

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 14th December 2022 at 1900hrs in Bethersden Village Hall.

126/2022 Present

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

127/2022 Apologies

Cllr P Boyd, Cllrs J Blanford (ABC) and A Pickering (ABC).

128/2022 Attending

Nine members of the public

129/2022 Declarations of Interest

Cllr K Brannan DPI Minute Numbers 131/2022 – PA/2022/3014 and PA/2022/2968.

130/2022 Minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd November 2022

It was resolved to approve and sign these.

131/2022 Planning Applications

a) To consider the following applications

PA/2022/2875-Madrona Nursery, Pluckley Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3EG

Creation of new vehicular access and revised provision of parking in connection with Planning Permission 20/00049/AS

It was resolved to support this application

PA/2022/2898-Barnhurst Fm, Pluckley Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3DD

Conversion of stable block to a residential dwelling.

It was resolved to recommend refusal as it is not compliant with current ABC planning policy.

At this point Cllr K Brannan left the meeting

PA/2022/2968-Rose Cottage, The Street, Bethersden, TN26 3AD

Relocating and replacing existing glass tile roof windows with escape roof windows and replacing roof.

It was resolved to support this application.

PA/2022/3014-The Barn, New Barn Fm, Pluckley Rd, Bethersden, TN 26 3EU

Lawful Development Certificate – Existing. Rection of an enclosed partially glazed walkway between ex-domestic garage.

It was resolved to support this application.

At this point Cllr K Brannan rejoined the meeting.

b) The following applications have been approved

NOT/2022/2755-Teardan Fm, Smarden Rd, Bethersden, TN 26 3HE

Prior approval for change of use of existing agricultural building to allow flexible use as workshop, light industrial or associated storage units covered under E(g)(iii).

PA/2022/2111-High Oak Oast, Woodchurch Rd, Bethersden, TN26 3JY

Replacement barn for agricultural purposes.

132/2022 Bethersden Village Design

Cllr K Brannan discussed re-working the 2003 Bethersden Parish Plan which he found was a useful document. He thought the Village Society should be reformulated and brought back into life. This organisation has funds that had laid in the bank for nearly 20 years.

Cllrs K Brannan and G Burnett agreed to head up this attempt to revised this plan.

133/2022 Chairman`s Report

Speed meter: I have circulated copies of all the email traffic to all members and drawn their attention to the enclosed text as requested from KCC Office Tony Butler. Further negotiations will be carried out regards this matter

Further vandalism in the community was carried out on the lighting cables for the lights on the Christmas tree provided for the Churchyard. The transformers have been replaced and the lights appear to be functioning again. This vandalism is a continuing theme following £4000 being spent from the Parish Community Charge only last month. The door of the meter at the pavilion has been broken and only the electricity company can repair it. A police crime report and number has been provided to them. The police urge reporting of all incidents to 101, however trivial, so they can get an overall assessment of current situation

The Village Hall Defribulator has been taken out of service and a new one has been ordered utilising the "Circuit" grant of £300

Nothing has been heard directly from the Environment Agency regards the Bethersden Stream, a community member has received an email indicating a response to the community will be delivered as soon as they can. Work has been carried out by KCC on the A28 and following the recent heavy rains there have not been any complaints reported about flooding in the A28 area.

Community pressure has been brought to bear regards the Ashford Scouting Association's intention to close and remove the Scout hut. It is understood that another Scout officer has taken over the position and is reviewing the situation further consideration will be made in the next 3 months.

The Tennis Courts: The defective surface has been punctured and new surface applied in accordance with the Trevor May Ltd.'s design and wishes. White lines will be added now and the final colour coat will be applied in the spring.

The tennis club wishes to clear up the area of the pavilion, clear out and update the kitchen, replace the toilet in the "home team" end of the pavilion. They are also asking for consideration and permission for the installation of a "paddle court" between the tennis courts and the carpark. Both projects would be funded by the Tennis Club.

Further discussions have been held regards the possible installation of CCTV on the Recreation ground following further recent outrages

Members have been sent revised National Codes of Conduct for consideration. At a later date review of all rules and conditions for the running of the council will need to be carried out.

Complaints have been received regards stones and other obstructions on road verges. Please remember that the verges are part of the public highway and under KCC highway control.

The village hall is booked for the Kings Coronation celebrations on 6 & 7th May 2023 - help with the organisation for both days would be appreciated.

134/2022 Finance

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

Balances as at 02/12/2022	£
Co-op Account	21,128.01
Lloyds Bank – Treasurers Account	68,184.41
Lloyds Bank – George Field Account	18,587.33
INCOME	
Bank Interest	1.88
EXPENDITURE	
C Tearle (Salary Nov)	995.30
C Tearle (Expenses Nov)	90.54
Hole Park Estate (Christmas Tree)	40.00
Bethersden Village Hall (WI)	25.00
Countrywide (Dec George Field)	310.28
Countrywide (Dec Rec Grnd)	236.27
Zoom Video Communications (Nov)	14.36
London Hearts (Defib)	902.40
Four Seasons Fencing (Repair Play Equipment)	2,774.40
Bethersden WI (Hall Hire)	44.00
HMRC – PAYE	809.40
Trevor May Contractors (Tennis Court Resurface)	9000.00

135/2022 The George Public House

Matters are now in position that the Trust could take possession of the George Public House at the end of January. The communities committee aim is to start trading on St Georges Day in April. Many grants are still coming in, however 72K is still needed for the necessary refurbishment costs. The Council resolved to award a grant of £5.5K towards the cost of refurbishing the toilets for public use, with outside access and a new floor for the public bar/community shared space.

136/2022 Civility and Respect Project

The contents of this document were noted.

137/2022 Recreation Ground

- a) The tennis court has finally been re-laid by the contractor after the wrong surface was provided initially.
- b) The proposal/plans for the tennis club to refurbish the kitchen/toilet area of the club house were approved.
- c) To agree subject to planning consent, the club`s plans for a Padel Court between the tennis courts and the car park at no cost to the council.
- d) CCTV - There have been Teams Meetings with the provider, but to date no further progress.

138/2022 Bethersden Churchyard

The Parish Clerk reported that recently he had attended a meeting run by KALC about graveyards and burials. He did not understand why the PCC had not done their "homework" before getting the Parish Council to assist in obtaining the land and paying for the land transfer. Why had planning consent not been applied for and why did the conditions that were applied come as a complete surprise? Those conditions were standard for any new burial area.

Nothing new has been received from the PCC since the previous council meeting.

139/2022 Speed Meter

Cllr K Brannan proposed that a letter be sent to our KCC Councillor, our MP and the local newspapers complaining about the actions of the KCC employee advising us on the deployment of our meter and his interpretation of the highway regulations.

140/2022 Matters of concern for the next agenda

Bull Stables- Members asked for the Clerk to contact ABC about the terrible neglected state of the Bull Stables – a listed property and a focal point of traffic approaching the village from Tenterden.

141/2022 Date of the next meeting

This will be on Wednesday 8th February 2023 in Bethersden Village Hall at 1900hrs.