

# Bethersden Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr Colin Tearle Sunny Lawns Densole Lane Densole CT18 7BL  
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## Minutes of the Bethersden Parish Council Meetings held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February and the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 in Bethersden Village Hall at 1900hrs.

### 142\2021 Present

Cllrs A Boyd, E Allen, S Buckman, G Burnett, K Mitchell and C Tearle (Parish Clerk). – 09/02/2022  
Cllrs A Boyd, E Allen, G Burnett, P Buss, J Crannis and C Tearle (Parish Clerk) – 25-02/2022

### 143\2021 Reports

Please see Appendix A

### 144\2021 Platinum Jubilee/Twinning Event 3 – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Members received a report from Tracy Laws on the current arrangements for the event. (For a detailed report please refer to Appendix A).

### 145\2021 Finance

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

<b>Balances as at 02/02/2022</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Co-op Account</b>	<b>20,038.59</b>
<b>Lloyds Bank – Treasurers Account</b>	<b>81,286.70</b>
<b>Lloyds Bank – George Field Account</b>	<b>21,127.33</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Bank Interest	0.36
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
C Tearle (Salary Dec)	1,161.78
C Tearle (Salary Jan)	1,161.78
C Tearle (Expenses Dec/Jan)	166.12
All Clear Services (Dec)	250.65
All Clear Services (Jan)	260.43
Countrywide (Feb George Field)	295.01
Countrywide (Feb Rec Grnd)	225.51
Countrywide (Jan George Field)	295.01
Countrywide (Jan Rec Grnd)	225.51
*Stocksigns (SID)	4,129.20
BestHost (Hosting Package)	13.75
HMRC – PAYE	1166.61
Information Commissioners Office (ICO) – Annual Fee	40.00
Zoom Video Communications	14.39
Leo Lyons Digital (Website/email service)	450.00
St Margarets Church (Twinning/Jubilee Public Meeting)	40.00
The Play Inspection Company (Annual Safety Report)	166.80
Trevor May Contractors (Tennis Courts)	11,298.60

<u>Parish Online</u>	32.40
<u>Floodlighting Services Ltd (Tokens)</u>	127.20
<u>All Clear Services (Jan)</u>	381.94
<u>Zoom Video Communications</u>	14.39

## 146\2021 Planning Applications

### a) Discharge of Conditions

**21/00712/AS**-Stone Green Nurseries, Pluckley Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3ET  
Discharge Condition 10 (Biodiversity)

### b) To Consider the Following Applications

**21/02002/AS**-Bethersden Cricket Club, Ashford Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3BQ

Retrospective planning application for installation of removable posts and safety netting to the north, west and south of Bethersden Cricket Ground for a temporary period (May to October).

**In view of the fact that the Parish Council and its councillors have been the subject of excessive lobbying, members felt the only correct thing to do was to defer to the ABC Planning Committee for resolution of this application.**

**21/02018/AS**-Vine Hall Fm, Woodchurch Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3JY

Proposed 50m \* 30m equestrian sand school surrounded by three railed wooden fencing within the setting of a listed building.

**It was resolved to support this application.**

**21/02250/AS**-Forge Cottage, Forge Hill, Bethersden, TN26 3AF

Internal renovations following flooding, primarily the installation of an injected damp proof course through much of the ground floor and use of specialised plaster on interior walls in the sitting room and kitchen/hall

**It was resolved to support this application.**

**21/02165/AS**-Land at Chilmington Green, Ashford Rd, Great Chart.

Reserved matters application for the amended landscaping works to the Phase 1 Northern Gateway (Access A) at Chilmington Green pursuant to planning permission 12/00400/AS.

**No Comment**

**22/00018/AS**-3 Maple Cottages, Ashford Rd, Bethersden, TN26 4AU.

Demolition of existing garage. Proposed erection of single storey outbuilding and two storey side extension. Proposed vehicle crossover and new driveway.

