

MINUTES
BEAN PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 13th March 2023
at 7pm
at
Bean Village Hall

Present: Cllr. C Bates, Cllr. K Burgin (Chair), Cllr. K. Clarke, Cllr D Hammock,
 Cllr. S Weeks

Mrs J Becket (Clerk)

Members noted that following a resolution passed at the October 2010 Meeting, Item 7, and in accordance with Standing Orders 12a the Minutes of the previous meeting would be taken as read.

| | Agenda Item |
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| 1 | <u>Apologies for absence</u> No apologies were received from Cllr. Munday. |
| 2 | <u>Declarations of interest</u> 2.1 There were no updates to the Register of Interests 2.2 There were no declarations of interest against any agenda item. |
| 3. | <u>Minutes</u> 3.1 To APPROVE the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 13 th February 2023 that they be received as a true and complete record and that the resolutions contained therein be deemed to be the resolutions of the Council. RESOLVED: <i>That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th February 2023 be approved and adopted as a true record.</i> |
| 4 | <u>Matters Arising</u> 4.1 Local Elections May 2023 4.1.1 Councillors noted that purdah commences on 17 th March 2023 and were reminded of the Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity ('The Code') which was issued on 31 March 2011. By virtue of s.6 of the Local Government Act 1986, the Code applies to parish councils. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recommendedcodeof-practice-for-local-authority-publicity 4.2 Remembrance Day 4.2.1 Purchase of megaphone/loud speaker Councillors discussed the purchase of a speaker system for use at the Remembrance Day Service and other occasions. The following speakers were considered. |

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| | <p>1) Donner PA Speaker System, Portable Bluetooth speaker with 2 microphones. £129.99 (Donner Store) Supports AUX/FM/AM/USB Charging</p> <p>2) Portable PA Speaker system with Bluetooth, MP3, 300w 12” Woofer and 2 wireless Microphones £199.99 (Vocal-Star Store)</p> <p>Councillors were concerned about using the system in inclement weather and it was agreed to investigate if there were similar systems available that would be better suited for use in poor weather. Recommendations will be brought to Council for a resolution to purchase at the June meeting.</p> <p>4.2.2 Large poppies for lamp posts Cllrs Clarke and Weeks, together with the Clerk, have mapped the lampposts from the entrance to the village in Southfleet Road up to Bean House and plotted the positions where the poppies will be displayed. An order has been placed for a total of 40 poppies at a cost of £5 each.</p> <p>4.3 Coronation Day</p> <p>4.3.1 Commemorative Mugs The artwork has been agreed and an order for 288 mugs has been placed.</p> <p>4.3.2 Union Jack Bunting 200 meters has been purchased and received.</p> <p>4.4 Bluewater Community Forum - Thursday 26th January 2023 Deferred.</p> <p>4.5 Elders forum held on 6th March The following items were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on the forthcoming elections which included the reminder that voters will need a photo ID to vote. - Presentation on Open Studios – displays of art by local artists - The Orchard Theatre are looking to develop the raised flower beds outside the theatre. - Diabetes awareness - The Leader of DBC advised that they will be consulting on the provision of ‘food bins’ for food waste and that clear carrier bags will be provided for those residents who require additional capacity for their recycling. - DBC will be introducing their ‘Family Tree’ fund whereby eligible Dartford families will receive a £25 voucher to purchase a plant, shrub, or tree to mark a chapter in the story of local families – newborn’s arrival, to welcome a newly adopted or fostered member or to create a loving tribute to a little one. 1000 vouchers will be available, valid until 31st December 2023. |
| 5 | <p><u>Announcements from the Chair</u> None</p> |
| 6 | <p><u>Community Rural Warden</u></p> <p>6.1 Warm Space meetings were held on 13, 20 February and 6 March 2023 with a regular nucleus of 6+ residents. Next meeting 20th March 2023.</p> <p>6.2 The Warden’s quarterly newsletter was noted.</p> |

