

BETHERSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk

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Minutes of the Bethersden Zoom Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th December 2020 at 1900hrs.

PRESENT

Cllrs A Boyd (Chairman), K Brannan, S Buckman, P Buss, G Burnett, J Crannis, K Mitchell and C Tearle (Parish Clerk).

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr: A Pickering (ABC) and one member of the public.

Reports

Please see Appendix B

90/2020 Apologies

Cllrs: P Boyd, E Allen and J Blanford (ABC)

91/2020 Chairman`s Opening Remarks

Please see Appendix A

92/2020 Minutes of the Meeting of the 25th November 2020

It was resolved to approve them.

93/2020 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs S Buckman and K Mitchell (Minute Number 95/2020(e) – DPI.

Cllr K Brannan (Minute Number 102/2020)

94/2020 Clerk`s Report

The car park at the recreation ground has been marked out.

95/2020 Planning

a) Permitted Planning Applications

20/01307-Dairy Building, Gable Hook Fm, Ashford Rd, Bethersden.

Prior approval for change of use from one agricultural barn and land within its curtilage to one dwelling house and associated operational development.

20/01567-Baylidsen House, Pluckley Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3EW

Single storey rear extension.

b) Appeal Decision

20/00493/AS-Duck House Fm, Old Surrenden Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3DN

Appeal Ref: W/4001455 – Appeal allowed for the erection for a limited period of a mobile home to house a local rural worker.

c) Withdrawn by the Applicant

20/01270/AS-London House, The Street, Bethersden, TN26 3AD

Retention of rear flat roof rear extension and toilet blocks (revision to planning permission 15/01537/AS)

20/01271/AS--London House, The Street, Bethersden, TN26 3AD

Retention of rear flat roof rear extension and toilet blocks (revision to planning permission 15/01538/AS)

d) To Consider the Following Applications

20/01531/AS-ACE Sectional Buildings. Dynes Fm, Buildings, Bethersden, TN26 3DZ

Conversion and change of use, of agricultural building to office and removal of existing canopy.

It was resolved to support this.

20/01577/AS-Runsell Oast, Pluckley Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3DD

Conversion of stables, hat store, feed and tack room into ancillary annexe accommodation.

Cllr K Brannan to appraise and advise the Parish Clerk of his conclusion.

Following the meeting the following was received:

I confirm that there is not sufficient information supplied with the application for the Parish Council to properly evaluate the impact of the proposal and be able to comment.

It is unclear what type of external doors and windows are proposed and the future use of the annex overall with the sketchy drawings supplied-

The application should have more comprehensive information supplied.

20/01593/AS-Land between Tawney Owl Barn and Spitfire Oast, Smarden Rd, Bethersden.

Change of use of land for the siting of gypsy mobile home.

It was resolved to recommend refusal on the following grounds:

- a) **Would this be an application for any other sort of dwelling eg normal bungalow, it would be rejected out of hand by the Local Planning Authority because it is outside the village envelop.**
- b) **Much of the Planning and Access Statement submitted has nothing to do with planning law. eg paras: 3.01; 3.05; 3.06; 3.08(a)(b)(c), 4.01: 7.02; 7.04 are but some examples.**
- c) **The map shown with the planning application clearly shows the application site identified as “Lazy Acres” not to be the site of the proposed dwelling. Currently on the ground there is a clear boundary division between properties. The application site being outside of Lazy Acres.**
- d) **Para 2.03 - The development would be seen from most directions, including the road.**
- e) **Para 11.01 – As seen from the highway whilst there is a track next to the proposed site there does not at the moment appear to be any hard standing as stated.**
- f) **In planning law consideration must be given to the affect such development would have on the established population.**

Should Planning Officers be minded to approve under delegated powers then we would like this application to be “called in”.

20/01681/AS-Las Cuevas, 10 Lovelace Court, Bethersden, TN26 3AY

Proposed shed/workshop

It was resolved to support this.

96/2020 Finance

a) The schedule of payments and the current bank balances was approved.

