

Bethersden Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mr Colin Tearle Sunny Lawns Densole Lane Densole CT18 7BL
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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 8th May 2024 in Bethersden Village Hall at 1900hrs.

Before the meeting started the Council Chairman A Boyd gave a presentation to Don Amos of a KALC plaque to mark the appreciation of the parish of the years of voluntary work.

Reports

Appendix A: Cllr J Blanford (ABC)

51/2024 Present

Cllr A Boyd (Chairman), E Allan, K Brannan, S Buckman, P Buss, J Crannis, A Jordan, K Mitchell and C Tearle (Parish Clerk)

52/2024 Election of Chairman

Cllr A Boyd was proposed and seconded, and there being only one nomination, was declared elected.

53/2024 Election of Vice-Chairman

There were no nominations, so it was decided to defer this appointment to another meeting.

54/2024 Apologies

Cllr M Peters

55/2024 Declarations of Interest

None

It was at this point that Cllr S Buckman announced that she was going to resign from the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk advised her of the correct procedure to follow. She then left the meeting.

56/2024 Minutes of the Meeting of the 10th April 2024

It was resolved to approve and sign these.

57/2024 George Field

It was reported that repairs to the fence had started but was proving to be more problematic than first thought, as the power cable feeding the houses at the top of the field was very close to the fence.

58/2024 Appointments to Outside Bodies

It was resolved to appoint the following to these roles.

- a) KALC (2) – (Cllrs A Boyd & K Mitchell)
- b) Village Hall (1) – (Cllr K Brannan)
- c) Chilmington Green (2) - Cllrs A Boyd & A Jordan)
- d) Community Safety Liaison (1) – (Cllr J Crannis)

59/2024 Review of all Standing Orders

- a) Council Standing Orders
It was resolved to approve these.
- b) Financial Standing Orders
It was resolved to approve these
- c) Personnel Harassment Policy and Procedures
It was resolved to approve these
- d) Kent Code of Conduct
It was resolved to approve these.

60/2024 Chairman`s Report

Representative of the Parish Council and the Clerk, met with two officers of Kent County Council Highways, at a virtual meeting, to review the Highways Improvement Plan. It was a very constructive meeting, but several items on our wish list were discounted.

Hoads Wood – a further meeting to be chaired by Damian Green MP is arranged for 16th May at the village hall. In the meantime, the initial Waste Disposal firm has quoted up to £10m to clear and restore site, another company is also appraising the job. Nothing can happen until funding is granted as it is considered that as the cost is so high only government sources were sufficient to meet the cost.

Nothing further to report regards the telephone swap shop. Cllr Crannis has been fighting a losing battle to reduce numbers of books. Some have had to be dumped due to water damage.

Following advice from Cllr Peters a bench has been purchased to cover the base of the childrens spring toy which, since the surface of the play area has been finished, created a trip hazard. The Village Handyman has installed this seat.

Cllr Peters and Cllr Allen and others are looking into the requirements needed to improve the facilities at the play ground

Nothing has been heard from the steel fabricator regards repairs to the Youth Shelter.

Instructions have been issued for the repairs to the George Grove fence and installation of a barrier. The work is taking place at the moment.

Nothing has been reported regarding the Stevenson`s Development or the call for sites.

The Parish Council attended in person at the Ashford Planning Committee regarding the application to build and operate a Waste water treatment plant at Shadoxhurst with the treated waste water being released into the river Beult. This application was refused.

61/2024 Hoads Wood

Members were reminded of the forthcoming public meeting on the 16th May 2024.

62/2024 Parish Plan

Nothing further to report.

63/2024 Clerk`s Report

- a) A VAT refund of £8,800 has been submitted.
- b) A formal request from the External Auditor for additional information has been requested once more. The third such request in the last four years. Normally this request is only made to approximately 15% of the Local Authorities in the audit category.

64/2024 Finance Report

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

1st April 2024	£
Lloyds Bank – Treasurers Account	34,727.41
Lloyds Bank – George Field Account	8,935.08
Co-op Bank	21,128.01
Income	
Lloyds Bank (Interest)	11.68
Expenditure	
C Tearle (Salary & Expenditure)	1,256.95
Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd (570624/25)	639.60
Chris Buckman (Village Handyman)	90.00
Bethersden Village Hall (BVH-2024-66)	55.00
Bethersden Village Hall (BVH-2024-69)	28.00
InkExpress (Printer)	148.80
Rialtas (Closedown etc)	682.80
Ripleys Garden Centre (Playground Bench)	174.99
Business Stream (Water Pavilion)	69.88
Satswana (DPO Service)	180.00
BestHost (Domain Renewal & Hosting Package)	233.00

65/2024 Recreation Ground

Members were informed that a new bench had been installed.

66/2024 Highway Improvement Plan 2024 (HIP)

Members approved the new plan recently circulated.

67/2024 Date of the Next Meeting

This will be on Wednesday 12th June 2024 at 7pm in Bethersden Village Hall.

Appendix A

Cllr J Blanford (ABC)

This last month she has had to deal with mainly planning issues. The main one being the Chilmington Green Waste Water plant that was refused. She added that a solution has to be found.