



Clerk: Mr Bernie Galopin

Tel: 07568536405

Email: clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk



Established 1934

PO Box 635

Sevenoaks

TN13 9UX

www.boroughgreen.gov.uk

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Borough Green Parish Council held in Borough Green Village Hall on Monday 14th March 2022 starting at 1930. The meeting was recorded to ensure the accuracy of the minutes

Present: Cllrs Taylor (Chairman), Shaw, Perry, Wray, Ramsden, Reading, Butterfill, Rawsthorne, Crawley, Simpson & the Clerk

Cllr Rayner (KCC) was present, but no Members of the Public.

197 **Apologies for Absence** Cllr Millener, Cllr Palmer (TMBC)

198 **Declarations of Interest** Chairman will abstain on cheques - reimbursement

199 **To Approve Minutes of the meeting 7th February 2021**

Note slight alteration to Part 2 - AGREED

200 **Matters Arising** from those minutes - NONE

201 **Submissions by County and Borough Members and Members of the Public**

Cllr Rayner spoke about TMBC's Active Travel Strategy, which seems to be aimed solely at BGGC, with no plans for safety on existing roads. He noted that the Quarry Hill 7.5tonne limit was essentially complete, and the Darkhill 40mph limit will be implemented shortly. He noted the strong support from KCC Members at the recent Joint Transportation Board regarding the KCC Officer proposed Christmas Light/Hanging Basket "safety permits". There was considerable discussion about the KCC subsidy withdrawal consultation for the 222 & 70 bus routes and the severe impact this would have on rural communities. It was decided that all Parishes should engage in discussion with Bus Operators. The recently approved KCC Budget may quickly fail because of inflation and energy costs. Problems still exist for KCC with the number of Refugees arriving at Dover straining children's services. Noted closure of Nepicar Layby and thanked BGPC for support
Cllr Ramsden to encourage responses to KCC Bus Consultation on Social Media, repeat on websites

202 **Emergency Item - Ukraine Crisis**

The Council offers its support and solidarity to the people of Ukraine. AGREED Unanimously

(i) To ratify £250 Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine donation - AGREED

(ii) To ratify purchase 2x Ukrainian flags to fly at War Memorial and Baptist Chapel for the duration of the Russian Invasion - AGREED

(iii) To approve delegated authority to the Clerk in the event Potters Mede is requested as an Emergency Refugee Shelter, with up to £5000 contingency funding if required, with email governance - AGREED

204 **Planning Matters** to hand

(i) To note Planning Notices as circulated

(ii) Current applications and responses circulated

TM/22/00315/LDP 34 Quarry Hill Road LDC garden room/dining area and a kitchen extension. Remove angled link between main house and garage annex and re-build it as a square space between the two buildings.

TM/22/00069/FL Telephone Exchange Harrison Rd storage container and fencing to house telecom material

TM/22/00111/FL Rose Cottage Basted Mill 1&2 storey side extension to the North West & rear extension

TM/22/00309/FL 29 Wye Road Rear elevation roof terrace over existing flat roof extension. Dormer windows

TM/22/00318/FL 159 Fairfield Road single/double storey rear extension and single storey front extension

TM/21/03301/LDP 14 Monckton Road LDC drop kerb and enlarged driveway

TM/21/03304/FL CO OP Stores Station Approach 82 solar panels to the flat roofed area above the sales and back
NO OBSERVATIONS ANY APPLICATION AGREED

(iii) **PTAB O&S Report** on Enforcement improvements very little progress, and ongoing curtailment to Parish involvement in the process, Public speaking at Committee restriction to 4 members of the public

(iv) **Moto application** - There was considerable discussion around the importance of how the Parish Alliance gives Parishes a much greater weight in Planning matters, but we needed better oversight:

(a) Agreeing prior commitment where possible

(b) Agreeing a "Fighting Fund" donation to Wrotham PC.

(c) A multi Parish "Project Board" might not be feasible, but better early communication is important.

Chairman to ask Wrotham PC for a formal minuted letter requesting support from BGPC towards funding the Planning Team presenting the Parish Alliance case. - AGREED

205 **Potters Mede**

(i) Hall flooring - carpet tiles past their best. Quotes being sought.

(ii) Star Platforms have gone, site being taken by Kent Demolition.

(iii) Now bookings are returning to pre-covid levels, Clerk will start extra marketing

206 **Recreation Ground**

(i) Perimeter Path Update - 2 blind tenders received so far - opening deferred to seek further tenders

(ii) Adult exercise equipment - Cllr Crawley has done a lot of research and this sort of equipment does not get huge use considering the expense. A Trim-Trail will be investigated.