**It was resolved to object to the planned work as this will exasperate the flood risk to neighbouring properties, the new window should be opaque to maintain privacy to surrounding property.**

**22/00045/AS**-1-2 Prospect Cottages, The Street, Bethersden, Ashford, TN26 3AE.

Listed Building Consent

Removal of existing night storage heaters and installation of boiler and radiators and gas central heating to include a flue through rear wall. Removal of cold water tank and immersion heater tank. Gas supply already within property.

**It was resolved to support this application**

**22/00024/AS**-Parcels D & H at Chilmington Green, Great Chart  
Reserved Matters application pursuant to planning permission 12/000400/AS to consider the construction of 173 dwellings on Land Parcels D and H – Main AAP Phase 1 , together associated roads, parking, landscaping public open space and infrastructure  
**No Comment**

**22/00041/AS & 22/00042/AS**-Jasmine Cottage, The Street, Bethersden, TN26 3AE  
RE-instatement and change of external facing materials to the west elevation from timber clad to Kent Peg wall hung tiles.  
**It was resolved to support this application.**

**22/00069/AS & 22/00070/AS**-Etchden Fm, Park Lane, Bethersden, TN26 3DP  
1) Conversion of outbuilding into a home office and store rooms.  
2) Same Listed Building.

### **147\2021      Adjournment of Meeting**

After 15 minutes it was resolved that because of the prevalence of Covid following a recent event in the village hall the meeting was adjourned.

### **148\2021      Meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

### **149\2021      Apologies**

Cllrs K Brannan, C Buckman, P Buss and K Mitchell

### **150\2021      Declarations of Interest**

Cllr J Crannis OSI Min No: 158/2022

### **151\2021      Minutes of the Meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

It was resolved to approve these.

### **152\2021      Platinum Jubilee/Twinning Event**

- a) The Chairman ran through the published plans for the Queen`s Jubilee celebrations at the beginning of June, and expressed disappointment that the school would not be taking part.
- b) Plans for the visit to Gruson were discussed, the numbers who had so far committed to going and possible transport arrangements.
- c) It was resolved to agree in principle to the erection of a structure in the George Field to commemorate the jubilee subject to design, costs and planning considerations.

### **153\2021      Planning Applications**

- a) Planning Applications Refused

**21/02014/AS**-Brook Meadow, Wissenden Lane, Bethersden, TN26 3AJ

Change of use of part of the land for the erection of one detached dwelling with associated landscaping.

b) To Consider the Following Applications

**22/00069/AS & 22/00070/AS**-Etchden Fm, Park Lane, Bethersden, TN26 3DP

- 3) Conversion of outbuilding into a home office and store rooms.
- 4) Same Listed Building.

**It was resolved to support these applications**

**22/00134/AS**-The Old Hop Gardens, Norton Lane, Bethersden, TN26 3AL

GCN pond, erection of single storey two bedroom, Passivhaus dwelling with further biodiversity enhancements and rewilding.

**After the applicant gave a presentation, it was resolved to support these applications.**

**22/00220/AS**-The Meadows, Pluckley Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3ET

Removal of condition 6 on planning permission AS/85/900 and removal of condition V attached to WE/9/67/270 (both conditions are the same) to allow the removal of agricultural occupancy condition.

**It was resolved to support this application.**

## **154\2021 Chairman`s Report**

A contract and deposit have been completed with Trevor May to repair, raise the outside netting, resurface and repaint both the Tennis Court and MUGA court which have been damaged by subsidence, and a concrete wall into the ground to stop tree roots intruding under the courts. Tom Carlton has reported that he is not coaching at Bethersden now – therefore - for court lighting tokens - please see Chris Buckman, Bell Den Church Hill, 01233822565

A contract has been given to Ashford Tarmacadam to lay the hard surface in front of kick wall and path to Youth shelter. A meeting has been held to finalise the installation of a swing basket next to the Youth Shelter – final siting subject to the safety guidance to be given. Youth Shelter has been subject to a totally unnecessary graffiti attack inside, again for which the community will have to pay for its removal.

The annual check of the childrens play equipment has passed inspection.

