



## BOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL



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Established 1934

[www.boroughgreen.gov.uk](http://www.boroughgreen.gov.uk)

Minutes of the ANNUAL **PARISH MEETING FOR BOROUGH GREEN** held at the **COGS Annexe** on **TUESDAY 6th MAY 2025** starting at **1900**. The meeting was not recorded.

**Present:** Cllrs Taylor (Chair), Ramsden (Vice Chair), Butterfill, Reid, Heselden, Shaw, Millener, & the Clerk.  
Cllr Rayner (KCC) Mr Howard Passingham Chair BGJFC, and one Member of the Public.  
Apologies from Cllr Palmer (TMBC)

Chairman welcomes everyone

### **1. Chairman's Annual Report** *Appendix 1*

### **2. Clerk & RFO's Annual Financial Report** *Appendix 2*

### **3. Reports from County and Borough Members**

Chairman congratulated Cllr Rayner on his recent re-election to KCC.

Cllr Rayner raised concerns that the new Political Administration at KCC might alienate the Government, and make a Mayoral Authority much more difficult to achieve, and prevent KCC getting on the Fast Track. He reported KCC had achieved savings of £80m during the past year. KCC have some 2,000 children in care, including 950 unaccompanied child asylum seekers and is receiving little help from Government or other Local Authorities. KCC used to subsidise TMBC's role as Council Tax collector, but that has now stopped. The Government has granted another £25m in Bus Service Improvement Grants (BSIP) that mean the "Alliance Shopper Bus" service headed by BGPC will continue to be supported into its third year, and Cllr Rayner praised BGPC as the lead Council on this flagship initiative. The Wrotham School rebuild continues on track. Cllr Rayner noted that since the General Election the Planning System had been crippled to favour developers, and the new National Insurance charges were devastating Local Authorities, Care Homes and small businesses, which will have a huge impact on employment.

### **4. Reports by Parish Groups and Clubs**

Mr Howard Passingham thanked the Parish Council for their ongoing support of the Borough Green Junior Football Club, and read his report Appendix 3 .

Chairman noted that whilst he was not a football fan, he was immensely grateful to the BGJFC for the youth work contribution the Club made with around 300 young Members, and praised their strong culture of respect. When asked about women/girls football, Mr Passingham reported their plans to visit Primary Schools to recruit more girls into the game - the Council indicated they would be open to requests for support towards this aim.

### **5. Questions from Members of the Public**

The resident of Monckton Rd again raised concerns about the noise of the musical "bongers" in the play area. Clerk explained that the Eibe hammers were poorly made and very vulnerable to damage, and at £300 each were far too expensive, so we have been experimenting with other replacements that are more robust but harder and have made the problem worse. Cllr Millener agreed to meet Mr McKittrick on site and see if they could devise a suitable replacement, noting that would also have to satisfy RoSPA.

There being no further business, Chairman closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 1940

## **APPENDIX 1 Chairman's Report**

I want to thank first the people of Borough Green, and my Councillors, who have trusted me as Chairman for the past 14 years.

During the last year we lost Cllrs Angelique Rawsthorne and Glenn Hook during the darkest days, and I cannot blame them. But I applaud those who stuck it out in the face of the hostility we all experienced from several quarters. and for your loyalty and support.

But we have also gained new blood in the shape of Lisa Reid and Guy Heselden, both already proving their worth and bringing different experiences to the Council.

I want to thank Mark as my loyal deputy, but still unafraid to challenge - he is very much involved with Bernie and I day to day, and as we have seen is fully capable of stepping up as Chair when required.

I want to thank Bernie my Clerk in particular - without his financial expertise we would have truly struggled to cope in the past few years, and he has become a master at extracting Grant Support from KCC and TMBC, £30k last year alone. And he has bought his management skills from the Met Police and turned our staff into a very efficient crew, in particular their bad weather charity work which has generated £2,500 for local good causes over the year.

Barry Glew has been with us for 15 years, and has always been one who goes that extra step, and he will be missed when he retires in July. He has been training Ken McKittrick as his replacement, who seems to be cut from the same cloth- Welcome to the Parish Council, Ken.

