

Bethersden Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr Colin Tearle Sunny Lawns Densole Lane Densole CT18 7BL
email: parish.clerk@bethersden-pc.gov.uk *tel:* 01303 892621

Minutes of the Bethersden Parish Council meeting held on the 9th March 2022 at 1900hrs in Bethersden Village Hall.

1/2022 Present

Cllrs A Boyd, E Allen, P Buss, J Crannis and C Tearle (Parish Clerk)

2/2022 Reports

Please see Appendix A

3/2022 Present

Cllr J Blanford and 3 members of the public

4/2022 Apologies of Absence

Cllrs P Boyd, K Brannan and S Buckman.

5/2022 Minutes of the Meetings of the 9th and 25th February 2022.

It was resolved to approve and sign these.

6/2022 Chairman`s Report

The Chairman and Cllr Buss met with the officers of the Environment Agency on 25th February and spent most of the day inspecting the Bethersden Stream from the bottom of Forge Hill to the School Road culvert. The course of the stream was obstructed in several places. If back surface storage of flood waters was possible, that may help to hold water back until the majority of the water has passed through the village. A report is being prepared to be reported at the next Flood Multi-Agency meeting. Some obstructions were noted. KCC Highways have had contractors working throughout The Street and Forge Hill and identified and corrected a number of faults they found. Tree roots were prevalent

Now the Covid restrictions are lifted a meeting is being sourced with ABC regards the George Field Attenuation tank. The legal work to rectify the boundary between the George Field and the George Grove still rumbles on. A management company is created for the pond carpark.

The Jubilee Beacon head has been constructed and donated by Mark Mealham for which we are very grateful for such a generous gesture, A steel post has been purchased and it will be delivered tomorrow. Price and availability of a wooden post was twice the money. We need to agree its position. The proposed gazebo awaits quotation, it is very unlikely that delivery can be in time for the Queens Jubilee weekend. We have had two virtual meetings with Gruson

The professional work for the Churchyard extension is complete and being signed off tonight.

The Web master is still modifying the website to accommodate the requirements of the various clubs and societies. Protection measures run alongside the National Cyber Security Centre's 'bots' which regularly probe the site and inform of vulnerabilities and measures which they recommend we take. I am pleased to report that we currently have a clean bill of health from NCSC.

The Chairman attended the first KALC meeting held face to face last week at Ashford Borough Council Offices the minutes have been circulated. Councillor training sessions are being considered

The Surface has been constructed to the Kick wall in front of the youth shelter. The basket swing has been delayed as the representative of Kompan has been unobtainable. Now working through the head office, the equipment has been ordered and the project is back on plan. The work on repairing and resurfacing the tennis and MUGA has started, it would be appreciated if the safety barriers were respected.

The progress of the Community George Public House is at an impasse.

A site meeting is being arranged to agree sites for the permanent poles to carry the Speed indicator device.

A28 footpath is in abeyance due to the lack of a fixed cost estimate from KCC Highways.

7/2022 Parish Clerk`s Report

- a) The basketball practise area has been completed and the Basket swing should be delivered in 6/8 weeks.
- b) Work has started on the tennis courts.

8/2022 Finance

- c) It was resolved to approve the bank balances and the schedule of payments.

Balances as at 02/03/2022	£
Co-op Account	20,038.59
Lloyds Bank – Treasurers Account	64,445.31
Lloyds Bank – George Field Account	21,127.50
INCOME	
Bank Interest	0.17
EXPENDITURE	
C Tearle (Salary Feb)	1,161.78
C Tearle (Expenses Feb)	155.53
All Clear Services (Feb)	
Countrywide (Mar George Field)	295.01
Countrywide (Mar Rec Grnd)	225.51
Zoom Video Communications	14.39
Chagos Consulting Ltd	15.00
Ashford Tarmacadam Ltd	12836.40
Leo Lyons Digital (Website/email/computer repair)	238.75

Parker Steel (Beacon Pole)	374.34
Land Registry (St Margarets Churchyard)	46.34

- d) A review was carried out on the current financial situation with all questions answered.

9/2022 Platinum Jubilee/ Twinning Events

Subsequent to the last Council Meeting the Chairman reported on the two zoom meetings which had taken place with the Mayor of Gruson. The planned visit in April has been postponed, with their visit to us going ahead in June (3-5th), and us visiting them in September/October during a weekend. It was resolved to approve of these new arrangements.

In view of the fact that the visit is planned to be integrated as far as possible into the Platinum Jubilee celebrations it has been necessary to modify the original programme given to Gruson. Cllr E Allen and the Parish Clerk were asked to work on these proposals after the council meeting to enable them to be conveyed to the Mayor of Gruson ASAP.

A Zoom meeting will happen on the 14th March with the Mayor and the Chairman of the Twinning Committee of Gruson.

10/2022 Boundary Commission for England

It was decided not to respond.

11/2022 George Field

The question of whether to erect a gazebo to celebrate the Queen`s Platinum Jubilee was deferred.

12/2022 Date of the next Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting

- a) The Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 13th April 2022 in Bethersden Village Hall at 1930 hrs or as soon as possible, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.
- b) The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Wednesday 13th April 2022 in Bethersden Village Hall at 1800hrs.

Appendix A

Cllr J Blanford (ABC)

Reminded us that BT is wanting to do away with landlines by 2025 and has recently attended a flood risk meeting.

Cllr J Crannis is doing the annual litter pick shortly. Any volunteers would be welcome.