laybys was discussed, Cllr Northey suggested we write to Julian Brazier asking him to fight for Kent to get some of the £10 lorry tax (that the Government get from foreign lorries entering the county). At present Kent get none of this even though we bear the brunt of the antisocial behaviour. Clerk to action.
- 4) Secondary school offers
Some 18,193 children applied for secondary school places in Kent this year, 2,299 of these were applications from outside Kent.
81% got their 1st choice school
91% got either their 1st or 2nd choice school
96% got 1 of their 4 choices
This is a higher percentage than other counties
There are also more school partnerships, where stronger schools help weaker ones, like Bridge and Littlebourne schools at present.

69 REPORT FROM CITY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Cook arrived at 8pm.

Cllr Cook reported back from the concurrent review meeting, which he had chaired, the main points coming out of the meeting were that the rural spend needs to be inline with what is spent in the urban areas. At present £2.98 per head is the urban spend figure and the rural one is £2.50 per head. Also the way in which the money is split between the parishes needs to be fair. There is to be a CCC meeting next week and a report to be written by the end of March, ideally to be signed off by the executive in April ready for applications in the autumn.

The Local Plan is with the Planning Inspector, expected to be approved early summer.

70 PARISH MATTERS

DISCUSS LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS

The clerk read out an email received from Southern Housing (who operates the present scheme in Cranmer and Aspinall Close) as follows;

Southern Housing Group already has some homes in management within Bekesbourne and we have been approached by someone who owns a small piece of land that may be suitable for a small number of affordable homes to be built for local people. As you are no doubt aware it would be a long process to get such a project underway, starting with a survey to assess the extent of local needs, and then probably followed by an assessment of all possible land to establish which site (s) if any would be suitable for a 'rural exceptions' development. We would be interested in taking this forward provided there was support locally. Do you think there would be much support for new affordable housing (around 10 new homes) and what would the Parish Council's view be of a proposal to build new affordable housing in the village?

This has been confirmed by SH as the land behind Cranmer and Apsinall Close, it was also confirmed that they would be looking to do the homes as local needs housing and there would be a section 106 agreement that would set out the terms on which people with a local connection would get priority in allocations not just initially but subsequently. It would also likely contain a means by which they would be kept as affordable housing in perpetuity, as this is standard practice. The last property to be let in Cranmer Close had no one with an eligible Bekesbourne connection so was let to someone who had a Bridge connection.

Cllr Pritchard proposed that we respond to SH to say we would be interested in supporting this on the proviso that there is a need locally for them, this was seconded by Cllr Maltby and agreed by all. Clerk to respond and find out what the next steps would be to assess local need.

REPORT BACK FROM KALC MEETING

Cllr Duplock attended this meeting on 20th January, it began with the speakers who were unable to attend the previous meeting in October. They were Richard Norma and Sian Pettman of the Canterbury Society and they talked about the change in Governance of the City of Canterbury and the society's campaign, "Campaign for Democracy in Canterbury District" (CDCD). The campaign begun in February 2014 and called for CCC to change its style of governance from the executive to the committee structure, the council set up a Political Management Member Panel to consider this and make recommendations. This resulted in the formation of a Governance Commission in July which recommended the change of system, this was approved by full council in November 2014. The approved system will have three main committees to replace the executive for decision making. This will come into operation following the elections in May.

KALC had written to minister pushing for 100% funding for concurrent expenses, its not a grant. Some groups of neighbouring parishes are meeting to discuss the 'Witterhsam scheme' to take responsibility for work in their parishes not being done by the county and receiving cash from KCC to pay for this. Next meeting date 21st April.

REPORT BACK FROM CPRE FLOODING CONFERENCE

Cllr Nicholson attended this event on 6th February. Cllr Nicholson said it was useful event. The Chairman of Yalding PC had spoken and gave some useful hints such as having a battery operated mobile phone charger, or a solar one, as the first thing you need if the power is off is your mobile to be working and it will need to be recharged regularly. The phone is vital if your broadband goes off and you can't e-mail. Parts of Yalding were without electricity for days- plus the heavy flooding. The worst flooding hit on Xmas Day and most agencies were understaffed because of the holiday. Lots of self-help went on such as the Scouts ferrying people in their canoes. They had a good community rapport working already and that helped because people helped each other.

A huge issue at the moment is building on the flood plain. Canterbury has passed large numbers of applications in the last few years in the flood plain- the new flats in the centre by the river. With climate change predicted to increase the risk, this kind of development is not good. There are currently 42 flood projects awaiting approval and funding across the country.