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| 7 | <p><u>Correspondence</u> The following items were received and noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural Bulletin 14, 21, 28 Feb, 7 March - Campaign Crowd Justice to protect Betteshanger Country Park - Neighbourhood Watch's biggest recruitment drive in recent times launched - RSN Rural Funding Digest - March 2023 Edition |
| 8 | <p><u>KALC/SLCC/NALC</u> The following were received and noted.</p> <p>8.1 NALC Newsletter (March) 8.2 KALC Newsletter 8.3 NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin (March) 8.4 Civility and Respect March Newsletter</p> |
| 9. | <p><u>Parish Forum</u> There were no matters to consider.</p> |
| 10 | <p><u>GDPR</u> There were no matters to consider.</p> |
| 11 | <p><u>Lower Thames Crossing</u> It was noted that on 9 March 2023 in a Ministerial Statement, the Government set out its plans for the transport network, to drive growth across the country while managing the pressures of inflation.</p> <p>As part of the Ministerial Statement, which included changes to road and rail projects, the government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affirmed its commitment to the Lower Thames Crossing • Will look to rephase construction by two years. |
| 12 | <p><u>Consultations</u> 12.1 KCC's Community Services Consultation Kent County Council (KCC) has launched a public consultation on its Community Services which runs until 26 March 2023. The consultation proposes changes to the way we use our buildings to deliver some of our community services. We invite your feedback on our proposals as part of this consultation.</p> <p>Why are we proposing changes? The Council has experienced big increases in costs and has less money to spend. So we need to look ahead and do things differently to make sure we can still help residents in the years to come. Whilst ensuring effective support for residents who need our services, we need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tackle the rising costs of maintaining our many buildings • find savings, so we can balance the budget • reduce our carbon footprint to meet our Net-Zero ambitions. <p>What services are included in the proposals? Children's Centres and Youth Hubs, Public Health Services for Children and Families, Community Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities, Community Learning and Skills, and Gateways.</p> |

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| | <p>What are we proposing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having fewer permanent buildings, meaning that some of our buildings would close - we want to keep buildings in areas where they are needed the most • co-locating more of our services, meaning more than one service would be available from some of the buildings you might visit • continuing to deliver some services by outreach, which means they do not take place in a dedicated or permanent space, but move around to when and where they are needed • ensuring residents can continue to access services and information online. <p>Our proposals have been designed by considering where there is greatest need for our services.</p> <p>Find out more and share your views Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/communityservicesconsultation to view the consultation document, design handbooks, a video summarising the proposals, and the Equality Impact Assessments. You can respond via the online questionnaire (or download the Word version). You can also join us at a drop-in event where you can ask any questions you may have. Details of the drop-in sessions can be found on our website. If you have any queries, please contact communityservicesfeedback@kent.gov.uk.</p> |
| 13 | <p><u>Kent Police</u> There were no matters to consider.</p> |
| 14 | <p><u>Planning</u> The following were NOTED</p> <p>14.1 Weekly planning lists from DBC including Planning Decisions taken under delegated powers</p> <p>14.2 Weekly planning lists from EDC</p> <p>Councillors considered the following application</p> <p>14.3 23/00209/TPO Iolanthe, Southfleet Road Application for G2 - Multiple trees of various species -including Ash, Hawthorn, Field Maple and Oak. To reduce the crowns of the trees by 1-2m and prune branches away from buildings subject to Tree Preservation Order No.4 1980 No objection.</p> <p>The following the decision notice (response) by DBC for the following application being considered by KCC was noted.</p> <p>14.7 DA/23/00030/CPO Land Adjacent Oakwood and At Bungalow Yard Watling Street The Council strongly objects to the proposal as being inappropriate development in the Green Belt, contrary to both local and national planning policy. The proposal is also likely to result in harm to protected trees, Ancient Woodland, bio-diversity and results in the loss of Borough Open Space</p> <p>The following Planning Appeal Consultation was noted</p> <p>14.8 22/00262/FUL Bean Cottage, Shellbank Lane Demolition of existing detached dwelling and outbuildings and erection of replacement dwelling and associated works APPEAL REFERENCE: APP/T2215/W/22/3306040</p> |