I have always had a huge respect for our Rob, and have watched him as he struggled back to full health over the past 30 odd years - through sheer determination he has become a valuable member of staff rather than a charity case.

I want to thank both the Bowls Club and the Church of the Good Shepherd for giving as a venue for our meetings when we had to leave the Village Hall.

Wendy Palmer is Chair of Platt PC, but we are both also TM Borough Councillors. By a quirk of election results, we find ourselves in partnership with the Conservatives as the current administration, with Wendy now Chair of Area 2 Planning Committee, and I am Cabinet Member for Planning. Whilst we would never exert undue influence, it puts us into the perfect position to ensure this iteration of the Local Plan is fair and just and gives due respect to our rural north west corner of the Borough. And the Parish Alliance is stronger than ever.

Harry Rayner has been re-elected again to KCC, Congratulations, Harry. We welcome Harry back because he has always put the good of his Parishes first - not every KCC member is as dedicated in reporting to every Parish every month, and getting involved in the Local Issues that matter to us, but still representing our needs at County Hall

We have decided to invest significant funds into refurbishing the Memorial Pavilion in the Rec, a very important building to this DIY Parish, built by volunteers in 1955. Past Parish Councils neglected its maintenance, even discussed demolition. You may have seen major works during the year resolving a perennial damp problem. A new roof this year will see the building watertight and vermin proof again, and interior works will make it available for community use on a regular basis, and we hope to use it for our own meetings.

Last year was a difficult year for our relationship with the Village Hall Committee, and we decided to cut all ties. The Village Hall was built by the Parish Council, and of course we are always open to requests for financial support, and will ensure this Community Asset remains available for many years to come. This episode hurt me personally, I have put 25 years into the hall as a volunteer and committee member, and my Jackie was Booking Secretary for 10 years, so we miss interaction with the Hall and its users like departed family members.

Mike Taylor

Chairman Borough Green Parish Council May 2025

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**Clerk & RFO: Bernard Galopin**  
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ESTABLISHED 1934

Tuesday 6th May 2025

### Responsible Financial Officer/Clerk Report

The Financial Year 24/25 has proved to be an extremely busy one for Borough Green Parish Council. We have achieved a strong financial position, whilst providing essential services and improving our infrastructure through investment in capital projects. We are delighted to report that we have supported local residents, groups and charities, through the provision of excellent facilities at the Recreation Ground and Potters Mede. Our routine services keep our facilities safe, well maintained and clean. Some of our highlights are outlined below:

#### 1. Financial Position

BGPC are in a financially strong position - as at 31/03/25, our balances were as follows:

- Natwest Current A/C (857) - £100.00
- Natwest Business Reserve 1 (811) - £3,853.83
- Natwest Business Reserve 2 (882) - £0.00
- UTB - £59,964.60
- CCLA - £85,000

Total cash reserves - **£148,918.43**

#### 2. Financial Performance

Financial performance has been good as BGPC obtained a small surplus of income over expenditure. Total income increased – This was mainly due to BGPC obtaining nearly £30k in grant money for capital and revenue projects. However, total costs also increased, which was due to inflation and expenditure on capital and revenue projects. Our strategy to gain grant funding has allowed us to maintain the low cost of hire charges for Potters Mede and the Recreation Ground and minimise our precept application.

Highlights:

- See appendix - I&E A/C Y/E 31/03/25
- Total income increased by compared to previous year £17,928
- Total costs increased by compared to previous £46,577
- Surplus for the year - £8,189.95

#### 3. Projects Undertaken (include the following)

##### Potters Mede

Potters Mede remains a great and affordable facility which benefits our local residents and community groups in hiring our premises. We have retained the same hire rate of £16/hour for the past 5 years and offered qualifying groups discounts. Our prices include the use of all of our facilities, including free parking for hirers. In addition, we have spent money on assets to support local groups and promote greener energy use.

Highlights:

- Additional storage for the Scouts.
- Solar panels for a greener supply of electricity.
- New fencing around the picnic area.

##### Recreation Ground

- New safety fencing around the play area.

- Solar panels at the Bowls Club.
- Renovation of the pavilion.