It was suggested that a solar powered battery charged be purchased and placed with the emergency backpack (which also contains a head torch, hand held torch, clipboard) in the new archive cupboard in the village hall. Clerk to arrange.

REPORT BACK ON EMERGENCY PLAN

The clerk reported that the information collecting letters are now ready to go out to all residents in the parish, this will be done along with the APM letter as posted through everyone's doors. The volunteer sheet can either be returned to the Chairman, Clerk or via the APM. It is also available to download from the website. Once this information is gathered the Emergency Plan itself can be finalised for release. The NHW co-ordinators had also been asked for assistance in gathering and relaying information.

REPORT BACK FROM TRANSPARENCY TRAINING SESSION

The clerk had attended a training session run by KALC in Lenham on 26th February, which highlighted the changes coming into effect for the smaller parishes, those with a turnover of less than £25,000, which we fall into. We will continue to be externally audited until 2017, as the contract with the auditor runs until then, after this date there will be no requirement for external audit. Parishes will need to instead publish everything on their websites to make it available for anyone to view. This transparency Code in fact comes into place on 1st April 2015, so our accounts for this year and various other items relating to the yearend will need to be uploaded onto the website. This includes agendas and minutes for all meetings to be done as and when the meetings fall.

REPORT BACK FROM CONCURRENT REVIEW MEETING

This meeting was attended by Cllr Duplock and the Clerk on Friday 27th February, and discussed under Cllr Cook's report. Multiyear contracts were mentioned, this idea went down well at the meeting as it could work well to manage a budget over a 3/4 year period, it would also mean less administration work for CCC and clerks as an application would be made for the 3/4 year period rather than annually.

Cllr Northey, Cllr Cook and Cllr Maltby left the meeting at 9.25pm

71 CORRESPONDENCE

A. Local Government Finance Settlement

KALC informed us on correspondence from NALC regarding the Ministers statement on the Local Government Finance Settlement and confirming that NO Parish and Town Councils have been made subject to the referendum threshold. This is obviously very welcome news and is one that we, NALC and our member councils pressed for in response to the provisional settlement. There is no mention of LCTS which KALC will work closely with NALC on.

B. Southern Water Bills 2015-16

The average combined water and wastewater bill for the coming year (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016) will be £410, a decrease of six per cent, or £27, compared with last year. This not only covers the cost of our day-to-day water and wastewater services, but will also enable the delivery of a wide-ranging investment programme under our Business Plan for 2015/20. The average annual bill for customers receiving both water and wastewater services from us in 2015/16 works out at an average cost of £1.12 a day for more than 270 litres of water supplied per household and most of that then taken away as wastewater which they treat and recycle.

C. Southern Water's metering programme

Their five-year programme to install nearly half a million water meters is nearing completion. Since the programme began in 2010, they have installed nearly 400,000 meters. They have also exchanged 92,500 existing meters with new automated meter reading (AMR) meters that have a built in leak alarm. They are installing water meters to help secure future water resources because the South East has been classified as an area of serious water stress by the government and households on a meter tend to use less water. When the metering programme ends, households across Sussex, Kent and Hampshire will be saving 30 million litres of water every day – that's enough to meet the daily water needs of towns the size of Ashford and Gravesend combined. If they need to fit a meter inside a customer's home, they will hand-deliver an appointment card and ask the customer to contact us as soon as possible to arrange a convenient date and time for us to install the meter. Everyone working on Southern Water's metering programme carries identification and customers should always ask to see this before allowing anyone into their home. If

customers are suspicious they should telephone Southern Water on 0845 278 0845 to confirm the employee's identity. To date, 62 per cent of households are saving, on average, £12 a month. To help the remaining 38 per cent whose bills have increased we have introduced support tariffs.

D. Our relationship with Canterbury District Council

Correspondence received from KALC regarding the changes to the new District Council. Members will be aware that after the elections of a new District Council in May 2015 the Governance of the District will be under a Committee system, replacing the current Leader and cabinet system. Many of the details of the new Committee system have already been resolved but there are five outstanding issues that have yet to be agreed. They all have a real bearing on how the parish and town councils of the District will relate to the decision making of the new Council. They are:

- Area panels
- Community Governance Review
- Co-option onto working parties
- Consultation strategy
- Public speaking rights

At the next Canterbury Area meeting in April, instead of having a guest speaker, they are to have a discussion on the Area Committee's relationship with the new District Council. Hopefully this discussion will consider whether it will be possible to devise an agreed set of principles by which the views of members of the Area Committee can be represented collectively on the above five issues. Cllr Duplock said he would be available to attend this meeting on our behalf.

