

BETHERSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes

Minutes of the Bethersden Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th July 2021 at 1900hrs in Bethersden Village Hall.

Present

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

In Attendance

Cllr J Blanford and J Pickering (ABC), PCSO's K Farnfield and C Stevens with four members of the public.

Reports

See Appendix A

63/2021 Apologies

Cllrs P Boyd, G Burnett and K Mitchell

64/2021 Declarations of Interest

Cllr S Buckman OSI on 65/2021(c) 21/01172/AS and 21/2021

Cllr K Brannan OSI on 65/2021(c) 21/013038/AS

65/2021 Planning Applications

- a) Permitted Planning Applications

21/00842/AS	St Margaret's Church, Church Hill, Bethersden.
	Erection of one non illuminated replacement wooden notice board.
21/00855/AS	Beacon House, The Street, Bethersden, TN26 3AE
<u>Listed Building Consent</u>	Proposed internal alterations to existing single storey element along with removal of fireplace to form open plan kitchen dining room. Proposed new opening to provide bi-fold doors out to garden area. Demolition of later flat roof boiler room and replacement single storey element to provide boot room space. Installation of roof lights. Internal alterations at ground and first floor level to include addition to partition walls/doors. Replacement like for like windows to match in style and character.
21/00917/AS	17 Millfields Place, Bethersden, TN26 3AA
	Installation of roller door to existing cart barn

b) Refused Planning Applications

20/01474/AS	Agricultural buildings at Vitters Oak, Old Surrenden Manor Rd, Bethersden
	Demolition of two redundant agricultural buildings into one dwelling, with associated parking, garden land, landscape and biodiversity enhancements (alternative scheme to Deemed Consent Ref: 20/00594/AS).

c) To consider the following applications

21/00838/CONA/AS	Tearnden Fm, Smarden Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3HE
It was resolved to support this.	Discharge of Condition 4.
21/01038/AS	Three Acre Barn, Gable Hook Fm, Ashford Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3BQ
It was resolved not to support this application.	Change of use and replacement of agricultural barn and ancillary structure to create residential dwelling, incorporating partial reuse of original timber frame.
21/01051/AS	New Barn Fm, Pluckley Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3EU
It was resolved to support this application although attention is drawn to the Pluckley Road sight lines at the property road entrance.	Prior notification for the change of use of three existing agricultural barns and land within their curtilage to three residential dwelling houses and associated operational development.
21/01168/AS	Langham House, Ashford Rd, Bethersden, Ashford, TN26 3LE
It was resolved to support this.	Lawful development certificate – existing – Use of an existing building as a single dwelling house.
21/01172/AS	Bethersden Cricket Club, Ashford Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3BQ
It was resolved by 3 votes to 2 to support this application. <i>Note: Cllr S Buckman left the meeting before the vote was taken and returned after. During the course of the debate the Parish Clerk found it advisable to discuss some implications that arose with the Council Chairman confidentially. To achieve this the Council Meeting was suspended for a few minutes whilst the both of them left the building to discuss this advise, as the applicant and other interested parties</i>	Variation of condition 3 on planning permission 16/01426/AS (Erection of 6m demountable boundary safety netting fence, creation of hard surfacing & turning space. Re-siting of existing steel storage container) to remove reference to one hour time slots and to allow the netting to be in place for the cricket season (April – October).

<i>were present, rather than ask the public to leave for a few minutes. Cllr K Brannan raised a point of order to this after the vote.</i>	
21/01224/AS	Wayside, Fridd Lane, Bethersden, TN26 3DT
It was resolved to support this application.	Lawful Development Certificate – Proposed – Construction of a new replacement flat roof to living room which is to carry over to boot room with protecting canopy.
21/01261/AS Deferred	Little Surrenden, Ashford Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3BG
	Four replacement dwellings following demolition of existing dwellings and buildings and reconfiguration and extension to one existing dwelling on site.

66/2021 Minutes of the meeting of the 9th June 2021.

It was resolved to approve and sign the minutes

67/2021 Chairman`s Report

The clearing of the ditch that carries the A28 Road drains at Newtown is expected to start on Tuesday next week.

The entrance bar to the football pitch has been broken off – repairs ongoing today

Two Youths have been riding a e-scooter on the local roads – the parents have been made aware by Community Warden

It appears the Parish has new Neighbourhood Watch operator - Mr New - for Bethersden who is also involved in a number of other parishes eg, Woodchurch, Tenterden, High Halden. I look forward to his dealing with the youth problems we occasionally have. His contact number is 07768437422 peternew1@aol.com.

As resolved the group refreshing the Jubilee Monument received £35 towards cost of plants, they have done and are doing a great job.

We have been asked for our opinion regards the reporting structure of the 2021 census results census.outputs@ons.gov.uk

Queens Award for Voluntary Service – I draw your attention to this award details can be obtained through the internet. I had thought of the Fab Five but I think a rules may block that.

