



BEKESBOURNE-WITH-PATRIXBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7:30pm
Bekesbourne Village Hall.

Minutes to be formally agreed at the next meeting.

1. Those Present

Parish Cllr Joanne Watt (Vice Chair); Parish Cllr Caroline Tuffey;
Parish Cllr Andrea Nicholson; Parish Cllr Christien Ash;
Parish Cllr Mary Evans; Parish Cllr Mark Rhodes

Mrs N. Purcell (Clerk/Proper Officer to the council)
There were 0 members of the public present.

2. Apologies for Absence

Parish Cllr David Sladden (Chairman),
Parish Cllr Christien Sladden

In the Absence of the Cllr D.Sladden, the meeting was Chaired by Cllr Watt, Vice Chair.

3. Declarations of councillor interests relevant to this agenda

M. Evans and A .Nicholson- Trustees of the RGMC

4. To confirm minutes of the previous meetings

(November 2023, Extraordinary Meeting December 2023, January 2023)

Resolved: It was proposed by M. Rhodes and seconded by M., Evans that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2023 are a true and accurate record.

Outcome: 3 votes in favour, 3 abstentions- motion carried.

Resolved: It was proposed by M. Evans and seconded by C. Ash that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 15th December 2023 are a true and accurate record.

Outcome: 3 votes in favour, 3 abstentions- motion carried.

Resolved: It was proposed by A. Nicholson and seconded by C.Ash that the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th January 2024 are a true and accurate record.

Outcome: 5 votes in favour, 1 abstention- motion carried.

5. To report any matters arising *(from the previous meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda)*

None

The meeting is suspended for up to 15 minutes to allow discussion with members of the electorate of the parish of Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne present at the meeting.

6. Public representation *(notified to the clerk in advance of the meeting, agenda items only)*

None

7. External Reports

7.1 County Councillor Reports

Received, circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting.

7.2 City Councillor Reports

Cllr Castle gave his apologies for the meeting. A report was received and circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting.

Parish Council meeting resumed.

8. Any s101 Delegated Authority items to be noted by council.(if any)

None

9. Any updates from representatives for external groups (if any)

9.1 Recreation Ground Management Committee

M. Evans (Chair of the RGMC) noted that the AGM is due during the first two weeks of April. M. Evans noted that she does not intend to stand as chair for another year, but will remain involved for a handover.

9.2 Village Hall Management Committee

No update

9.3 The River Group

The river group AGM was held on 9th March 2024. There were representatives there from Southern Water and The Environment Agency . The prediction still stands at 'Flow not Flood'. The pumping seems to have alleviated any issues. The Littlebourne Channel has now been opened.

9.4 KALC

No Update

9.5 A257 Traffic Management Group

No Update

10. Highways Matters

10.1 Highways Improvement Plan Update

The updated highways improvement plan with KCC feedback was circulated. The Clerk fed back that it was a positive meeting with the following agreed using KCC funding:

- Speed roundels to be installed on Station Rd x2 both directions.
- Clerk to report the wear of 'slow marking' under bridge for KCC to reinstate, and narrow road lines
- 'Junction Ahead' Warning signage to be installed on the approach to Aerodrome Rd
- 2 x SLOW road markings to be installed next to both road narrow signs on Bekesbourne Hill (one road marking per sign)

Also discussed, was the feasibility of the 20mph speed reduction in Patrixbourne. The extents were discussed as swapping the current 30mph to a 20mph, with the adjustment to the entrance via Patrixbourne Road. – Estimated costings are : £2850- Traffic regulation order + £1,068 design fee + £1,500 for the works. KCC can part fund.

Resolved: It was proposed by A. Nicholson and seconded by M. Evans to proceed with the speed limit reduction from 30mph to 20mph, with the parish council contributing £2,568 toward the costs, and KCC funding the TRO at £2850.

Outcome: all in favour, motion carried.

KCC to arrange for a 30mph toolkit to be delivered in the meantime.

Item 3, (A footpath from Nichols Barn , around the roundabout into Patrixbourne) was placed on the HIP at the request of the a resident after discussions with the Parish Council. The KCC feedback stated that – “ ***The installation of a footway at this location would not be***

financially viable as it would require a Deed of Dedication (to acquire the land, which is very costly) as well as the installation costs. We would also not promote installing a new footway where there is no safe connection for footway users. As it stands this footway would connect onto the carriageway at The Street next to a roundabout, which would not meet safety criteria. The footway would also need to benefit the whole of the community and not just one person.”