Capital funding

The clerk put in an application for funding to replace the pavilion kitchen at the rec ground. We have been awarded the full amount of £1511 towards this project, the money will be paid to us in April.

Play area works

The Clerk has given Playmaintain the go ahead to carry out the repair works necessary to the safety surface and the swing shackles.

Mobile Skate park hire

The clerk has contacted Bridge PC to see if they would be interested in joining us to set up a skate day. The clerk has obtained some prices for a days equipment hire, the best price is in excess of £1500. We would await to hear back from Bridge PC but without external funding this would be too expensive to take any further. The other possible option suggested would be to charge those that use it on the day.

72 ADOPT NEW FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The clerk had previously circulated this document to Cllrs for reading. These regulations are a template from NALC that can be altered to suit the individual parishes' needs to a degree. Under the internal audit section it calls for a written or in person report to the PC at least once per financial year, this is not currently followed. This also flagged up the fact that such a report would have to be published on the website as part of the Transparency Code. There would also be more ownness on the internal audit once the external audits cease in 2017. Clerk to speak with current auditor to see if she is happy with these changes as it is only carried out on a voluntary basis at present or if we need to rethink our arrangements. Clerk asked to find out from KALC if this report element could be tweaked within the regulations or not. It was thus agreed to hold fire on approving these regulations until we had heard back on this.

73 APPROVE PAYMENTS/TRANSFERS

The following cheque payments were APPROVED by all;

CHQ737 Cllr Nicolson reimbursement for flooding conference	£40.00
CHQ738 Clerks salary January & February	£619.84
CHQ739 Clerks expenses January & February	£55.52
CHQ740 Lower Hardres PC -Speedwatch equipment hire	£60.00
CHQ741 KALC transparency training – clerk	£25.00
CHQ742 Clerk reimbursement for printing works	£105.99

74 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

CA/15/00136/FUL & CA/15/00142/LB	Conversion of outbuilding to residential annexe including rebuilding of the rear wing; erection of a garage and formation of a new entrance and driveway. Bifrons House, The Street, Patrixbourne CT4 5DA	Response by 13 March The PC had no objection to this application. They would not want it converted into a separate property in the future though.
CA/15/00288/LB	Replacement first floor bedroom window The Gate House, The Old Palace, Old Palace Rd, Bekesbourne CT4 5ES	Response by 13 March The PC had no objection to this application.
CA/15/00277/FUL & CA/15/00278/LB	Cold Harbour Farm House, Cold Harbour Lane, Bekesbourne CT4 5HU. Erection of swimming pool building with gym, storage and changing facilities.	AWAITING DECISION
CA/15/00104/FUL	Cherry Trees, Patrixbourne Rd, Patrixbourne CT4 5BP. Extension of existing rear dormer window to provide new ensuite and provision of rooflight	AWAITING DECISION
CA/00006/FUL	The Gate House Old Palace Road, Bekesbourne CT4 5ES. Replacement kitchen window.	AWAITING DECISION
CA/00006/FUL	The Barton, Patrixbourne Rd, Bekesbourne CT4 5BP. Demolition of garage and construction of two storey dwelling.	AWAITING DECISION
CA/14/02423/LB	2 The Green, Keepers Hill, Patrixbourne CT3 5BS. Relocation of bathroom and soil vent pipe and installation of new partitions.	GRANTED
CA/14/02420/FUL & CA/14/02421/LB	The Gate House Old Palace Road, Bekesbourne CT4 5ES. Single carport with store.	GRANTED
CA/14/02448/LB	The Gate House, Old Palace Rd, Bekesbourne CT4 5ES. Internal alterations to increase head	GRANTED

	height of ground floor passage and installation of wood burning stove	
CA/14/-2472/FUL	Waterfall Cottage, Patrixbourne Rd, Patrixbourne CT4 5BL. Erection of a single storey rear extension.	GRANTED
CA/ 13/01033/FUL	Land off Cranmer Close, Station Road, Bekesbourne. Erection of a 3 bedroom chalet bungalow.	GRANTED

75 ACCIDENTS OR HGV MOVEMENTS

An accident had occurred on the A2 slip road involving two vehicles on Friday 6th March. A vehicle had also damaged the wall of the horse field in School Lane, and driven off, two weeks ago.

76 AOB – FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Cllr Pritchard asked that we advertise the mobile library service at the APM, she had written an item for On The Nail but wanted further coverage before we loose the service.
Cllr Duplock reported that the dog fouling posters put up at Aerodrome Road appeared to be working.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....