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Minutes of the meeting of **Borough Green Parish Council** held in Borough Green Village Hall on **Monday 4th July 2022** starting at 1930. The meeting was recorded to ensure the accuracy of the minutes

Present: Cllrs Taylor (Chairman), Shaw, Perry, Wray, Reading, Ramsden, Butterfill, Rawsthorne, Simpson & the Clerk Cllr Rayner (KCC) was present, and one Member of the Public (MOP).

62. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Palmer TMBC

To note Vacancy Published 16th June 2022

To note two applications, letters circulated, CV's to follow. Interviews will be arranged shortly, followed by a recommendation to co-opt at the Council at the next meeting.

63. Declarations of Interest None

64. Minutes of the meeting 13th June 2022 AGREED

65. Matters Arising - NONE

66 Submissions by County and Borough Members

Cllr Rayner

Apetito Hot Meals service is being cut for 600 vulnerable residents across the County. This is a result of KCC withdrawing support for the service, coupled with a "commercial decision" by Apetito. Residents have been offered frozen meal deliveries, except most are not mobile enough to get to the kitchen or feed themselves.

Bus Cuts (Details Appendix 2)

Whilst the KCC Committee may endorse Cllr David Brazier's decision, there is considerable disquiet amongst Members, so it may not yet come to fruition. Whilst KCC has only cut half of services like the 222 the service is unlikely to remain viable for long. Others like the 70 will go altogether. Of particular concern are the axing of school services like the 502 and the Plaxtol-Sevenoaks routes, which will force hundreds of parents to do school runs on our already congested roads. Have KCC forgotten Climate Change? Cllr Rayner left the meeting.

071 (iv)& (ii) Chairman moved Agenda Item

(iv) Crowhill access & hedge cutting- should we:

- (a) pursue legal action to establish access
- (b) Cut new access from Griggs Way or Sandy Ridge
- (c) Maintain footpaths but leave land natural.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that legal action would be too costly for the gain, that a new access from Griggs Way or Sandy Ridge too expensive and too damaging to flora and fauna.

Chairman proposed adopting (c) - AGREED

Member of the Public. Expressed her concerns for the Crowhill wildlife and was grateful any disturbance to wildlife would be minimal, and thanked the Council for its decision.

071 (ii) Chairman noted that BGPC had a policy of acquiring public land purely to protect wildlife and nature, and felt it was an appropriate time to table Agenda Item **071 (ii)** about beginning a process to have Tree Preservation Orders applied to Isles Quarry East, Harrison Rd land, Crowhill, and Potters Mede woodland walk. We will also explore applying to KCC PROW office about making the Isles Quarry access path, the Harrison Rd paths, and the Crowhill path Public Rights of Way. Whilst these processes give strong legal protection, they are reversible, but they still demonstrate the Parish Council's over-riding commitment to long term protection of wildlife and Green Space. After considerable discussion - AGREED

- 67 **Emergency Item - Ukraine Crisis** Clerk noted his involvement in the Hope Church initiative to take essential supplies to Poland and Ukraine in the Autumn, the Council expressed its support for the initiative, and Cllr Ramsden will assist.
- 68 **Planning Matters** to hand
 (i) To note Planning Notices as circulated
 (ii) Current applications and responses circulated
TM/22/01230/FL 10 McDermott Rd Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single storey extension to the rear. Conversion of existing garage to utility room, WC and shower room. Construction of extension to front containing bin store and entrance hall - No Observations
TM/22/01231/FL 62 Annetts Hall Proposed loft conversion with hip to gable roof extension to side elevation, dormer to rear elevation and 5 rooflight windows to front elevation - No Observations
- 69 **Potters Mede**
 (i) Hall flooring - noted
- 70 **Recreation Ground**
 (i) Perimeter Path Update - Contractor is on track to commence work, and Cllr Reading will liaise with the BGJFC
 (ii) £2000 Donation - Heart of Kent Hospice - noted
 (iii) Bridge vandalism . Handrails had been broken off the southern Bourne Bridge. Mr Glew removed them and made the bridge safe. Because the drop is minimal, it was decided to leave as it is for now, but to install a concreted handrail made from recycled goal posts in the future. Reported to Police.
 (iv) Black Horse - travellers horses. There have been incidents of travellers parking in and around the Black Horse, and running horses on and around the area. They were on their way to local horse fairs. The Police have been informed, but apart from horseboxes parked in the Rec carpark, there was no incursion.
- 71 **Village Enhancements**
 (i) IQE various - path upgrade- Chairman to organise a volunteer party to clear minor scrub and "weed trees" to open the access for the autumn flail mowing. Cllr Simpson thanked Mr Glew for clearing downed trees from pathways.
 (ii) Tree Preservation Orders & PROWs (**see above**)
 (iii) Report on meeting with Surgery & Scouts. Chairman reported on a difficult meeting between Scouts Representatives and a Practice Partner. The Council is committed to assist both community enterprises to achieve a mutually agreeable resolution to their joint parking problems, at the same time preventing Reynold's Retreat customers accessing their premises via Harrison Rd. Chairman left early, but learnt later progress had been made
 (iv) Crowhill access & hedge cutting- should we:
 (a) pursue legal action to establish access
 (b) Cut new access from Griggs Way
 (c) Maintain footpaths but leave land natural - (**see above**)
 (v) Flagpole VH - to discuss quote and possible order £449 +£338 carriage
 Installation £350 NTC. Chairman offered a public apology to Cllr Wray for criticism in an email. After considerable discussion, it was agreed to proceed with ordering the new flagpole, but to attempt to arrange a cheaper transport collection by a local haulage operator. - AGREED - 6 Yes, 3 No, 1 abstention
 Clerk mentioned the new proposed "Welcome Back Fund" planter for the front of the VH. With Cllr Butterfill's proposed BG name sign, a new flagpole would provide a central village focal point. AGREED 6-4
 (vi) Grange Park School community offer Skatepark painting - this would be a low key affair, but the Chairman would liaise urgently with other members of the Joint Skatepark Committee. The other proposal was for village litterpicks. Chairman will obtain equipment from "Bash the Trash", and contact the other Parishes.