Balances as at 1 st December 2020	£
Lloyds Bank - George Field Account	25,787.69
Lloyds Bank – Treasurer`s Account	64,730.43
Co-op Account	20,038.59

INCOME

Lloyds Bank Interest	0.22
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EXPENDITURE

C Tearle (Salary Nov)	1,102.81
C Tearle (Expenses (Nov)	59.50
Countrywide George Field (Dec)	295.51
Countrywide (Dec)	225.01
Leo Lyons Digital (Website-Digital Accessibility Legislation)	640.00
PKF Littlejohn (External Auditor)	480.00
All Clear Services (Nov)	264.25

b) It was resolved to note and accept receipt of Section 3 of the Audit Report from PKF Littlejohn the external auditor.

c) It was resolved to approve a Precept Demand of £39K for the financial year 2021/22.

d) It was resolved to continue with the annual undertaking for the maintenance of the churchyard to St Margaret`s Church.

e) Bethersden Cricket Club had made a request for funding for the mowing of the outfield during 2020. It was resolved to decline this request.

Cllrs S Buckman and K Mitchell declared a DPI in the issue as Bethersden Cricket Club Committee Members and took no part in this item.

f) The Council expressed disappointment at the lack of response from the ABC Chief Executive to an enquiry about the Bears Lane development in relation to the S106 allocation.

97/2020 Recreation Ground

Cllr E Allan has uploaded some proposals onto the Bethersden Community Group Facebook. This has received feedback. We will receive these at the next meeting.

98/2020 Twinning

Bethersden PC received a proposal to create a twinning with a small village in the north of France called Gruson near Lille. It is famous for the cycling tour “Paris-Roubaix” with its well known Carrefour de l`Arbre section.

The Parish Council resolved to investigate this proposal further.

99/2020 A28 Working Group

This item was deferred

100/2020 Housing Working Group

This item was deferred

101/2020 Superfast Broadband

Cllr G Burnett volunteered to research this item with regard to Bethersden.

102/2020 Courtlands – Open Space Project

The P/Clerk was asked to write to Cllr J Blanford about this.

103/2020 The George Public House Car Park

Cllr K Brannan declared an DPI.

The P/Clerk was asked to write to Cllr A Pickering setting out the current issues.

104/2020 George Field Attenuation Tank

The P/Clerk was asked to write to Cllr A Pickering setting out the issues which have been unresolved for almost 10 years.

105/2020 Electric Vehicle Charging Points

It was decided to review the situation as and when somewhere could be found to install one.

106/2020 Date of the Next Meeting

This will be on Wednesday 10th February 2021 at 1900hrs.

APPENDIX A

Chairman`s Notes

George Public House future

Nothing further heard regards pub future or carpark

George Field boundary

The transfer of the land paperwork - nothing heard

Attenuation Tank George Field

Nothing heard

St Margaret`s Churchyard extension

Legal papers are complete and the final accounts are being settled. - we wish to reiterate the communities thanks to the generosity of Tim Stubbs

Village sign

Preparations being made for repair, refurbishment and estimates for the cost of a replacement post

Bethersden Stream

The clearing of the stream from above the School Road culvert down to below the Norton Road culvert has now been completed.

During the last heavy rains, the water through the Bethersden Stream has cleared the village very effectively down to and beyond the sewage works. It has taken about 7 years to get to this point. We are very grateful to Chris Dickens and Clarus Homes for funding the work in clearing out the stream adjoining St Margaret`s development.

We hope that this will aid the free flow of water from Forge Fields and Ashford Road to clear this part of the village. This project along with the upgrading of the foul water system by Southern Water, started in 2013 and its final completion is very gratifying for those who have been affected.

There is still the part of the stream running through the back of Forge Fields but we hope the improvements downstream will mitigate the problems through this area. If not, we will have to revisit the matter.

St Margaret`s Place Section 106

The Section 106 monies is going through its processes at Ashford Borough Council prior to its release.

Concurrent Fund

We have written to the Leader of Ashford Borough Council suggesting as this funding has ceased then ABC may wish to take back the work done by the parish in their name – no response to date

Tennis Club

A further enquiry has been received from the tennis club asking the situation regards the surface of the court – this email was received on Tuesday after the agenda had been posted

The Development of The Beeches

Still nothing has been heard from Ashford Borough Council about the matters referred to at its Planning Committee meeting

Bears Lane Development

Awaiting a response from Ashford Borough Council regards awarding of the Sec 106 monies.