KCC / ABC have been approached to rectify the overhanging trees on The Street and School Road. These are causing double decker busses to have to drive on the wrong side of the road to avoid damage. KC is planning to arrange the work this week

68/2021 Clerk`s Report

The recreation ground football pitch surface has now been repaired although inevitably there are some youths who seem to want to destroy those areas that have just been repaired, at considerable cost to community rate payers, by repeatedly playing on the newly planted areas

69/2021 Finance

The schedule of payments and the current bank balances were approved

Balances as at 30th June 2021	£
Lloyds Bank - George Field Account	21,126.08
Lloyds Bank – Treasurer`s Account	87,124.76
Co-op Account	20,038.59
INCOME	
Lloyds Bank Interest	0.17
ABC (Grant - Bethersden VH)	105.25
Bethersden Tennis Club (Annual Rent)	3,755.50
Bethersden Tennis Club (Floodlights)	592.00
EXPENDITURE	
C Tearle (Salary June)	1,164.78
C Tearle (June Expenses)	140.66
HMRC – PAYE	864.60
Countrywide (George Field July)	295.51
Countrywide (July)	225.01
All Clear Services (June/July maintenance)	405.22
*Business Stream (T/Club Waste Water)	15.05
*ACW Drainage Solutions Ltd (Pavilion Drains)	96.00
*Best Host (SSL Certificate)	24.00
*MMP Accounting Solutions Ltd	126.00
*A Boyd (Zoom & Memorial Donation)	49.68
Rialtas (Software & Maintenance)	148.80
Richard Quigley (Recreation Football pitch Renovation)	1800
L Lyons (Internet/Website/etc)	225.00
SLCC (P Clerk Professional Sub – Half)	117.00
*Bethersden Village Hall (ABC Grant)	105.25
Tom Carlton Tennis (Bethersden TC – Tennis Net Winder)	30.94

70/2021 Asset of Community Value

In the light of recent developments and the immanent expiry of the existing Order the Parish Council resolved to apply to ABC to relist the George Public House as an Asset of Community Value. The current registration expires on the 25th July 2021.

71/2021

George Field

It was resolved to confirm the decision under Sect. 101 in the interim between meetings, to approve the placing of a memorial bench with a concrete pad at the top of the George Field in memory of Faith Spooner.

72/2021

Parish Newsletter

It was resolved to publish and circulate a parish newsletter subsequent to the annual parish meeting. Cllr K Brannan was asked to investigate and organize its printing and distribution which he accepted.

73/2021

Bethersden Film Society

The Parish Council considered a request from the Society for additional core funding. It was resolved to grant them £250.00.

74/2021

Items for the Next Agenda

- a) Drone Awareness
- b) The Playground
- c) A review of the Budget
- d) A28 pavement progress

75/2021

Date of the Next Council Meeting

This will be on Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 1900hrs in Bethersden Village Hall.

Appendix A

A Pickering (ABC)

We have in past years been housing five Syrian families each year in rented accommodation. This year it is four Syrian and two from Afghanistan.

New regulations have been introduced for the running of mobile home sites.

Changes have been made to the ABC Cabinet.

135,000 trees are to be planted in the ABC area in the next three years.

ABC currently pays above the national living wage with an arrangement known as “the Ashford living wage.”

J Blanford (ABC)

Recently attended a meeting about the George Public House proposition.

K Farnfield (PCSO)

There have been a number of high-speed collisions recently in addition to e-scooters starting to becoming a problem as they are illegal for use on the public highway. Concern was also raised that they were being used without helmets.

Other problems are on the increase such as fraud, especially bank fraud, fly-tipping and low flying drones.

Mr M McBrien

Expressed his grave concerns regarding the overgrown height of the Cricket ground hedge and its obstructive effect on the sight line on the A28 to the Bull Lane junction and that the cricket ground there is an issue regards the eyesore of the new ball safety net.

Mr D Jahnz (Bethersden Cricket Club)

As Chairman of Bethersden Cricket Club, I am speaking on behalf of the elected committee to reiterate the various points agreed and voted for by the majority at numerous committee meetings and not from a personal stand point.

- The hedge and the safety netting are two separate issues.
- Our planning application is succinct and will be dealt with as the law dictates later in the meeting.
- As a result from the issues raised by Mark McBrien at the last PC meeting with regards to the hedge, we comment accordingly:
- We have contacted Kent County Highways for their definitive view on the situation and they reported back as follows:

On 6 July 2021

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the hedge that borders the cricket ground. I have inspected this by driving both ways past it and viewing the road traffic from a pedestrian view and I can confirm that the sight line for drivers and pedestrians is not impeded by this hedge.

I hope this clarifies things for you, please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Kind Regards Ben Platt.

- There is no reason in law why we should not grow the hedge and maintain our ground as we choose, as long as it is legal, just as any other parishioner can do to their property. No one has the right to dictate to us just because they don't like it or it changes their perspectives.

- However for clarity, we decided to grow the hedge for various reasons, in no particular order of importance: to form a wind break, provide wild life habitat, for the welfare of members from carbon monoxide from the nine thousand plus cars that pass daily, to help absorb the carbon monoxide, make the cricket ground more intimate and to mask the idiots who constantly shout out obscenities whilst driving recklessly, as we are playing.
- The hedge is always maintained annually and this will be the case this September, when the nesting season is over.
- We have spent the last six years developing the club for the benefit of the community and it's safely, and should anyone wish to watch the games, they would be welcome to drive in, park safely and enjoy, who knows, they may even want to become involved with the BCC.
- We are slightly at a loss as to why this issue is constantly being revisited considering it is not a Parish problem although we appreciate that one or two parishioners have made complaints. No one seems to listen to the many compliments on how the club has developed for the benefit of the community. It is a shame that they or the Parish Council did not formally approach the cricket club committee directly to allow us to explain our position.
- We appreciate that people do not like change but change for the positive, with the help and support of the PC and the wider community, will be beneficial.
- The committee will always consider any points carefully that are raised but you must respect our decisions gracefully.