Public Toilet (VH carpark)

- Roof repairs, metal walls and ceiling (following arson attack).
- Repairs and maintenance.

Revenue Projects

- Community buses linking in neighbouring parishes with Maidstone.
- Continued support to maintain the skatepark.

#### 4. Community Groups/Charities Supported

BGPC has supported the following groups by providing discounted hire charges of Potters Mede - BGWJFC, Narcotics Anonymous. Mind, Scouts and similar groups, Imago Dei, Space 2 b me, Parents and Toddlers Group.

#### 5. Donations Made

BGPC has made several donations to local charities and groups, including Borough Green Primary School (£5000), to renovate the children's toilets, the Christmas Lights Committee (£1000) and COGS (£300/month) to support the Voice Magazine. In addition, BGPC has supported local charities and groups, such as foodbanks, Citizens Advice, mental health, advice centres and the Bowls Club. Total donations made - £11,550.

#### 6. Future Projects

BGPC is committed to improving its assets and resources to benefit our local communities. We have an obligation to maintain our buildings and we intend to continue to develop the pavilion in the Recreation Ground, making it a safe and multi-purpose asset for the community.

- Pavilion improvements
- Community bus services

#### 7. ASB/Crime

BGPC has an excellent relation with Kent Police and TMBC Enforcement Teams. We work in partnership to deter and reduce the extent of crime and ASB.

- Figures produced by Kent Police highlight a reduction in crime generally across the Parish, however, there have been increases in shoplifting and criminal damage (use of catapults), although these are also reducing.

It remains a great privilege and pleasure to serve the people and communities of Borough Green in my role at Borough Green Parish Council.

Bernard Galopin Clerk/RFO Borough Green Parish Council  
PO Box 635 Sevenoaks TN13 9UX

Income and Expenditure Y/E 31/03/2025			
	£	£	£
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Precept			247,476.00
Grants			29,268.75
Other Operating Income			30,772.07
VAT Reclaim			21,552.64
Total Income			329,069.46
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
Recreation Ground	69,789.43		
Administration	128,434.49		
Potters Mede	66,688.41		
Open Spaces	50,878.60		
Skate Park	5,088.58		
Total Expenditure			320,879.51
<b><u>Surplus for the Year</u></b>			<b>8,189.95</b>



## **Borough Green Junior Football Club**

Howard Passingham Chairman

Mobile : 07958 304792 Email : [howard@hps-cad.co.uk](mailto:howard@hps-cad.co.uk)



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### **Borough Green Parish Council AGM – 06-05-25**

The club wish to thank the Parish Council for their hard work and continuing support of Borough Green JFC.

From helping us manage the parking while Wrotham Secondary School is being rebuilt, through working together to provide new shipping containers at Potters and to keeping on top of the grass cutting of the pitches and all that that entails.

The club is starting to reach capacity, with 23 teams and a Saturday morning littlies session for 4 & 5 year olds, meaning a club membership of close to 300. While at the older end, we had an adult men's team for the first time, which gives a pathway though for our young adults. So we are not not only keeping them off the streets as kids but we are keeping them out of the pubs, for a short while anyway, too.

There has been a drive from the government and The FA over the last couple of years to get our young people fit and active & we will be seeing even more of this, when the Future Fit initiative is rolled out for next season and into the 2026-27 season. All of this growth and drive for improvement does come with it's issues and we are always on the look out for volunteers, sponsors and partnerships. So if anyone wants to get involved, please get in touch.

Finally, many thanks again to the Parish Council and the Councillors, for supporting our work within the village and surrounding areas.

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**Borough Green Junior Football Club**  
Incorporating Borough Green Ladies Football Club  
Affiliated to the KCFA

Chairman: Howard Passingham; Vice Chairman: Carl Heather; Treasurer: Phil Garland; Secretary: Phill Bennett  
Child Protection Officer: Rupert Bonny  
Web Site: [www.boroughgreenjuniorfc.clubbuzz.co.uk](http://www.boroughgreenjuniorfc.clubbuzz.co.uk) - Facebook: BoroughGreenJFC - Twitter: @BGJFC