

# **MINUTES OF BEAN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7 pm**

**at the Bean Village Hall, Bean**

Councillors present: Cllr. C Bates  
Cllr. K Burgin (Chair)  
Cllr. K Clarke  
Cllr. D Hammock  
Cllr. Mrs A Munday  
Cllr. Mrs SA Weeks

Three members of the public were present.

**1) Apologies**

No apologies were received

**2) Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

**3) Accounting and Governance Statements**

The Accounting and Governance Statements of Bean Parish Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 together with the Income and Expenditure account was presented.

It was noted that these accounts had been examined and approved by the Council's internal auditor and that the Annual Return was reviewed by the Parish Council's external auditor under the Audit Commission Act 1998 and a Certificate awarded.

**4) Matters Arising from the Financial Statement**

There were no questions

**5) Chairman's Report**

We began the new council year with the same heavy heart that we finished the previous one, and that was with Cllr Woods funeral. This council has missed Cllr Wood who joined the council in May 2015. Cllr Wood also stood as the Chair for Bean Residents Association, and worked hard supporting his local community and liked to share his keen sense of humour.

The council has worked in conjunction with the BRA and on the 6<sup>th</sup> June held a joint meeting with National Highways/Balfour Beatty. The meeting was to explore why all the works were not yet completed and to look at the schedule of works going forward. Once again in September, together with BRA, we attempted to arrange another meeting with National Highways to discuss A2 Bean Interchange and other NH led projects around the village. Unfortunately to date this has not happened due to unavailability of NH key personnel.

The Council received concerning reports from a resident that an effluent discharge was present along DR20. The Chair met with the resident and investigated the concerns, Photographs were taken and both ISO map grid references and What – Three – Words were used to pinpoint the exact location. All of this information was forwarded to DBC, and is currently under investigation by the legal services.

Play Place came to village during school terms 5 and 6 and began to engage with some of our younger residents. They have used the recreation ground as their place to be based and have run many varied activities such as archery, football and other outside physical activities. They also offer

more hi-tech options with gaming consoles available and use a gazebo during more inclement times. This appears to have begun to be a successful venture and we are awaiting their return.

Councillors received training on the revised Code of Conduct with slides sets provided for the July meeting. The council agreed to adopt the code form used at DBC as the monitoring officer would be well versed with it. Bean Parish Council also signed up to the Civility and Respect pledge and the Council is fully committed to standing up to Bullying and Harassment within the Council. This Council supported DBC in its opposition to the ever-creeping expansion of the ULEZ, and on an alternative bus service to replace the ill-fated 474/475 which ceased running in February this year.

Following comments from local residents this council arranged for hedge and foliage to be cut back along PROW footpaths and those within the village including alleyways. The council also liaised with Highways regarding unclear road markings at junctions and on the traffic island.

The council have also supported the introduction of 20mph speed limit in Bean village, worked with Tarmac over new entrance boards for Beacon Woods which do look new and modern. Work closely with DBC to ensure timely removal of fly-tipping. Repairing and maintaining dog poo bag dispensers throughout village trying to keep them regularly stocked, but some people take handfuls at a time. Ensured annual tree inspections at Beacon Woods are carried out, and that all play and exercise equipment both in the trim trail and recreation ground are regularly checked and in good order.

As a body this council regularly reviews local planning applications and where appropriate responds, it also takes part in consultations that affect residents of Bean. This council represents the village of Bean and its residents at many forums and meetings including the Bluewater Forum, Elders Forum, Darenth Wood Country Park and the Town and Parish Forum.

During the summer we saw the erection of the village flagpole, just in time to proudly display the Platinum Jubilee Union Jack Flag, to commemorate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee. It was on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 when I would lower the Union Jack to half-mast in respect and acknowledgement that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had died. This Council held a book of condolence in the village hall for those who wished to sign and place their comments. Most of the time this Council fly the Beacon flag of Bean with pride.

This year saw the cessation of Bean Community Bus service due to lack of support from the village and we were also unable to attract drivers. Due to the lack of use, and little opportunity to increase its use it was sadly returned to KCC.

In November we again arranged for a Remembrance Day service at the memorial stone. This was a mainly sectarian event but was supported by the new Vicar from St Nicholas Southfleet. It was again, a well-attended event by local residents with a good attendance from the Bean scout troop

and from the school who did their own reading. I would like also to thank Tracey Adams who has attended each year in RAF uniform and attends with a standard which she lowers during our minutes silence.

In December we welcomed Santa back to Bean following Covid-19. As in previous years they used the Black Horse public house car park, and was a great success.

I would like to extend huge thanks to the Bean Allotment Association Committee for keeping the allotments in good order, and to FoBW and all volunteers for their work at Beacon Woods.