The cricket club has not lowered the perimeter fence posts according to planning permission on the cricket pitch and the parish council is subject to intense lobbying that is taking place regards the clubs` position.

George Field Attenuation Tank – nothing further - we are awaiting the time when covid restrictions are lifted and a live meeting can be held with ABC. Some residents are still out of their homes as a result of 25<sup>th</sup> July flooding damage, virtual meetings have been held with the flood agencies involved - Environment Agency, Ashford Borough Council, Kent Highways, Kent County Council & Southern Water. This is being taken very seriously by them all, to find a course of action that will stop or reduce the flood risk. A walk through by the EA is being arranged, for Forge Fields and Chester Avenue to assess ways that the water can be conveyed thorough the area without spilling into residential properties adjoining the Bethersden Stream. The EA has contacted occupier in Forge Fields to arrange a site meeting this month Attenuation schemes to hold back water before entering the Bethersden Stream is being given consideration. Clearing the Bethersden Stream is being investigated.

The planning application for change of use for The Street Cottage Field to churchyard is in progress. The developer for the Beeches has taken action to prevent additional silty water entering the public

drainage system The George Community Group continues to attempt agreement with the pub owner to carry on the building as a public house.

Positive discussions have been held regards the Bears Lane S106 situation. ABC has given us additional S106 £11K of funding in lieu of this.

Traffic movements have been hectic - with the roads in and around Pluckley have been closed for water services renewals and the diverting traffic are driving through our parish.

The parish webmaster has been updating contributions from the clubs and societies in the village to endeavour to make it more relevant to viewers. [Home Page - Bethersden Parish Council \(bethersden-pc.gov.uk\)](http://bethersden-pc.gov.uk)

A public meeting was arranged at the village hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February with the Local PCSO. Laura Langrish a Sergeant and the police NHW officer. Regrettably no members of the public attended

The book swap appears to be working at the telephone box and another set of shelves have been added.

The Twinning organisation in both countries have arranged the days, Gruson is being held at Easter 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> April 2022 those wishing to take part should contact the clerk [parish.clerk@bethersden-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@bethersden-pc.gov.uk) or telephone 07860322730 the return visit to Bethersden arranged for the weekend of the Queens Jubilee 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Ashford Borough Council has sent out a survey relating to the environmental changes that councils thought appropriate

The Government boundary commission review continues with Ashford constituency changing shape and content with the prospect of another parliamentary seat being created.

Today Cllr Buss and the Chairman with the representatives of the EA visited and inspected the Bethersden Stream thorough Forge Fields to assess possible solutions to the capacity and flow of the stream.

It is regretted that the Government stopped Parish Council holding Virtual meetings. Council representatives travel many miles by car to attend meetings which is expensive for fuel for the individual councillor and bad for increasing the carbon footprint.

## **155\2021 Clerk`s Report**

- a) The Speed Indicator Devise (Sid) has been delivered and is awaiting erection.
- b) The basketball practise area will be completed on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.
- c) The Council authorised the Clerk to purchase and have erected the Basket Swing at the rear of the basketball practise area at an approximate cost of £2,800.

## **156\2021 A28 Footpath**

It was resolved not to proceed with this project on the grounds of costs and to review the situation in November when the budget for 2023/24 is set.

## **157\2021 Tennis Courts**

- a) At the moment we are waiting for the work to commence subject to the weather conditions.
- b) In the light of the current electricital costs it was decided to review the charges to the Tennis Club for the use of the floodlights. The last time these were reviewed were in Mat 2013. It was resolved to charge £7.00/hr from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

## **158\2021 Bethersden WI**

A presentation was given by Mrs Rye on the present financial position of the Bethersden WI. It was resolved to pay direct for the cost of hiring meeting room facilities for one year.

## **159\2021 Date of the Next Council Meeting**

This will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 1900hrs.

## **160\2021 Exclusion of the Public**

It was resolved to exclude the public and the press from the meeting for the following item of business by virtue of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

## **161\2021 The George Public House**

An overview of the current legal and financial position was given to councillors by R Draper and A Withington. They re-emphasised the level of community support for the project and went over the current valuation again, their offers and the price wanted by the vendor. The council said if they like to write an article for publication then they would put it on the council's website.

