

Bethersden Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr Colin Tearle Sunny Lawns Densole Lane Densole CT18 7BL
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Minutes of the Bethersden Council Meeting held on the 13th October 2021 in Bethersden Village Hall at 1900hrs.

Present

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

In Attendance

Cllr A Pickering (ABC), and 3 members of the public.

Reports

Please see Appendix A

83/2021 Apologies

Cllrs P Boyd and J Blanford (ABC)

84/2021 Declarations of Interest

None

85/2021 Planning Applications

a) Conditions Approved

18/00556/CONA/AS- Star Farmhouse, Wissenden Green, Bethersden, TN26 3EW

Condition 3 (materials)

Condition 4 (schedule of works/specifications)

Condition 5 (detailed drawings)

b) To Consider the Following Applications

21/01611/AS-Land at Chilmington Green, Ashford Rd, Great Chart

Variation of conditions 1,3,5&7 on planning permission 18/00677/as (Variation of conditions 1,3,4,5 of planning permission reference 17/01334/AS to delay landscaping work to pond 3 & 4 (a) & (b) and to insert the reference number of the plan) to change the submission date on condition 1 to read "the soft landscaping to Pond 3 shall be implemented in accordance with the details approved in Condition 1"; to change the submission and commencement dates on condition 5 from March 2020 to March 2023 and September 2020 to September 2023; and to change the planting season dates on condition 7 from October 2020 to March 2021 inclusive to October 2023 to March 2023 inclusive.

No Comment

21/01676/AS-Green Gables, Ashford Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3BB-----
EA/PB

Proposed two storey rear extension: two front dormer windows: front porch canopy

It was resolved to support this application

21/01684/AS-Dadson Fm, Tuesnood Lane, Bethersden, TN26 3EH

KB/GB

Replacement of existing wooden garage with single bedroom annex (Re-submission of 21/01264).

It was resolved to support this application.

21/01701/AS-Longberry Fm, Etchden Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3DS

KB/GB

Dormer windows to the front and rear to facilitate a loft conversion; Single-storey rear extension; Erection of a new garage; Proposed balcony on north east elevation.

It was resolved to recommend refusal as it was considered to be over development on the site with the proposed dormer windows to dominating.

21/01702/AS-Beult Cottage, Brissenden Court, Woodchurch Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3BE

EA/PB

Proposed first floor balcony.

No comment

21/01746/AS-Agricultural buildings at Vitters Oak, Old Surrenden Rd, Bethersden,

Demolition of two agricultural buildings and erection of one dwelling, with associated parking, garden land and landscape and biodiversity enhancements (revision to prior notification application 20/00594/AS).

It was resolved to recommend refusal as per application 20/00594/AS.

86/2021 Minutes of the meeting of the 8th September 2021.

It was resolved to approve them.

87/2021 Chairman`s Report

Following communications between the Environment Agency, the Parish Council and other agencies a virtual meeting is to be held on 20th October 2021 with the EA, KCC, ABC to which the Chairman, Cllr Buss and the clerk are to take part. A further investigation meeting was held regards flooding on the North side of The Street – the Chairman was not invited.

Further unnecessary vandalism has occurred where the fence at the bottom of the George Grove was either bent down or rails broken off - parts have been located and await attendance of All Clear Services to repair. This damage and is a waste of the community's tax payers' moneys.

Training is offered on line for flood emergencies. The link is

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing?eid=21659&cid=&pw>

The Clerks appraisal has been held. The Chairman is seeking in-house training from KALC for councillors.

The chairman attended a virtual training course “Introduction to Project Management” -Visuals have been circulated

The Parish Council’s application for a “Community Asset Order regards The George public house” has been granted.

An estimate for creating a pedestrian footpath on the South side of the A28 between Bean Place and Kiln Lane and on the South side of the A28 from opposite Stevenson’s factory to School Road has been received.at about £70,000. KCC has been asked to re-quote for the length on the A28 from opposite Stevenson’s factory to opposite the Blackpits footpath as well as the length Bean Place to Opposite Kiln Lane.

PCSO Kyle Farnfield has moved on and our new temporary PCSO is Laura Langridge, based at Ashford Police Station and will temporarily be covering the **Bethersden & High Halden** wards. Laura Langridge 46061212
<Laura.Langridge@kent.police.uk.

The Neighbourhood Watch is now under the auspices of Peter New who is covering many local parishes. The Chairman has resigned from NHW.

The parish council is grateful to the Community Warden for addressing the E-Scooter issues

The Twinning Committee has met and a broad outline of the Queens Jubilee and the Twinning with Gruson in France was laid out. More participation from members of the community would be appreciated to make this a great weekend for the community.