I would like to thank all councillors for their hard work and dedication to this Parish Council, without whom none of the work could be done in the last year. Without the dedication of our hall caretaker and park supervisor we would not have the nice facilities we do to hold meetings and allow for play and recreation, so a massive thank you to Mrs Roberts.

On behalf of the council, I wish to extend our gratitude to the Clerk for all her hard work and dedication to ensuring we remain functional and within statutory guidance and the law.

Keith Burgin  
Chair of Bean Parish Council

**6) Questions on the Chair's Report**

The Chair was asked if Play Place was returning to Bean and the Chair confirmed that arrangements are being put in place for them to return later this month on a Tuesday afternoon.

**7) Vote of thanks**

The Chair was thanked for his detailed report.

Cllr. Hammock, seconded by Cllr. Weeks proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr. Burgin for his report and the motion was carried unanimously.

**8) Comments or questions to the Parish Council from members of the public**

There were no questions.

**9) Community Reports**

It was noted with sadness that due to lack of support Bean Brownies and Scouts have closed, the latter having been at Bean for over forty years, as has a Dance School which had been offering classes to a wide age group in Bean for over 15 years

**Bean Residents' Association**

This report covers the 12 months April 2022 to March 2023.

Our chairman would normally write this. However, our April minutes say, "It was with great sadness that we had to report the death on 29 March of Duncan Wood the Chair of the Residents Association and a Parish Councillor. Duncan had lived at Ightham Cottages before having to leave when all 11 homes were demolished for the ongoing roadworks. He had moved to a bungalow in Stonewood." We have not yet elected a new Chair. As an interim, the Assistant Secretary, Ashley Johnson, has stood in. Together with the Hon Secretary, Linda Collins, they prepared this report.

1. In 2022/23 we held **10 Meetings** in the Village Hall [NH Cancelled 16<sup>th</sup> May 22 joint BPC-RA meeting as key speaker unwell with Covid; No meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 23 as it was Bank Holiday]. There were **310 items of outgoing Correspondence** compared with 437 last year.  
The top recipients were National Highways/Balfour Beatty (25%), KCC (16%), Meeting arrangements (16%), DBC (10%), Bean Triangle Businesses & Residents (8%) Bean Parish Council (6%) and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (6%).

Meetings and Correspondence included: -

2. **A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet Junction Construction and Operation Complaints:** -

- a) National Highways and Balfour Beatty attended re-arranged 6-Jun-22 Special Joint Meeting to discuss Bean & Ebbsfleet Improvements.
  - b) Meeting, Chaired by Keith Burgin, was attended by 12 people.
  - c) Traffic lights were shortly to be installed at Bean North [Ightham Cottages].
  - d) Completing landscape planting between Sep 2022 and March 2023.
  - e) Complaints made that without traffic lights Hope Cott roundabout has delays and accidents occurring especially when trying to join 3<sup>rd</sup> lane for Dartford.
  - f) NH said there will be a Post Opening Project Evaluation a year after opening.
  - g) Problem with cycle route signs at Hope Cott and NCR1 flooding on Watling St.
  - h) Promises to improve business frontages on Watling St, not met by NH or EDC.
3. **“Showmens Winter Quarters”**, Drudgeon Farm; Travellers appeared to move out April 2022; **31** months after laying roads. They have challenged DBC provision. Sites proposed by DBC to be considered on 11 May 2023 at Local Plan Examination - Gypsy, Traveller & Travelling Showpeople Accommodation.
  4. **Ebbsfleet Garden City**; Questions put to every **EDC Board Meeting**. Still no on-site GP for 3,455 homes completed so far (about 8,290 residents) [Mar-2023].
  5. **Bean Triangle**; Clinical Waste site application opposed by DBC and Bean RA.
  6. **Bean Cottage Appeal**; comments submitted for written examination.
  7. **The Ship**, Green St Green; comments made on KCC & DPC road traffic hazards.
  8. **Lower Thames Crossing**; protective objection submitted, before 2 year delay.
  9. **KCC informed of concerns re Go Coach C1 being off-peak only**. Will review.
  10. **Bean 20mph zone**; KCC say 24 Feb 23 TRO will be enforced. Asked, how?

This is only a selection of our activity on behalf of Residents and Businesses.  
 We thank the Committee, Residents and Parish Council for their assistance.  
 Linda Collins, Honorary Secretary, Bean Residents Association

#### **Bean Allotment Association**

Currently we have 29 plot holders and one person on the waiting list. The only plots vacant are 1D & 1 which are along the public foot path and shielded by trees. These are now considered to be unusable and plot 1 is used by the management team as a work area.  
 Most plots are being worked ready for spring planting.

An inspection of all plots will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> April by an Independent Inspector.

#### **10) Any other business**

None

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Parish Meeting closed at 7.20 pm

**Chairman**

**Date**