

BETHERSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk

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Minutes of the Bethersden Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th June 2021 at 1900hrs in Bethersden Village Hall.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllrs J Blanford (ABC), A Pickering (ABC) plus 3 members of the public.

Reports

Please see Appendix A

50/2021 Apologies

None

51/2021 Declarations of Interest

None

52/2021 Planning Applications

a) Permitted Planning Applications

21/00606/AS-The Barn, Brissenden Court, Woodchurch Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3BE

Proposed side extensions; proposed porch; alterations to the fenestration of the existing dwelling house.

21/00631/AS-Low Wood Fm, Ashford Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3AP

Prior notification of change of use of one barn and land within their curtilage to one larger dwelling house and operational development.

b) Discharge of Conditions

20/00637/CON/AS-Vitters Oak, Old Surrenden Manor Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3DW

Discharge of Condition 3.

c) To Consider the Following Applications

21/00439/AS-Ramsden Barn, Standard Lane, Bethersden, TN26 3JS

Repairs to roof to include new insulation, vents flashings and guttering`s; replacement windows with double glazed units.

It was resolved to support this application

21/00571/AS-Brimley House, The Street, Bethersden, TN26 3AG

Change of use of land to residential; demolition of existing garage and shed: erection of a new garage and to provide a new driveway.

It was resolved to support this application as it will improve the parking in the vicinity.

21/00842/AS-St Margaret`s Church, Church Hill, Bethersden

Erection of one non illuminated replacement wooden notice board

It was resolved to support this application.

21/00850/AS & 21/00851/AS-Vitters Oak, Old Surrenden Manor Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3DW

Demolition of existing garage and works to rebuild northeast corner of main house with Associated Listed Building Application number 21/00851/AS.

It was resolved to support this application.

21/00863/AS-Ramsden Barn, Standard Lane, Bethersden TN26 3JS

Replacement windows/door with associated Listed Building Application 21/00439/AS.

It was resolved to support this application.

21/00880/AS-Etchden Court Fm, Bethersden, TN26 3DS

Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural barn.

It was resolved to recommend refusal of this application as in the opinion of Members this should be a full planning application.

21/00885/AS-Land at Davis Wood opposite Journeys End, Brissenden Green Lane, Bethersden

Erection of an agricultural barn in connection with wood storage/packaging along with related track.

It was resolved not to support this application.

21/00917/AS-17 Millfields, Bethersden, TN26 3AA

Installation of roller door to existing barn.

It was resolved to support this application.

53/2021 Minutes of the meeting of the 17th May 2021.

It was resolved to approve and sign them.

54/2021 Chairman`s Report

Please see Appendix B

55/2021 Clerk`s Report

- a) The water and waste water accounts have now been amalgamated.
- b) The contract has been issued for the repair of the playing surface of the recreation ground.

56/2021 Finance

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

| | |
|--|------------|
| Balances as at 30 th May 2021 | £ |
| Lloyds Bank - George Field Account | 21,125.91 |
| Lloyds Bank – Treasurer`s Account | 105,459.37 |
| Co-op Account | 20,038.59 |

INCOME

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Lloyds Bank Interest | 0.16 |
| HMRC – VAT Refund | 5,044.78 |
| TSS Youth FC | 400.00 |

EXPENDITURE

| | |
|---|----------|
| C Tearle (Salary May) | 1,164.78 |
| C Tearle (Apr/May Expenses) | 119.96 |
| Countrywide (George Field June) | 295.51 |
| Countrywide (June) | 225.01 |
| All Clear Services (May) | 270.00 |
| Lionel Robbins (Internal Auditor) | 90.00 |
| Penfold Profiles (Bethersden CC – S106) | 900.00 |
| Trevor Laws (Bethersden CC – S106) | 3,046.00 |
| P Buss (Bus Shelter Repairs) | 40.00 |

At this point Cllr P Boyd joined the meeting

- b) It was resolved to approve the report of the Internal Auditor.
- c) It was resolved to approve the statement of Internal Control which was signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer.
- d) It was resolved that the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman and the Parish Clerk as required by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.
- e) It was resolved that the Accounting Statement for the year ended 31st March 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman as required by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.
- f) It was resolved to approve the bank reconciliation for the financial year 2020/21
- g) It was resolved to appoint Mr L Robbins as the Internal Auditor for the forthcoming municipal year.

57/2021 Twinning

The Parish Clerk reported on the progress made to date with this project and the need to set-up a Twinning Committee as those in Gruson (France) have done. At the request of the French a few very English souvenirs have been sent out to help them promote this venture.

To advance this project it was resolved to elect Cllrs E Allan and G Burnett to represent the Council on the Bethersden committee along with Cllr A Boyd.

58/2021 Tree Condition Report

Looking at a few of the mature trees recently on our property it would seem to be prudent to obtain a report on their condition from a health and safety aspect in the autumn to ensure we don't have any unexpected liabilities. It was therefore resolved to employ a qualified person to inspect our trees and do a condition report with appropriate recommendations.