Simon Cole, Head of Planning and Development would like to invite one member to attend a Microsoft Teams training session at 5 – 7 pm on 3 November 2021 to give a short presentation which will cover : General Planning training, + Stodmarsh impact and mitigation + Enforce

88/2021 Clerk`s Report

- a) ABC has agreed to the George Public House being an Asset of Community Value once again from the 27th September 2021 for six months.
- b) From January 2022 KALC is re-launching its face to face tutorials. Also from January it will be possible to have to whole council tutorial based on the Dynamic Councillor course. Please advise if this is of any interest.
- c) From now on the we will be using different headed paper and formatting of the minutes and agendas in order to be compliant with the new accessibility regulations

89\2021 Finance

- a) It was resolved to approve the schedule of payments and the current bank balances

Balances as at 30th September 2021

	£
Lloyds Bank – George Field Account	21,126.61
Lloyds Bank – Treasurers Account	93,274.47
Co – op Account	20,038.59
INCOME	
ABC Precept	19500
Bank Interest	0.35
Southern Electric Refund	408.22
Expenditure	
C Tearle (Salary Sept)	1162.62
C Tearle (Expenses Sept)	107.52
Countrywide (Oct)	520.52
All Clear Services (July/Aug)	265.30
Zoom Facility	14.39
MMP Accounting Solutions	126.00
KALC (Project Management)	60.00
Post Office (Leaflet Distribution)	265.32
Came & Co (Insurance Renewal)	1838.22

- b) The Council reviewed and noted the George Field expenditure and the remaining years on the agreement.

90\2021 Bethersden Flooding 25th July 2021

It was noted that the Chairman, Cllr P Buss and the Parish Clerk are to shortly have a meeting with all the relevant agencies in an attempt to progress matters in order to try and prevent any re-occurrences.

91\2021 Platinum Jubilee/Twinning Events

The Clerk reported on a visit he paid to the village of Gruson as well as wide ranging discussions with its Mayor and Twinning Committee Chairman. Proposals were tabled for two exchanges. The first for the us to visit them on the Easter weekend for the Paris-Roubaix cycle race and for the French to visit us the first weekend in June for the Queen`s Platinum Jubilee.

The Mayor of Gruson has expressed a wish to visit Bethersden in November.

92\2021 Christmas Tree

It was resolved to provide a Christmas tree next to the war memorial with a budget of approx. £200.00. Cllr A Boyd would be acquiring the tree.

93\2021 KCC Highways

- a) A28 Pavement progress was noted
- b) It was noted that the Speed Watch Meter has been repaired and is ready to be deployed as soon as there are volunteers to man it.

94\2021 Tennis Courts

This item was deferred until next month.

95\2021 Local Housing Survey

The current position was noted.

96\2021 Allotments

At the last meeting the council was asked if it could provide land for allotments at the top of the George Field. To date we are awaiting proposals.

97\2021 Date of the Next Council Meeting

This will be on Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 1900hrs in Bethersden Village Hall.

Appendix A

Cllr A Pickering (ABC)

- a) Reported that all staff had not yet returned to work in the civic centre.
- b) The top floor at the Civic Centre is occupied by Border Control.
- c) All staff are currently being paid higher than the minimum wage.
- d) ABC has been listed for three national awards.
- e) The cost of housing refugees come from the overseas aid budget.

Cllr J Blanford (ABC)

- a) Greater Ashford Land Mapping project: this is one of the Leader's initiatives. He has set up a group including representatives of CPRE, WKPS (Weald of Kent Protection Society), KALC and others, chaired by Cllr Paul Clokie to look into assessing areas in the Borough which would be suitable for future development and areas which should be protected. I was expecting to see a formal announcement of this project but haven't seen the details so far. It hasn't had its first meeting yet so it is at an early stage.
- b) 5th November, proposed Ward Walk with ABC CEO Tracy Kerly and Ben Lockwood, Chief Finance Officer. I hope that a representative from the Bethersden PC might be available. I will work with Cllr Pickering to prepare a programme.
- c) Visit from the Royal Town Planning Institute: at their request the President and her entourage of 9 visit Ashford ten days ago. I gave a short introduction to Ashford and Senior Planning Officers outlined the good, the bad and the ugly about Ashford. She seemed impressed with what she heard.
- d) Had a meeting (with the CPRE) with the KCC Senior Archaeological Officer, Wendy Rogers. She was particularly interested in Chilmington Green. We discussed the possibility of taking over one of the empty shops in Ashford and presenting some of the finds from the Borough.
- e) I am still waiting for a response on a Community Orchard from the Environment Dept. I spoke to the new Portfolio Holder and hope he will respond shortly.
- f) Don't forget ABC is still looking for suitable sites for planting the 135,000 trees (whips) in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- g) Haven't forgotten the Bethersden Film Club and will come back on that.