Bethersden Community Neighbourhood Support.

The Fab Five Created Gift Bags for distribution, to the members of the community identified, on 21st November 2020 which was much appreciated from the recipients.

The five are putting on a “Santa Sleigh” at Christmas where Santa was to be transported through the village on 21st December has, Further food hampers are going to be sent to the people registered until February 2021

Farm Watch

Communication with the rural community is proving positive asset. Warnings have been issued on Next Door about thefts from sheds in neighbouring parishes but the PCSO has rated us as low in matters of offending. Let’s keep it that way and stay alert. By joining Next Door, quick communications can help to advise the community of any current offending or concerns

KALC AGM

Councillor virtual training courses are being taken up very fast, councillors should be proactive and book their course early.

Operation Fennel

M20 Moveable barrier to be installed 11 – 15th December

This has the potential for an increased likelihood of delays to the crossing of the short straits and the need for a multi-agency plan for management of the congestion consequences. Ashford Borough Council has been tasked to carry this out on the land at Sevington

It is likely that there will be further lorries parked up in the Parish

Thanks

To our community support benefactors, The Peter Adams Trust, The Bethersden Trust the Godinton Trust & Parish Council – without their support the community would not have been as well served as they have, and continue enjoy

To the Fab Five - Chris, Dawn, Jan, Marian and Sonia, whose efforts relieved the stress and provisions for so many of the residents of our community – in need - certainly deserve our thanks

To Borough Councillors Alan Pickering and Jessamy Blandford for their continuing support in matters of Ashford Borough Council

Our thanks to Michelle Byrne at Ashford Borough Council for her assistance with the minutia of ABC David Rich of the Environment Agency for advice regards the licences to clean out the Bethersden Stream.

To Caroline, Darren, Gareth & Nick Vincent for the work researching and formulating the proposals for the A28 crossing and the preparation of the survey report paperwork

To Nick Eve for battling on with the parish vehicle speed meter

To the members of the VE – day working group that worked so long planning the end of WW2 – celebrations that ended so abruptly with Corona -19

The housing Group Sam & Keith, who are endeavouring to provide local affordable housing for the Bethersden Community

There will be more people who deserve credit for your efforts and I thank you all on behalf of your parish council members,

Parish Council Members who have worked away behind the scenes to help and continue to support the needs of the community.

Finally, I wish you on behalf of the Parish Council the complements of the season and a much better New Year to come

APPENDIX B

Cllr J Blanford

I am following up on various planning issues but it is difficult at this time as Planning Officers are working from home and several of them are ill including the two senior planning officers. I have been chasing Laura Payne with no luck but after today I will pursue with extra vigour. Regarding calling in applications to the Planning Cttee I need to have very much more precise knowledge of what the PC's objections are. I will take this up further with the Chairman.

The Stodmarsh issue which I have mentioned before, is still being investigated. It looks as if the pollution of the Stour through nitrates and phosphates is going to take a long time to resolve. Other

local planning authorities in the Stour catchment area are also looking into the matter. Consultants will be appointed by Ashford BC after Christmas and hopefully we will be able to draw up some mitigation measures to allow us to go ahead with planning permissions. This is a real headache coming at the same time as the Government is expecting LPAs to increase their housing figures.

A paper on the South Ashford Garden Community will go to Cabinet next week. This deals mostly with cultural, heritage and environmental issues putting the current and new residents at the heart of future plans for the area.

I attended the Climate Advisory Group yesterday when we discussed serious steps to reduce the BC carbon footprint. The Council's buildings all have solar panels. Measuring carbon emissions, looking at various funding sources, improving the green environment and contemplating double glazing.

I am sure we are all suffering being Tier 3 but I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a much happier new year for 2021.

Cllr J Pickering

The lorry park now being constructed at Sevington will fully operational by 01/04/2021 employing 129 people which will include 14 vets and 14 Environmental Health Officers.

The rise in Covid 19 cases in North Kent has been caused by those 16yrs and older plus the prison population on Sheppy. Covid 19 has also led to major changes in the way ABC does its administration. ABC are now authorized to clamp illegally parked lorries. The release fee is £750.