

**MINUTES
BEAN PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 8th April 2024
at 7.30pm
at
Bean Village Hall**

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.

Present: Cllr. K Turner-Burgin (Chair), Cllr. K Clarke, Cllr. D Hammock,
Cllr. A Munday, Cllr. J Turner-Burgin, Cllr. S Weeks, Cllr. T Williams

There were no members of the public present.

	Agenda Item
1	<u>Apologies for absence</u> No apologies, all members were present.
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 an agenda item.
3	<u>Public Participation (Local Government Act, s 100)</u> The council meets and makes its decisions in public. A council meeting is not a public meeting. It is a meeting held in public and there is no requirement in law which allows members of the public to speak at such meetings. However, the council is keen to encourage public attendance at meetings and will therefore provide an opportunity to local registered electors to show it is committed to community engagement. A maximum of 3 minutes is allowed per person to speak and the total length of time afforded for public participation at each meeting shall be no more than 10 minutes, subject to an extension of this time, in exceptional circumstances, being agreed by the Chairman.
4	<u>Minutes</u> 4.1 To APPROVE the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11 th March 2024 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 Minutes of the Parish Council held on 11th March 2024 be approved and adopted as a true record</i>

5	<p><u>Urgent Matters</u></p> <p>5.1 KALC Membership</p> <p>The Chair asked members if they would consider renewing membership of KALC the papers for which had been received by the Clerk after publication of the agenda.</p> <p>The Chair proposed, seconded by the Vice-Chair that membership be discussed under item 9.2.</p> <p>RESOLVED: <i>That membership of KALC be discussed under item 9.2</i></p>
6	<p><u>Announcements from the Chair</u></p> <p>None</p>
7	<p><u>Community Rural Warden</u></p> <p>7.1 It was noted that the Community Warden is on leave from 26 March until 15 April.</p> <p>7.2 Bean Together</p> <p>Next meeting will take place 15 April, 1-3pm when a representative from the police will be attending to answer questions.</p>
8	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Forum was held on 28 March 2024 when the theme was Law and Order.
9	<p><u>KALC/SLCC/NALC</u></p> <p>9.1 The following were NOTED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NALC Chief Executive Bulletin - NALC Newsletter - NALC events - KALC News <p>9.2 KALC Membership 2024-2025</p> <p>Members were in receipt of the invoice for membership 2024-2025 for £472.66 + VAT and noted the following:</p> <p>At the KALC Annual Meeting on the 18th November 2023, the membership agreed that for 2024/2025 the subscription would be based on the published tax base figures for 2023/2024 and that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fixed standing charge per member remain at £65 • The variable element be set at 74.5p per 2023/24 tax base unit • The maximum variable amount per member Council should increase to £1700 • All Councils should pay at least the NALC subscription plus 2.5p per tax base unit <p>Members discussed the benefit of continuing membership of KALC and Cllr. Weeks seconded by Cllr. Hammock proposed that membership be renewed.</p> <p>RESOLVED <i>That Bean Parish Council renew membership of KALC for 2024-2025 at a cost of £472.66 + VAT</i></p>

10	<p><u>Parish Forum</u> It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 2 April 2024 was cancelled by the Chair of the Forum.</p>
11	<p><u>GDPR</u> There were no matters to consider.</p>
12	<p><u>Consultations</u> There were no matters to consider.</p>
13	<p><u>Kent Police</u> There were no matters to consider.</p>
14	<p><u>Planning</u> The following were noted 14.1 Weekly planning lists from DBC including Planning Decisions taken under delegated powers 14.2 Weekly planning lists from EDC</p> <p>Members considered the following application 14.3 EDC/24/0017 Display of 4 non-illuminated free-standing advertising boards on roundabout The Roundabout on The Junction of Watling St, Bean Lane And B225 Watling Street, Dartford, Kent. DA9 9SX</p> <p>Members were extremely concerned that the proposed advertising may detract motorists' attention away from the road, particularly visitors to Bluewater who may not be familiar with the area and the road layouts. They also noted that the list of excluded advertisements did not include references to gambling.</p>
15	<p><u>Highways</u> 15.1 Meeting on Thursday 15th February with representatives from BPC, BRA and National Highways to discuss safety issues at Bean Interchange. The Minutes prepared by National Highways and the response from Bean Residents Association were noted. 15.2 School Lane 29 March to 16 April School Lane CLOSED for BT Works between Page Close to Sandy Lane</p>
16	<p><u>Environmental Issues</u> There were no matters to consider.</p>
17	<p><u>Footpaths</u> There were no matters to consider.</p>
18	<p><u>Beacon Woods</u> 18.1 The annual Tree Inspection Report was noted. Recommended work to take place in April. To receive and discuss the scope of work and quotations.</p> <p>RESOLVED <i>That the tree work at Beacon Woods as detailed in the Tree Inspection report from Alltree Consultancy, report no. 800990 dated 4 March 2024 be awarded to AP</i></p>