## **Appendix A**

### Cllr J Blanford ABC

Overtures have been made to ABC by Eunice Bikes about relocating their entire business operation in Ashford with 830 employees onto the Willesborough site. Their will be job training opportunities and apprenticeships.

The housing proposals for Tenterden are proving to be controversial.

ABC are also putting in electric charging points throughout the borough

### Cllr A Pickering ABC

During the last storm Aspire, ABC's outside contractor worked all weekend to clear the fallen trees.

The Community Charge increase will be £5/Band D, the lowest in Kent.

The government has awarded ABC £14.5m for new town works, and the old Odeon site is going to be redeveloped.

The gender pay gap is now down to 8%.

### Mr Rye

Asked about the defunct Parish Plan and asked if ABC has a light pollution policy.

### Mrs Jones

Spoke about the current planning application of the cricket club, and asked if her hand written letter would ever be put onto the website.

Mr McBrine

Again raised the issue of the height of the hedge along the cricket club boundary.  
He also asked questions about the proposed twinning.

#### QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE & TWINNING WITH GRUSO GRUSON UPDATES

We have a booking for the village hall throughout the weekend which can be used as a wet weather contingency.

#### **THURSDAY**

Bethersden Community Cinema will run the Film in the village hall.

The Parish Council are responsible for the purchase and installation of the Beacon.

The Parish Council are responsible for the lighting and extinguishing of the Beacon.

#### **FRIDAY**

The Parish Council and Host Families will be responsible for the French visitors whilst they are in the village.

Activities and entertainment provided primarily for our village residents and their families, and the French are most welcome to participate.

Open church with activities run by Friends of St Margaret's.

#### **OPEN MIC NIGHT – TALENT SHOW Village Hall 8 pm to 11 pm**

Open to all who wish to participate including the French!

There will be a licensed bar provided by The George Community.

Nibbles and Snacks will be available.

Microphones and speakers and a keyboard will be available to use for participants on the night.

**Ticket entry only.**

#### **SATURDAY**

These events are being run simultaneously to provide a variety of things to do for our French visitors within walking distance of the village, they can choose where they go.

Parish records display in St Margaret's Church.

Cricket & Tennis matches from 10 am to 12 pm.

Twinning signing at 1.30 pm on Recreation Ground.

Hobby Horse Races – open to all ages. Starting at 2 pm. Gareth Burnett.

- Make your own Hobby Horse and enter in the race.
- Race circuit needs to be marked out on the field
- Prizes for WINNERS OF EACH RACE, BEST IN SHOW.

Maybe seek out sponsorship prizes from Stevenson's Rocking Horses?

Afternoon events to be completed by 4 pm approximately.

### **SATURDAY EVENING BARN DANCE WITH SUPPER**

Live Ceilidh Band already booked.

Bring your own drinks.

*Ticket entry only.*

### **SUNDAY**

10 am Service of Thanksgiving in St Margaret's Church – Rev Sue and Rev Mike. TIME TO BE CONFIRMED.

12.30 pm The Big Lunch on the George Field – bring your own lunch, and seating, gazebo.

**2 x MEAT BBQ stations**

**Volunteers please – The Gardener's Society**

**Please provide your own BBQ**

**1 x PLANT BASED BBQ station**

**Please provide your own BBQ**

**Volunteers please**

Tea and cake tent –Judy Alsop & Jan Guntrip and team.

ELECTRICITY AND WATER – LAWS FAMILY

Bring your own MUGS AND PLATES.

Cake competition – cakes will be judged by WI judges and then used for general consumption.

Beers, Wines, & Pimm's – provided by the George Community

**Additional volunteers to help run the bar.**

### **Afternoon entertainment**

Parish council members are investigating.

We want to make this weekend of celebration the best it can be, and for everyone to enjoy the events over the weekend.

If everyone does a little bit, we will get the job done. It should not be left to just a few people.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Thanks!

*Tracey Laws*

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