

BETHERSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2020 in Bethersden Village Hall at 1900hrs.

PRESENT

Councillors: A Boyd (Chairman), E Allen, S Buckman, P Buss, G Burnett, J Crannis, K Mitchell and C Tearle (Parish Clerk).

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr J Blandford and 7 members of the public.

Reports

Please see Appendix B

18/2020 Apologies

Cllrs P Boyd and K Brannan

19/2020 Chairman`s Opening Remarks

Please see Appendix A

20/2020 Minutes of the meeting of the 12th February 2020

It was resolved to approve them.

21/2020 Declarations of Interest

None

22/2020 Clerk`s Report

The annual internal audit will take place on the 26th May 2020.

23/2020 Planning

a) Permitted Planning Applications

18/01339/CONB/AS-Darling Buds Fm, Tuesnoad Lane, Bethersden, TN26 3EQ

Discharge of conditions: 8 & 10.

18/01339/CONA/AS-Larkins Barn, Darling Buds Fm, Tuesnoad Lane, Bethersden, TN26 3EQ

Discharge of condition 5.

20/00037/AS-Romney House, The Street, Bethersden, TN26 3AD

T1 – Weeping Willow front of property – To reduce the height by 1m back to previous cut points.

20/00076/AS-Pilgrims Rest, Old Surrenden Manor Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3DJ

Formation of a pond for Great Crested Newts.

a) Refused Planning Applications

20/00003/AS-Green Lane Bungalow, Green Lane, Bethersden, TN26 3AD

Notification for prior approval for a change of use from workshop barn into a residential building.

b) To Consider the following Applications

18/01339/CONB/AS-Darling Buds Fm, Tuesnod Lane, Bethersden, TN26 3EQ

Discharge of conditions: 8 & 10.

It was resolved to make no observations.

20/00058/AS-London House, The Street, Bethersden, TN26 2AD

Proposed 4 bedroom chalet style dwelling with garaging.

The Council was addressed by the applicant's agent in support of the application, by two members of the public against the application and a written submission against.

The Council resolved to oppose this application on the grounds of:

a) **Rear land development**

b) **It will overlook the neighbouring property**

c) **It's in a conservation area which is against the Bethersden Neighbourhood Plan.**

20/00166/AS-Agricultural Buildings at Etchden Barn, Etchden Rd, Bethersden,

Proposed change of use of redundant agricultural land to residential to include demolition of existing corrugated iron barn and erection of new car port and log store to serve dwelling granted prior approval under application 18/01408/AS.

It was resolved to support this application as it will tidy up the site.

20/00206/AS-Vitters Oak and Vitters Oak Barn, Old Surrenden Manor Rd, Bethersden, TN 26 3DW

Retrospective application for the installation and operation of a community ground source heat pump system which comprises 2 pumps, slinky array and associated piping and cabling.

It was resolved to support this application.

20/00240/AS-Vitters Oak, Old Surrenden Manor Road, Bethersden, Ashford, Kent, TN26 3DW

The installation and operation of a Solar PV system installation, comprising 60no. ground mounted solar panels, 1no. inverter underground cabling

It was resolved to support this application.

24/2020 Finance

It was resolved to approve the schedule of payments and the current bank balances.

Balances as at 1 st March 2020	£
Lloyds Bank - George Field Account	28,421.68
Lloyds Bank – Treasurer`s Account	36,726.39
Co-op Account	20,038.59
INCOME	
Lloyds Bank Interest	1.25
Tennis Club – Floodlights	636.00
EXPENDITURE	
C Tearle – Parish Clerk (Feb 2020)	1,050.18
C Tearle – Expenses (Feb 2019)	221.45
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mar 2020)	286.91
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (Mar 2020)	218.46
All Clear Services (Small Works Contractor)	797.62
R&A Construct	155.00
G K Graphics (G/Field Sign)	93.60

m4em Garden Products (Llama shed re - cemetery extension)

520.00

25/2020 Bethersden Neighbourhood Plan – Housing Needs Survey

It was noted that this will be done by Action with Communities in Rural Kent, the forms being sent out on the 20TH April 2020 to be returned by the 14th May 2020.

26/2020 Bus Shelter

There was a discussion on the progress to date and what we need to do.

27/2020 Parish Council Newsletter

It was resolved to produce a periodic council newsletter with Cllr E Allen as its editor.

28/2020 Highways – A28 Road Survey

It was noted that a meeting has been arranged for members of the Highways Improvement Plan Steering Group for the 26th March 2020 at the KCC Highways Office in Ashford.

29/2020 Date of the Next Meeting

This will be on Wednesday 8th April 2020 at 1900hrs or as soon as possible at the end of the Annual Parish Meeting in Bethersden Village Hall.

Appendix A

Chairman Opening Remarks

Legal Challenges-

I am pleased to report that the complaint to the Information Commissioner by a person from this parish has been investigated by the Information Commissioner who did not support the claims made and has not ordered any action by this council

While there is no monetary sum involved directly relating to the Parish council funds, it has taken many hours of paid time for the clerk and stress for both the Clerk and Chairman which was not appreciated. I thank the clerk for sticking with it and this result, along with last month's rejection of complaints to the external auditor by another person - which cost the Parish £3514.50 - must give him some satisfaction that he has been shown to be acting correctly.

Drainage-

During the last three weeks residents at Baileys Field have suffered flooding, from water from the rear of the properties as well as from the A28.

This last flood was far worse than the two previous floods. This involved that the A28 had to be closed for the Fire Service and local tanker contractors to help residents remove water to prevent greater damage to their property than that already occurred - in some cases the water went through the air vents into the properties.

The water that was disposed of on the north side of the A28, but it travelled down the field into a ditch, the exit drain was blocked and the flood topped the bank to the rear gardens of houses in Forge Hill - flooding up the walls of the houses, the gardens and drive ways

This flooding has been happening since well before 2015 and is unacceptable. There has been an agreement that the A28 road drains were to be maintained at least every year but the residents do not think that this has been done. It is reported that there is a known fault in this drain.

All this is before even further housing is built behind Baileys Field

Representations have been made yet again to Kent County Council, & Ashford Borough Council.

A meeting with KCC is arranged, to talk through the Parish Highway Improvement Plan, later this month. We will be discussing the two major items at the moment being the A28 crossing and the road drainage problems

There are 21 points, to date, for improvements on the proposed Parish HIP plan.

Childrens play area-

We have a report tonight on progress with the childrens play area improvement tonight from Cllr Eavanne Allen and Cllr Sam Buckman – the clerk received this notification after the agenda was published on the notice board

Tree plants-

The council has received 45 trees whips of three types, oak, beech and rowan. No response has been received from members except from Cllr Allen. I would propose that they are distributed by the Bethersden Gardner Society to make sure they are not wasted. Cllr Mitchell has also received 21 bare footed trees for filling in the recent tree survey,

I suggest they are treated the same way.

VE Day

A Meeting was held last night and the day is on schedule, some attractions have failed to materialise but provisional details are on Next Door. Helpers are very welcome.

Appendix B

Cllr J Blanford (ABC) said that central government had recently given a grant of £30m to KCC for the highways.

In view of the recent floods there was an overwhelming need to keep the drains and ditches clear by those responsible and for KCC Highways to do the work it promised to do back in 2015.

The Street is in urgent need of repair.

Mr McBrian said that the drains are clogged in The Street.

Mr Draper congratulated the Council on winning the argument over a Freedom of Information Request. The Information Commissioner Office finding in favor of the Council.