However, the Parish Council agreed that the additional measures discussed will aim to remind vehicle users of appropriate speeds for the village and enhance safety.

10.2 Any new matters

None

11. Finance Matters

11.1 February/March 2024 Electronic Payment Schedule

Payments Made in February/March as per financial regulations.

month	Type	Payment	Amount
February 2024	DD	Hugo Fox website	£23.99
February 2024	SO	Clerk salary	As per salary sheet

Payments Due for Approval:

Payment	Amount
Clerk Reimbursement HP Instant Ink (February)	£9.99
Village Hall Invoice for use 2024-25 (not to be paid before 1 st April)	£168.00
Clerk Reimbursement Phone Bill (Dec- March)	£20.00

Resolved: It was proposed by M. Rhodes and seconded by C. Tuffey to approve all payments as detailed in the February/March 2024 payment schedule.

Outcome: all in favour, motion carried.

11.2 Planning

12.1 No New applications

12.2 Any Updates

None

12.3 CCC Local Plan Update

CCC Local Plan Update had been circulated for councillors to digest. This will remain on the agenda for council to draft a response to the latest consultation.

12. Update following invitation to attend Highland Court Farm meeting.

C. Sladden produced a report which was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. (See appendix A)

13. Emergency Plan

The Parish Council used to have an Emergency Plan, but it needed to be updated. There are GDPR concerns regarding information handling on an emergency plan. Town and Parish Councils have no statutory responsibility to plan for, respond to, or recover from emergencies. It should also be recognised that the Parish Council is not an emergency service. It is not trained, equipped, empowered, or resourced to carry out the functions of an emergency service. The response should generally be confined to looking after the welfare of people in the community or helping to maintain the

infrastructure.

It was therefore agreed for the Clerk to draft a document that can be publicised, detailing as much information as possible to assist people in emergency situations. It should detail contact information for as many services as possible, such as UKPN, Southern water, etc and help on how to register as a vulnerable household.

14. Correspondence

14.1 Buses.

Correspondence has been received from resident regarding the poor availability of public transport through the village. The resident has suggested that as the 89 bus passes through Bridge several times a day, diverting one or two a day through Adisham and Bekesbourne would make a very small dent in the timetable and provide residents with better access to the city. We do have a railway station, but a bus would be much more accessible and also cheaper for pensioners who have bus passes, which at present aren't much use in the two villages. The resident has requested the Parish Council support on this matter.

Actioned: Clerk to make enquiries regarding the proposal of the diversion of an 89 bus, and also ask for clarification as to why the 89b service stops in the holidays if not a "school specific service" as Stagecoach claim it is.

The PC will also push for an increase in service in their response to the Draft local plan consultation.

14.2 Pin Oak at Village Hall

Email received from the VHMC: 'Just to note for the PC that if it is raised at the next meeting, I did check with Canterbury City Council and the Pin Oak was outside of the conservation area, but only just. I have had some awful comments that have been sent privately by one resident. So, I just wanted to let you know that it was confirmed that the tree was dying, this can be seen in the centre of the stump that is left, it had been dropping branches and debris for a few years now, we have in the past had the branches trimmed back, but it just kept dying. This was and could have caused debris to be dropped on the public or into the road. The car park retaining wall has been damaged, split all the way down as well as the lifting of the carpark surface by the roots. The tree had outgrown its space and the lack of water it could access was contributing to it dying. Under our insurance, we are liable for anything in the carpark that is unsafe and are expected to keep the area safe. This we felt was the only and final option. A decision not taken lightly by the committee.'

14.3 Complaint- *Confidential to be held under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960*

20:42 Exclusion of the public under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960

Resolved: Under the terms of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960, by virtue of the business to be transacted involving an informal complaint, it was proposed by M. Evans and seconded by A. Nicholson to move to a closed session for item 14.3.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

Resolved: It was proposed by M. Rhodes and seconded by A. Nicholson for the Parish Council to remove Parish Council representatives from external organisations, and to offer the groups and opportunity to attend the Parish Council Meetings in person, where there will be a permanent agenda item for an opportunity to provide updates.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

20:56 Closed session ended.

15. Next Meeting Date

Annual Parish Meeting 13th May 2024 6:30pm

Statutory May Meeting 13th May 2024 7:30pm

16. Items for Next Agenda

Allotment trees.

Village Sign.

Requests are to be emailed to the Clerk at least 10 days prior to any meeting; together with supporting information if relevant.

It was agreed that these minutes are a true and accurate record:

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: _____