72 **Financial Matters**

- (i) Responsible Financial Officer's report - Noted
- (ii) Bank Reconciliations 31 May - Noted
- (iii) Electric Van / Charger/Mower - Clerk advised that the new Vivaro electric van will be delivered shortly, and the charger installed at Mr Glew's house. It was agreed that vinyls of the Parish Council's name and logo should be ordered and applied.
- (iv) To approve Payment List as circulated. (Appendix 1)
Invoices checked by Cllrs Millener & Shaw
Proposed - Chair, seconded Cllr Butterfill - AGREED
Our total cash reserves as at 30/06/22 = £127,190.77

Chairman called a short comfort break 2057 - 2105

73 **Youth Facilities**

Despite widespread publicity that BGPC would back any serious proposal for a Youth Facility, no response from volunteers.

74 **Website & Social Media**

- (i) No report

75 **TMBC Local Plan & Policies**

- (i) Update - Awaiting Reg 18 Consultation

76 **Highways & Streetlighting**

- (i) Update on Waste Services - reinstatement of the Bulk Freighter still being pursued
- (ii) KCC Baskets & Lighting . Despite many agreements, no action as yet. Update requested

77 **Quarries & Landfills**

- (i) To note ongoing action against H+H Celcon spilling block chips along the A25. Chairman has contacted Environmental Health seeking results from the AQ Monitor at the Red Lion, and Cllr Millener and the Chair are chasing KCC Highways for news of pothole and resurfacing work on the A25 to minimise excessive HGV noise.

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

- (i) Skatepark repairs as circulated. The offer by Gallaghers to install a new access road across Whitegate Field is welcomed. The request to install a temporary (5year) secure container on the park was agreed in principle, but BGPC would like some idea of the cost.
- (ii) Cllr Butterfill had circulated a presentation from Dartford BC about Electoral Reform, mainly about requiring Photo ID at polling stations, and the banning of candidates and parties having any involvement in Postal Voting, two issues to prevent voter fraud. Chairman to ask what progress TMBC are making, and it was agreed to ensure residents were aware of the changes.

79 **Future Dates**

- (i) Date of next meeting **Monday 8th August 2022**
At all other times contact the Clerk using the details above

- 80 **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. The public left the meeting 2125
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.

Chairman reported to members that a resident had complained about email correspondence, but had not lodged a formal complaint. In the interests of transparency, Chairman sent the email trail to the Monitoring Officer for assessment against the Standards Code. It was decided that no breach of Code had occurred.

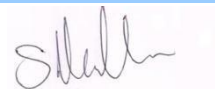
There being no further business, Chairman closed the meeting at 2133


APPENDIX 1

**Borough Green Parish Council
Payments List Month: July 2022**

	£
Staff Costs	
Staff Salaries	4,522.81
HMRC	2,333.51
KCC Pensions	1,084.82
BACS Payments	
Information Commissioner's Office (Data Protection Fee)	40.00
Campaign to Protect Rural England (annual subscription)	36.00
KALC (subscription fee)	1,514.69
Commercial Services Trading Ltd, inv LS199231	142.10
Commercial Services Trading Ltd, inv LS199658	142.10
Commercial Services Trading Ltd, inv LS201932	142.10
Wrotham Parish Council, inv 334 (Moto)	5,357.00
Expenses - Bernie Galopin	14.00
Expenses - Barry Glew	81.62
Expenses - Barry Glew	48.04
Expenses - Rob Springett	10.49
* Vauxhall balance on initial rental deposit (awaits invoice)	1,134.40
DD Payments	
Zen Internet	11.99
Bank Charges *	20.00
ALD*	301.32
Wex *	5.40
Npower*	1,544.99
EDF (PM)*	1,126.00
EDF (RG)*	28.00
Castle Water*	51.06
Castle Water*	12.01
TMBC	57.00
Vauxhall Finance	547.20
* DD amounts may vary on a monthly basis	
Total Payments	20,308.65

Signatures

1 Cllr Millener 

2 Cllr Shaw 

APPENDIX 2

[Kent County Council](#) are proposing changes to the following bus routes:

- 58; Addington, Ryarsh, Trottiscliffe, Birling to Maidstone. Withdrawal of the whole Monday to Saturday service.
- 70; Borough Green, Platt, Offham to Larkfield. Withdrawal of all eight off peak journeys.
- 502; West Malling to Wrotham School. Withdrawal of the Wrotham School service.
- 88; Maidstone to Kings Hill. Withdrawal of the Monday to Friday service via Waterringbury, providing one journey in the morning and two journeys in the afternoon.
- 222; Wrotham, Ightham, Borough Green and Shipbourne to Tonbridge. Withdrawal of four journeys Monday-Friday, and all Saturday services - excluding the school services.
- E1; Edenbridge Town Circular. Withdrawal of the Monday to Friday service around Edenbridge.
- X1/X2; Kings Hill to Maidstone. Withdrawal of the whole Monday to Friday service linking Kings Hill with Maidstone and West Malling Station
- XX Plaxtol & Shipbourne to Sevenoaks Weald & Knole.

Buses are a lifeline to our community and all bus routes support children getting to school, parents getting to work, residents getting to doctor's appointments, and we must make sure that this access is protected.

It is disappointing that despite over 2,500 consultation responses, the majority against any changes, KCC continue to recommend that some routes are withdrawn.