

BOROUGH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr Bernie Galopin
Tel: 07568536405



Established 1934

PO Box 635
Sevenoaks
TN13 9UX
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Minutes of the Meeting of Borough Green Parish Council held in Borough Green Village Hall on Monday 7th February 2022 starting at 1930. The meeting was recorded to ensure the accuracy of the minutes

Present: Cllrs Taylor (Chairman), Cllrs Shaw, Perry, Millener, Ramsden, Butterfill & the Clerk. Cllr Simpson arrived at 1936

Cllr Rayner (KCC) & Cllr Palmer (TMBC) were present, and one Member of the Public.

180 **Apologies for Absence** Cllrs Wray, Reading & Crawley
Angelique Rawsthorne - Co-opted to the Parish Council - Agreed
Co-opted Councillor - Declaration of Acceptance signed
To Ratify Co-option of Cllr Sue Butterfill at January Meeting - Agreed

181 **Declarations of Interest** - None

182 **To Ratify minutes of the meeting 6th December 2021** - Agreed
To Approve minutes of the meeting 10th January 2022 - Agreed as a true record of the meeting

183 **Matters Arising** from those minutes - None

184 **Submissions by County and Borough Members**

KCC Cllr Rayner noted the KCC budget would be harsh, with funding being focussed on Adult & Children's Social Care, with a consequent impact on Highways etc. He believes some form of devolution is necessary very soon. Cllr Millener asked about Highway & Footpath repairs, but cost is the biggest problem. Cllr Shaw asked that KCC be urged to make a strong commitment to East Facing Slips in the coming round of Transport for Southeast Consultations/submissions. Cllr Perry noted KCC were basing their Council Tax increase percentages on Band C properties, giving a false impression of a lower increase than was the case.

TMBC Cllr Palmer spoke about more loss of personnel from TMBC Planning probably as a result of the Local Plan. The latest PPP appeared to demonstrate a shift at TMBC, with the Leader pledging the new Local Plan would focus on use of Brownfield sites. Noted Platt would very probably be supporting the Parish Alliance submissions to the Moto application. Cllrs Rayner & Palmer left for other meetings at 1950

Members of the Public was a resident of Blackhorse Mews who thanked the PC for the installation of a temporary floodlight shade on the Play Area. Chairman noted a permanent one to be installed.

185 **Planning Matters** to hand

- (i) To note Planning Notices as circulated.
 - (ii) Current applications and responses circulated
 - (iii) To note TMBC Overview & Scrutiny report on Enforcement improvements
 - (iv) To note Wrotham PC's comprehensive submission to the Moto application, and a contribution to Parish Alliance costs was discussed. Platt, Ightham & Stansted are likely to contribute. Chairman noted the importance of the Alliance working together, and suggested £5k would be an apx cost, and was already budgeted.
- Members agreed unanimously to oppose the Moto application, and to confirm their commitment to the Alliance, Chair & Cllr Shaw. (members of the APC 2) & Cllrs Simpson & Ramsden abstained.
Chairman to write to the Alliance seeking a formal request, cost estimate, and submission documents.

186 **Potters Mede**

- (i) Chairman reported on Barry's nest box project, 30 installed at Potters, the Rec & Harrison Rd, all sterilised for the new season - 100% nesting success last year. Now looking at adding Bats, owls and Raptor boxes for this year. Members thanked Barry for his excellent project.

187 Recreation Ground

- (i) Play Area Revamp - Floodlight complaint - new bracket and shades
Chairman & Clerk met with Eibe & LS re inspection regime, and to confirm all parties were aware of the "Low Risk" items noted in the independent safety audit, and that our insurers Zurich were aware.
- (ii) Pavilion re-paving. Nick Taylor has completed the paving at £3900+300 for extra concrete, poor foundations were discovered when works commenced. Members expressed their gratitude to NTC
- (iii) Perimeter Path and funding, 4x blind tenders sought, Members confirmed this would be path open to all members of the public equally, and not a dedicated running track
- (iv) To note discussions with Planning re S106 grants, TMBC checking any outstanding historical grants. Chairman will provide the Officer with a list of possible future projects for inclusion
- (v) Adult exercise equipment. It was agreed that it should be sited between the multicourt and the Bowls Club. Eibe have supplied some quotes, and members are urged to research other sources. Noted that this is "the project after the next project", but early planning was essential.