59/2021 A28 Working Group

There was nothing further to report and this will be the situation until the Covid situation resolves itself.

60/2021 Date of the next Council Meeting

This will be on Wednesday 14th July 2021 in Bethersden Village Hall at 1900hrs.

61/2021 Date of the Annual Parish Meeting

This will be on Wednesday 24th June 2021 at 1800hrs in Bethersden Village Hall.

62/2021 Items for the Next Agenda.

- 1. KCC notices to land/householders about overgrown roadside hedges.
- 2. KCC road sign on the A28 for the Smarden Rd junction.

Appendix A

Cllr J Blanford (ABC)

ABC plan to plant about 137,00 trees in the Borough during the next year.

They plan to introduce a Green Plaque scheme for ex prominent local residents.

ABC have been selected by Government to trail a new digital planning program which is designed to make the whole system easier to access for the public.

Cllr J Blanford also raised the issue about the new cricket boundary net and the on-going saga of the attenuation tank in the George Field.

Cllr J Pickering (ABC)

Reiterated that ABC were still short of planners and on top of the new government planning program that was being introduced, were re-organising the department with a new Head of Service.

Mr M McBrien

Raised the issue of the problems with the bus shelter and accompanying litter problems.

Appendix B

Chairman`s Report

The contractor should be starting the drainage works in Newtown any day soon and the householder will pay half the cost.

The Council met with the presentative of the Tennis Club and Trevor May – discussed the edges of the courts that were renewed about 2012 and now do not meet current standards. They claimed that a foot could be twisted between netting and edge. They propose to shorten the netting and fill in the gap with tarmac or concrete. Also, there was discussion regards cracks in the surface - claimed to be caused by clay shrinkage related to oak trees on the hedge of the field. Suggestions were made to remove the Oak trees

The cracks following last year`s draught had closed up over the rains over winter but are said to be opening again. Quote for the work to follow. If this work was to be contemplated then three quotes would be required

Thanks go to Cllr Buss who arranged the clearing of the ditch from the boundary of Larks Meadow towards Norton Lane being cleaned out the silted-up level,

The Council met the occupiers around the chapel regards recent winter flood. The drainage and ditches were inspected and the occupiers and riparian owners of the land adjoining the ditch agreed to clear out the ditch and remove gates in the ditch to a point where the pipe from the St Peters ran freely into the ditch and onwards to Norton Lane instead of holding back in the pipe as present

It was reported that water was being pumped from the pond behind the Chapel and discharged into the Street drainage system. Was suggested that should this pumped water be diverted to a ditch to the rear of Pond Cottage it would relieve some of the water flowing into the Street`s Road drainage system, therefore bypassing the main pipe and ditch re-joining the ditch well away from properties.

The Film Club has put on a film for children but it was not a success - only a handful of children attended causing a loss. The Club is seeking financial support from the Parish Council

The group wishing to acquire and re-energise the George pub has split. At the moment one group is going forward and we must wait and see how it pans out as a consortium (investor-led rather than community-led).

The other group is taking advice as a community-led enterprise and will step in should the first fail. The Parish Council has researched and found that, subject to a community referendum the Parish council could be involved in the pub`s future.

The council has a number of trees under its control and it is suggested that a report regarding health and safety of these trees should be obtained.

The Recreation Fields pavilion`s toilets have been the latest of the community assets to be abused, with bricks being put down into the inspection pit behind the Pavilion blocking the drains and causing

yet more of the Bethersden Community funds to be wasted in having to have a contractor unblock and scour them out.

The repairs to the broken glass window at the pavilion alone last month cost the community £120, without the cost of wall timber repairs!

The away changing room continues to move in relation to the rest of the building due to subsidence
The Kick wall play area at the top end of the field has been measured up for a hard surface, it is a lot of money and will be studied by the members. Another two quotes will be required before a decision is taken.

We are waiting for the time when we can meet with Ashford Borough Council officers to finally agree a way forward out of the serious attenuation tank problem at the bottom of the George field.

Spare parts are being sourced to repair the damaged fencing between the George Grove and the George Field at the bottom of the drive. There has been flooding of a property below George Grove and the ditch from the culvert to the pipe arrives too quickly. The ditch between the culvert at the bottom of George Grove and the pipe has been covered over.

Nothing further regards the legal matters on the boundary for the George Grove development

The football pitch has worn places which are going to be repaired and the present users are asked to respect the pitch while the surface grass regrows

Complaints have been received regards to the netting and poles at the Cricket club. Complaints about the loss and change of the view over the cricket pitch have been received. Funds for the Netting and posts, the driveway in and an electric cable have been paid. An additional £3045 for fencing and £900 for asbestos removal of the garage has been requested. It leaves a balance of about £2-3,000 off the about £32000.00

The parish council awaits the KCC highways officer availability, to assess if a pedestrian path can be installed to extended from opposite Stephenson's Bros up to opposite Black pits footpath on the A28. It is now halfway through the term of office for this Parish Council and it is a time to reflect on what has been achieved and what is to be prioritised for the next two years and beyond.