

**BEKESBOURNE WITH PATRIBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**  
**MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 at 19:30**  
**(via Zoom)**

**PRESENT:** Parish Cllr Andrea Nicholson (Chairman)  
Parish Cllr Christine Ash  
Parish Cllr Graham Duplock  
Parish Cllr Christine Sladden  
Parish Cllr Jill Thomas  
Parish Cllr Joanne Watt  
Parish Cllr Emily Young  
Mrs Nicola Purcell, Clerk to the council.

There were 2 members of the public present: Mr Sladden and Mr Dixon

**52. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

No Apologies received

Cllr Watt was not present at the last meeting but was listed as an attendee.

**53. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020**

Minutes unanimously agreed. Small edit to be made for the attendees. Cllr Watt was not present but was listed under the attendees.

**54. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

No matters arising.

**55. MEETING ADJOURNED FOR PARISHIONERS COMMENTS**

No comments

**56. INTRODUCTION OF NOMINEES FOR VACANT COUNCILLOR POSITION FOLLOWED BY VOTE**

Since Mr David Sladden expressed an interest at the previous meeting, the vacant position of councillor was formally advertised in line with section 87 of the Local Government Act 1972. No other nominees came forward for the post. Mr David Sladden officially introduced himself to the council. A unanimous vote saw Mr Sladden appointed as new councillor for the Bekesbourne ward. Clerk to send Mr Sladden the relevant documentation regarding his new role.

**57. COUNTY/CITY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

No contact received from CCC Councillor. KCC Councillor Northey sent the following report in advance of the meeting which he discussed:

*Last Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> Sept, we had full County Council meeting and had to agree an in-year Budget adjustment, the first any of us can remember. Because of Covid-19, and despite good government grants, there is still a budget deficit for the current year. The Council voted for an extra £36.3 million expenditure for the year. Full details can be seen on the website. The deficit was caused by extra expenditure on such items as Personal Protection Equipment, IT equipment and licenses for home working (95% of KCC have been working from home) and other support. There has been a loss of income during the lockdown. There was widespread public consultation over the new proposals.*

*A vast amount of work was done over the summer in conjunction with the bus companies to make sure there was adequate transport for school children, and councillors report that if anything they have heard of fewer problems over this than in a normal year, so a great success so far.*

*Finally, the KCC Chairman reminded us that 10th September, the day of the Council meeting, was World Suicide Prevention Day. The KCC Suicide Prevention Programme recognises the*

*particular impact on mental health due to the lockdown as people feel more isolated and distressed. The Release the Pressure received more funding from KCC for the 24/7 helpline and between April and July there were over 10,500 calls, an 18% increase above the same period last year. A new easy to use mental health text messaging service, free on all major mobile networks has been launched, to start a conversation with a trained and experienced volunteer who can give support at any time. Text the word "Kent" or "Medway" to 85258. Over 700 conversations have taken place already. This important issue of course is an ongoing one, and the lockdown has caused extra problems.*

*Information on all these services, and links to other organisations which support mental wellbeing, are available on the KCC website.*

#### **58. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE**

Cllr Duplock provided an update on the village hall renovation. The VHMC are still awaiting architect's drawings which are due this week, therefore, not much to report at this stage. All key holders need to return their keys and clear any items stored in the hall by the end of Sept. The VHMC will look at the costing and logistics of hiring a container.

#### **59. ST MARYS PATRIBOURNE**

Cllr Nicholson spoke as a representative of St Mary's Patribourne. Cllr Nicholson discussed proposals to create a small extension to the side of the church, in keeping with its original style. The extension will contain a toilet big enough for wheelchair access and a shower. St Mary's is on a popular pilgrimage route, and the church is often getting requests for groups of pilgrims to stay overnight, with a noticeable decrease however over the lockdown period. Hosting pilgrims will help ensure the future of St Mary's as they provide a source of income.

Clerk shared the floor plans to all attendees on screen. This identified the plans to remove some pews to allow for a wooden floored sleep area. The new space should provide facilities to be able to put out table and chairs and serve refreshments in the kitchen. It will be a multi-purpose extension. A roof window will mitigate loss of light from one of windows. This window will not be removed, so the original glass will remain. The Roof of the extension is to be a continuation of the building.

Cllr Thomas expressed that she does not believe it would be appropriate to ask the parish council to fund the renovation at this time. Cllr D.Sladden suggested that a cycle storage area would be a nice addition.

#### **60. PLAY AREA UPDATE**

Cllr C.Sladden reported that three firms have been and things seems to be moving forward quite quickly. It has been decided to look at the options to repair some of the existing equipment, as per the ROSPA report.

The goal posts are loose at the ground level. The Adult teams who use the pitch regularly would like to rotate the position of the goal posts to improve playing conditions in the winter months. Cllr Thomas to ask adult football clubs if they can facilitate this? Cllr Duplock and Cllr C.Sladden noted that if the goal posts move then it could have potential implications on the play area renovations. Parish council to request a plan of the football pitch from RGMC.

#### **61. VINE COTTAGE.**

Cllr Nicholson reported that Vine Cottage, Old Palace Road has made no progress with building works. The recent rubbish complaint resulted in the rubbish being moved around a little, and some of it cleared. Planning enforcement are in the loop and hopefully follow the complaints through as the building is an eyesore.

#### **62. A2 SLIP ROAD**

Cllr Watt noted that the slip road from the A2 on the approach to the village is very tatty looking with knocked over barriers and temporary fences. Clerk to email highways and CC Cllr Northey to request if a more permanent solution could be made.

### 63. STATION APPROACH

The branches on the approach to the station are over-hanging the footpath. Clerk to enquire about having them cut back by Network Rail.

### 64. FINANCE MATTERS

Clerk requested approval to pay for the ROSPA report totalling £90.60. Approved by all

### 65. CLERK REPORT/CORRISPONDENCE

Nicola screen shared a preview of the completed new website for approval. Discussions were had regarding where to draw the line with 'advertising' for small businesses in the area. Agreed by all that would add the picture frame business at Chalkpit Farm and Cobbs Meadow Caravan Site. All in agreement it was suitable for publication. Cllr Nicholson noted that Nicola is to keep a record of additional hours worked for the maintenance of the website.

### 66. PLANNING

CA/20/01564	4 Chalkpit Cottages Chalkpit Hill Bokesbourne Canterbury Kent CT4 5EU  Two-storey extension to south west elevation, following demolition of existing single-storey extension.	Awaiting Decision
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#### For information:

CA//18/02358	A Gomez and Co Distribution Services Ltd, Coldharbour Lane, Bokesbourne, CT4 5HL  Details submitted pursuant to conditions 03 (external lighting) and 04 (external plant and machinery) of planning permission CA/17/02182/FUL.	Awaiting decision
CA/20/00447	The Barton Patixbourne Road Patixbourne Canterbury Kent CT4 5BP  Application for listed building consent for external/internal alterations including insertion of rooflights in rear (east) elevation and replace existing glazed tiles at high level.	Awaiting decision
CA/20/01347	7 Lackenden, Cottages, Bokesbourne Lane, CT3 1XD  Erection of detached single-storey outbuilding for ancillary accommodation.	Granted

### 67. AOB- FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

The verge on the East Side of Chalkpit Hill requires maintenance, Clerk to contact Mr Walters to request.

Cllr Watt would like to see a letter of thanks written from the parish council to those who have been giving up their spare time to litter pick around the villages. Clerk to compile letter and distribute accordingly.

### 68. TO SET A DATE FOR FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Next meeting to be held on **MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**, at 7:30pm via Zoom

The meeting closed at 21.03

Signed .....(Chairman)

Date .....