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| | APPEAL STARTING DATE: 21st February 2023 |
| 15 | <p><u>Highways</u></p> <p>15.1 It was noted that the Has Made documents for Amendment 2 a Speed Limit Order on Various Roads, Bean Village in the Borough of Dartford. This order will be on public deposit from 24 February until 10 April 2023 and can be viewed on line from 24 February at www.kent.gov.uk/highwaysconsultations and will be advertised in the Kent Messenger on Friday 24 February and this order comes into effect on the same day.</p> <p>These include 40mph speed limit for Watling Street past the Merrychest, 30mph past Hope Cottages on Bean Lane and 20mph within Bean</p> |
| 16 | <p><u>Environmental Issues</u></p> <p>There were no matters to consider.</p> |
| 17 | <p><u>Footpaths</u></p> <p>There were no matters to consider.</p> |
| 18 | <p><u>Beacon Woods</u></p> <p>18.1 Queen's Green Canopy</p> <p>The following trees will be planted before the end of March.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Sorbus aucuparia 'Wettra' 25L pot, an upright and compact tree with abundant vivid red berries. Mountain Ash/Rowan https://www.vdberk.co.uk/trees/sorbus-aucuparia-wettra/ 2) Malus robusta 'Red Sentinel' 10/12 cm girth, a crab apple with red fruits. Crab Apple https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/malus-x-robusta-red-sentinel/ <p>Councillors discussed the options for memorial plaques.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>To purchase from the approved Queen's Green Canopy supplier, The Workshop Aberfeldy, 2 x plaques, silver acrylic, approx. A5 with ground spike at a cost of £48/each plus delivery and VAT.</p> <p>18.2 Opening/closing time plaques</p> <p>Have been purchased to match those on the main entrance boards. These should have been supplied by Balfour Beatty when the ladder board was installed but they failed to do so and the Clerk has been unable to obtain a response from either National Highways or Balfour Beatty as to when we may expect to receive them.</p> |
| 19 | <p><u>Recreation Facilities</u></p> <p>No matters to consider at time of publication</p> |
| 20 | <p><u>Bean Village Hall</u></p> <p>20.1 Bean Scouts</p> <p>It was noted with sadness that due to a lack of leaders the Group will be closing at the end of March. This ends a relationship between the hall and the scouting organisation lasting over 40 years.</p> <p>20.2 Village Hall Sub-Committee</p> <p>Will meet at 3pm on Monday 3rd April 2023 at the Village Hall</p> |

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| 21 | <p><u>Allotment Association</u> No matters to consider at date of publication</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | <p><u>Residents' Association</u> 22.1 Minutes of February meeting were received 22.2 Agenda for March 6th meeting was noted.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | <p><u>Bus services</u> No matters to consider at time of publication</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | <p><u>Spirit's Rest</u> The following report was received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bad weather has caused additional work for the sanctuary which has been closed to the public this month to allow repair works to take place. • Repair work has included new fencing and gates • DBC have kindly funded the new toilet block. • Volunteers will take part in the National Litter Picking Day on 25 March. • Visitors will be welcomed back in April. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | <p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>25.1 Bank and Scribe reports up to 28 February 2023 The following were noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op Bank transactions on all accounts 1- 28 February 2023 - Bank reconciliation on all accounts - Monthly breakdown of receipts and payments - Net position by cost centre and code - Receipts and payments forecast - Summary of receipts and payments all cost centres and codes - Cost centre year comparisons <p>25.2 Balance as at 28 February 2023 on all accounts</p> <p><u>Bean Parish Council</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="331 1361 1209 1514"> <tr> <td>Reserve Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15,006.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Account (No. 1 account)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4,824.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Petty Cash</td> <td style="text-align: right;">62.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19,893.34</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Bean Village Hall</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="331 1585 1209 1704"> <tr> <td>Current Account (No. 2 account)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19,673.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Petty Cash</td> <td style="text-align: right;">56.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19,729.45</td> </tr> </table> <p>Items of interest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) CPRE membership has been renewed £80 2) The Council Band D rates 2018/19 to 2023/24 were noted <p>25.3 Internal Auditor</p> <p><i>RESOLVED</i> <i>That Mrs K Gale be appointed the Council's Internal Auditor until further notice.</i></p> | Reserve Account | 15,006.02 | Current Account (No. 1 account) | 4,824.66 | Petty Cash | 62.66 | TOTAL | 19,893.34 | Current Account (No. 2 account) | 19,673.08 | Petty Cash | 56.37 | TOTAL | 19,729.45 |
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| 26 | <p><u>Items of interest</u></p> <p>26.1 Chair's Items - none</p> <p>26.2 Borough Councillor's Items - none</p> <p>26.3 Members' Items - none</p> <p>26.4 Clerk's Items</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The report on DBC funding streams was noted. 2) The notice board outside the shop needs replacing. The clerk will obtain quotes for a replacement. 3) SL Tree Care will cease trading at the end of March 2023. |
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There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.40pm

Chair..... Date