	<p><i>Trees as per their quotation dated 4057 dated 17 March 2024 for a total cost of £725 + VAT.</i></p> <p>18.2 Survey of Local Wildlife Site by Kent Wildlife Trust Tarmac have approved for a survey of Beacon Wood Country Park to be undertaken.</p> <p>18.3 Application for funding for repairs/maintenance to maintain accessibility for all users. Cllrs Clarke and Hammock will meet with the Clerk to draw up ‘Expression of Interest’ document for external funding to ensure that the Park remains accessible to all users. Remedial work to include repairs to hardstanding pathways, entrance steps, dipping platform and woodland track</p>
19	<p><u>Recreation Facilities</u></p> <p>19.1 Grounds maintenance 2024-2025 The current quotations were reviewed</p> <p>RESOLVED: <i>That the Council enters into a 3-year agreement option with Landscape Services as at £136.51/cut for the first year, £141.97/cut for the second year and £147.65 for the third year.</i></p>
20	<p><u>Bean Village Hall</u></p> <p>20.1 Debt Advice Pilot Scheme Following the meeting on 27 March between Cllrs Munday and Weeks and the Clerk with a representative from CAB, Bean will be operating a Debt Advice Pilot Scheme available for residents to access during Bean Together on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month (excluding Bank Holidays), between 1pm and 3pm. Residents will have access to a direct video link with an advisor who will be able to offer advice and support on Benefits, Housing, Energy and Dealing with debt. This service is free and confidential. In order to provide a private and confidential area for the hub Councillors considered that it would be necessary to purchase suitable mobile screens, which could also be utilised to display notices, and headset with microphone to ensure confidentiality during discussions.</p> <p>RESOLVED: <i>That the Council purchases 2 x 3 Panel Mobile Screens, suitable for displaying notices, and a headset and microphone. Total cost not to exceed £750 excl. VAT</i></p> <p>20.2 Meeting of Bean Village Hall Committee The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March were received and noted.</p> <p>RESOLVED <i>That the following charges for hall hire be approved and come into effect on 1 September 2024.</i> <i>Regular business hire charge to increase from £16/hour to £18/hour</i> <i>One off business use to increase from £20/hour to £22/hour</i> <i>Youth/Community hire – price on application to the Clerk</i> <i>Private hire to increase from £75 for the first 3 hours to £85 and then £25/hour thereafter.</i></p>

	<p>RESOLVED: <i>That the hourly rates for caretaking provision as detailed in the Confidential Minutes of the Hall Committee Meeting held on 27th March be approved and be backdated to 1st April for weekly caretaking and the new rate for caretaking for Private hire will commence on 1 September 2024.</i></p>														
21	<p><u>Allotment Association</u> There were no matters to consider.</p>														
22	<p><u>Residents' Association</u> 22.1 The litter report March 2024 was noted 22.2 The Ebbsfleet Development Corporation Board Meeting 27 March 2024 questions and responses were noted.</p>														
23	<p><u>Finance</u> 23.1 Bank and Scribe reports up to 31 March 2024 The following were received and discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op Bank transactions on all accounts 1- 31 March 2024 - 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>23.2 Balance as at 31 March 2024 on all accounts <u>Bean Parish Council</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Reserve Account</td> <td>8,247.48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Account (No. 1 account)</td> <td>269.63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Petty Cash</td> <td>42.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>8,559.77</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Bean Village Hall</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Current Account (No. 2 account)</td> <td>14,178.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Petty Cash</td> <td>6.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>14,185.54</td> </tr> </table> <p>23.3 Insurance 2024-25 – The Clear Group The policy is currently in a 3-year Long-Term Undertaking up to and including 2025-26, and will automatically renew on 26 April 2024 on the terms invited unless we advise of any changes or amendments required. Current premium £1,711.68 but this excludes updates to stock value and addition of 2 notice boards.</p> <p>RESOLVED: <i>That the amendments are made and new premium paid</i></p>	Reserve Account	8,247.48	Current Account (No. 1 account)	269.63	Petty Cash	42.66	TOTAL	8,559.77	Current Account (No. 2 account)	14,178.92	Petty Cash	6.62	TOTAL	14,185.54
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24	<p><u>Items of interest</u> 24.1 Chair's Items The Chair had reviewed the request for the Parish Council to join the FaceBook group 'Save our Buses'. Members agreed that it was not appropriate for the Council</p>														

	<p>to join but that individual members could if they wished. The Chair reminded members of the FOI Act and Subject Access Requests with respect to all Council communications (email, WhatsApp).</p> <p>24.2 Borough Councillor's Items None.</p> <p>24.3 Members' Items</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents had queried the use of the bus stop at the bottom of Bean Lane and Watling Street roundabout. The Clerk advised that this was used as a commuter coach stop but has not been in use since Covid. 2. Dog poo bag dispensers require replacing due to ageing. Lemonade bottles are needed for this purpose. 3. Cllr Clarke requested that Children's Christmas Party be added to the May agenda <p>24.4 Clerk's Items The Clerk's report was noted.</p>
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The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 20th May 2024 at 7pm and will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20.50pm

Chair.....

Date