207 **Village Enhancements**

(i) Planters & Benches - no report

(ii) Kent Wildlife report IQE, Crowhill & Harrison Rd land. NOTED

(iii) Update Basted House Drive Surgery/Scouts. No Entry signs to be re-installed - AGREED

(iv) Medway Valley Countryside Partnership - Isles Quarry East - Chairman to meet representative and invite options. Request to clear the path from the Basted Mill PROW to IQE

208 **Platinum Jubilee**

(i) Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr Reading reported on Beacons and their protocol, noting each beacon would cost £490, would have little use, and that propane was in extremely short supply. Wood burning beacon to be made "in-house" and used only in the Rec, Crowhill is too vulnerable to fire hazard. Beacon Ceremony Thursday 2nd June @ 9:45pm

Cllr Butterfill reported progress on organising the Festival itself. Events proposed are listed below in Appendix 2. Clerk to arrange Risk Assessment and investigate Insurance cover. Chairman thanked Cllrs Reading and Butterfill for the huge amount of work done so far.

Proposal to fund Disabled Portaloo, Toilet lock and beacon steel - AGREED

Contact sue.butterfill@boroughgreen.gov.uk or jeff.reading@boroughgreen.gov.uk

209 **Financial Matters**

(i) Responsible Financial Officer's report. Clerk tabled the Cash Flow report and Bank reconciliations, noting that we have about £10k in the current account, and a total including all reserves of apx £61,273 at the Y/end

(ii) Bank Reconciliations 28 February - NOTED

(iii) Electric Van / Charger - Still being deferred by Vauxhall, but Ford rental continues

(iv) Mower Cost/Benefit analysis. Investigating cheaper option, report back to next meeting

(v) To approve Payment List. Prop, Cllr Perry, 2nd Cllr Rawsthorne, Chair abstained, - AGREED

Invoices checked by Cllrs Crawley & Ramsden.

210 **Website & Social Media** (i) No report

211 **TMBC Local Plan & Policies** (i) No Report

212 **Highways & Streetlighting**

(i) Update on Waste Services. Brown Bins restarted. Pressure will be brought to bear re Bulk Freighter.

Note CCTV seems to have stopped fly tipping at Dene Lodge

(ii) KCC charges for load testing & permit for Baskets and Christmas Lights. JTB Report Appendix 3.

Service Invoice to KCC of £50,000 tabled (Appendix 4) AGREED

(iii) Quarry Hill 7.5t - completed

(iv) Darkhill 40mph - in progress

213 **Quarries & Landfills** (i) No report

214 **Councillors Reports from outside Bodies** (max 3 min)

(i) Boundary Commission report has been circulated, and despite strenuous efforts by all our Parishes, Plaxtol and Shipbourne will become part of Hadlow Ward in April 2023

215 **Future Dates**

(i) Date of next meeting **Monday 4th April 2022** At all other times contact the Clerk using the details above

216 **Exclusion of Public and Press:** Pursuant to Section1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Chairman to move that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during consideration of any item.

Members are reminded that any release of information from a Part 2 discussion is contrary to the Standards Code and an offence under the above Public Bodies Act.

Perimeter Path Tenders - deferred

London Bridge Protocol - deferred

Standards Matters - no report

There being to other business, Chairman closed the meeting at 2135

APPENDIX 1 PAYMENTS SCHEDULE

Borough Green Parish Council	
Month: March 2022	
	£
Staff Costs	
Staff Salaries	4,301.97
HMRC	2,031.13
KCC Pensions	1,013.78
BACS Payments	
Royal Mail PO BOX 365	360.00
PWLB Loan	2,752.67
SHS Hygiene Services, inv 42192	552.00
SHS Hygiene Services, inv 42300	552.00
SHS Hygiene Services, inv 42420	552.00
B Galopin DEC Donation on behalf of BGPC	250.00
Expenses - Barry Glew	137.98
Expenses - Rob Springett	45.85
Expenses - Barry Glew	43.39
Expenses - Mike Taylor	170.00
B Galopin Clerks Annual Expenses	500.00
DD Payments	
Zen Internet	11.99
Bank Charges *	38
ALD*	272.16
Wex *	5.4
Npower	517.64
EDF (PM)	443
EDF (RG)	13
Castle Water	51.06
* DD amounts may vary on a monthly basis	
Total Payments	14,615.02
Signatures	

Cllr Ramsden & Cllr Crawley

Borough Green Parish Council Queens Platinum Celebrations as at 10th February 2022

Thursday 2nd June 9.30pm - 1030 pm Lighting of a Beacon recreation ground (Crowhill Fire Hazard)
Action Jeff Reading
Friday 3rd June Other Village activities
Saturday 4th June 12 noon until 4.30pm Borough Green PC – Family Fun Day, Recreation Ground

‘Family Fun Day celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee’

Proposed activities

- Bouncy castles / bumper cars – staff/generator provided *booked*
- Tennis taster sessions for adults/children *Clerk to obtain Tennis Coach contact details*
- Football taster sessions for children *Jeff*
- Bowls Club taster sessions/bar facilities *Agreed*
- Dance display by groups using Borough Green village hall ??
- Singer ??
- Morgan Car display - *Agreed + 4x4 James*
- Stalls - local shops, groups etc *in progress*
- Church of the Good Shepherd – activities for children to include ‘bug hotel’ to be judged *Cllr Simpson*
- Planting of two/three trees as a part of the Queens Green Canopy *in progress*
- Unveiling of the War Memorial Plaque on the Pavilion *agreed, + Mrs Doll Fissenden MBE - local celebrity*
- Pizza Van/Coffee/tea van *in progress*
- Burgers by Scouts/Cubs ??
- Ice Cream Van *booked*
- Bring a blanket for a picnic
- Fire brigade ???
- Reynolds Health Spa *£100 contribution*
- Beacon - *fabricate in house Mike*