188 Village Enhancements

- (i) Planters & Benches. Clerk reported that two more planters were under construction, and that he had two more requests for memorial benches.
- (ii) Salt Update. Chairman reported installation of salt cage at PM, and supplies would be ordered at the end of summer, both bulk and 20kg sacks.
- (iii) Chairman & Clerk would be meeting the Surgery and the Scouts to discuss future use of Basted House Drive
- (iv) three New Union flags purchased. Library pole now in use again.
- (v) Clerk reported on Office clear out, teaching rental, chairs and other equipment to be sold on eBay
- (vi) Chairman will be meeting a man who runs Wild Foraging groups to look at IQE and Crowhill with a view perhaps to start a local group

189 Financial Matters

- (i) Responsible Financial Officer's report. Clerk reported that whilst the cash flow was very tight, we are still in a strong position. TMBC confirms the £3k balance of the Public Toilet grant will arrive soon, and we also expect a considerable VAT rebate. Chairman and Clerk will be revisiting the two large corporations who reneged on their Rec donation pledges
Clerk outlined for new members how our various bank accounts fit together, and how they are designed to give us Government protection for accounts with less than £85k deposited
- (ii) Bank Reconciliations 31 January - noted
- (iii) Electric Van / Charger - delivery delayed by manufacturer supply shortages. Charger installation deferred. The existing van broke down, and was repaired at Foreman's
Mower - Clerk tabled costs from Tuckwells, and Chairman noted the existing mower struggled to manage our grassed areas when we went "bee-friendly", and that we now had Crowhill, Harrison Rd and Isles Quarry East to manage. There was some discussion of in-house vs contractor, Clerk to provide cost/benefit analysis to the next meeting. Chairman noted he was chasing Kent Wildlife for their reports, to inform how our management should develop on this wild land
- (iv) Bowls Club - request for contribution of £300 for coppicing stream - Agreed
- (v) To ratify Payment List from 10th January - Agreed
- (vi) To approve Payment List as circulated.- Prop SP, 2nd SM, Agreed, Chair abstained
Invoices checked by Chairman & Cllr Ramsden (appendix 1)

190 Website & Social Media

- (i) Cllr Ramsden to post request for public views on the Moto application on Facebook. Chairman to mirror on websites and in the Voice magazine, to ensure the widest possible coverage. It was also agreed to turn off comments on BGPC Facebook, but like/dislike would remain.

191 TMBC Local Plan & Policies

- (i) To note TMBC threats regarding reporting of recent high profile departures and response. To note markedly different attitude from the new Leader

192 Highways & Streetlighting

- (i) Update on Waste Services. Cllr Shaw to raise our concerns at Street Scene on Brown Bins, return of the Saturday Bulk Freighter, small bin damage and dropped waste, street sweeping/litter bin emptying, and use of KCC funded CCTV for fly-tipping at Dene Lodge
- (ii) KCC charges for load testing & permit for Baskets and Christmas Lights. There will be a Highways report to the next JTB trying to justify this. Chairman to resist, Clerk and Chairman to raise a contra invoice to KCC for all the responsibilities taken from KCC over the past ten years.

193 Quarries & Landfills

- (i) No report

194 Councillors Reports from outside Bodies (max 3 min)

- (i) Facilities & Green Spaces Review Group - no report
- (ii) Welcome Back fund - VH carpark white lining completed
- (iii) Skatepark - Chairman reported on a recent meeting - Maintenance costs had been very low over the past two years because of the illness of the contractor, but a new contractor was taking up the work imminently, using predominantly steel plate for longevity. This will have an initial high cost, but very low future costs. It was agreed to lend BGPC's Heras rather than purchase new.
- (iv) Scott - pavement and street cleaning A25 and roundabout, including A25 to Crown Point

195 Future Dates

- (i) Date of next meeting **Monday 14th March 2022**
At all other times contact the Clerk using the details above

- 196 Exclusion of Public and Press:** Pursuant to Section 1(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.

Standards Matters Chairman noted that the Independent Standards Investigator [REDACTED] had commenced his interviews.

Operation London Bridge to be tabled as a Part 2 agenda item at the next meeting

There being no further business, Chairman closed the meeting at 2140

Minutes agreed with above amendment 14th March 2022



Appendix 1

Borough Green Parish Council
Payments Schedule Natwest A/C
Month: February 2022

£

Staff Costs	
Staff Salaries	4,301.97
HMRC	2,030.73
KCC Pensions	1,013.78
BACS Payments	
GreenThumb, inv 190367	22.5
Kent Aluminium, inv 13322	6.6
Streetlights, inv 12679	462
Exps - Barry Glew	124.9
Exps - Rob Springett	29.47
Exps - Mike Taylor	108.05
Exps - Bernie Galopin	18.68
Nick Taylor, inv 21-19 already paid	4,300.00
DD Payments	
Zen Internet	11.99
Bank Charges *	20
ALD*	301.32
Wex *	5.4
Npower	517.64
EDF (PM)	443
EDF (RG)	13
Castle Water	40.85

* DD amounts may vary on a monthly basis

Total Payments	13,771.88
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Signatures
Mike Taylor 1
Mark Ramsden 2