Essentials

- Toilets – Pavilion toilets lock repair, *Disabled Portaloo booked*
- P.A. System and compare *Scott?*
- Publicity via leaflets/Social Media/banner *in progress*
- Power ??
- First Aid *James to locate and provide contacts apx £250 essential*
- Insurance *Risk Assessment - Bernie to progress*
- Stewards *PC members*
- Sponsorship? *Nisa being v helpful*

Mike & Jeff have kindly agreed to get the contact details of the regular supporters/groups etc. Please let me know if anything is missing or you would like added.

Thank you Sue

Family Fun Day June 22 1st draft

APPENDIX 3 - Agenda Item to Joint Transportation Board 7th March 2022

Borough Green has used Highway lighting columns for 37 years for our Christmas Lights, and at least 15 years for hanging baskets, which we change twice a year.

KCC have tried before to charge us for the privilege of using these columns, but we have resisted strongly. Cllr Rayner has defused the situation in the past by paying for these demands out of his member's grant.

The latest demand amounted to £3600, negotiated down to £1750 by Harry, and we paid £250, being what we believed to be a fair amount for safety checks of a hanging basket and a Christmas Light, and an admin charge for a bulk permit.

Currently TMBC match fund BGPC's grant of about £2000 to the Christmas Lights Committee, the rest being raised from public donations. It is extremely likely that TMBC may have to withdraw this grant in the near future, meaning we will be spending local money not on village enhancements, but topping up just to fill KCC's coffers.

KCC would have us believe this is about safety. But these columns have been here for 30 years to my knowledge, and KCC have been unable to provide any evidence that they are unsafe or deteriorating, except a few pictures from around the country where they have been knocked down in traffic accidents. And if they were on the margins of safety, the new LED heads are far lighter than the old sodiums, and our Christmas Lights have reduced in weight and wind loading by over 50% in the past few years.

This has nothing whatsoever to do with safety and everything to do with a cash strapped KCC trying to gouge a few pounds from whatever source they think they can bully. It is extremely curious that all these columns have suddenly developed identical safety related faults and require replacement at the same time.

The safety report is fatally flawed. Half the columns are listed as on roads that do not exist in BG, and the other half are listed on the wrong road. We have 3 columns where we paid KCC to install power supplies - they have never worked.

Their latest stunt is to tell us that we will not be allowed to mount attachments to the old columns at all. Well I have news for you - we have already paid the fees with Harry's help, so they are going up, and we will be guarding them to ensure KCC don't take them down again. A great story in the papers

We have offered what we believe to be a fair load check fee, and a fair annual fee, we already own these columns, we already pay for the safety checks through KCC's exorbitant Council Tax charges, and our tax paid to HMRC.

If KCC continue to push this, we will just stop Christmas Lights and Hanging Baskets altogether, and KCC will not then get a penny from us. The amount they want will kill village enhancements.

Add to this the fact that KCC have been slowly failing its services to us for years, with Parishes taking up the slack at their own expense. My Clerk calculated that just the past 10 years totals £50,000, not counting labour costs. We are happy to take on responsibilities as partners, but we will not be bullied into also paying for that privilege. Perhaps KCC can contra their trumped up charges against these debts.

Final point - this is the only aspect of Highways that purports to be pro-active - seeking out a fault before it happens, rather than their standard approach which is to wait for us to report a failure, and then repair many many months later, if at all.

I urge this Board to recommend that KCC withdraw these demands and step down the bullying and harassment of Borough Green, Hadlow, and all the other villages who try and do their best for their residents.

M Taylor - Ward Member Borough Green & Longmill

Kent County Members were extremely supportive and would take the matter up with KCC

BOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Bernie Galopin
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INVOICE

Kent County Council
Highways Department

1st March 2022

Item		Amount
Saltbin Installation	20@ £180	£3600
Annual Salt Supply	10@ £350	£3500
Gritter Contribution	1 @ £2000	£2000
Emergency gritting cover	10@ £200	£2000
Annual Cut Highway Hedges	10@ £300	£3000
Regular Grass Cutts H'way Land	10@ £400	£4000
Purchase & Installation Gateways	1@ £13000	£13000
Purchase & Installation Road Signs	4@ £250	£1000
Maintenance PROWS	10@£200	£2000
Installation PROW gates stiles	4@ £250	£1000
Insp Potholes, signs,gullies etc	10@£300	£3000
Installation Rock Rd Planter	1@ £9000	£9000
Replacement HB brackets	6@ £175	£1050
Replacement Baskets lost	3@ £120	£360
Christmas/Party Road Closures	12@ £500	£6000
Monitoring Mineral Sites	10@£500	£5000
	Total	£50,510