



BEKESBOURNE-WITH-PATRIXBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th June 2026 at 7:30pm
Bekesbourne Village Hall.

Minutes to be formally agreed at the next meeting.

1. Those Present

Parish Cllr David Sladden (Chair)
Parish Cllr Christine Sladden (Vice Chair)
Parish Cllr Andrea Nicholson
Parish Cllr Christine Ash
Parish Cllr Mary Evans

Mrs V. S. Illsley (Clerk/ Proper officer to Council)

There were no members of public present.

2. Apologies for Absence

Parish Cllr Mark Rhodes
Parish Cllr Coline Spooner
Parish Cllr Joanne Watts

3. Declaration of councillor interests relevant to this agenda

None.

4. Public Representations

None.

5. External Reports

5.1 County Councillor Report

Cllr Sole's monthly report was received and circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting within the Agenda Pack.

5.2 City Councillor Report

Cllr Castle's monthly report was received and circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting within the Agenda Pack.

6. To confirm the minutes from the previous meeting.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr C. Sladden and seconded by Cllr M. Evans that minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th of May 2026 are TRUE and ACCURATE record.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

7. To report any matters arising (from the previous meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

None

8. Any s101 Delegated Authority items to be noted by council.-

Resolved: It was resolved by email under delegated authority pursuant to Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Parish Council purchase a Microsoft 365 subscription for the Parish Council laptop at an annual cost of £84.99. Three out of eight councillors responded, all of whom were in favour of the proposal. The Clerk met the subscription cost pending reimbursement by the Council.

The Council formally noted the reimbursement of £84.99 to the Clerk.

9. Any updates from representatives from external groups (if any)

9.1 Recreation Ground Management Committee

The Clerk read correspondence received from S. Gilham on behalf of the Recreation Ground Management Committee requesting permission for the Bekesbourne Youth Football Club to install a welcome sign adjacent to the Parish Council notice board at the entrance to Bekesbourne Recreation Ground.

Following discussion, agreed that permission be granted for the Recreation committee to allow Bekesbourne Youth football club to install the sign subject to the Parish Council receiving details of the proposed sign dimensions and that the wording of the sign states:

"Welcome to Bekesbourne Recreation Ground."

9.2 Village Hall Management Committee

No update.

9.3 The River Group

No update.

9.4 KALC

No update.

9.5 A257 Traffic Management Group

No update.

The meeting is suspended for up to 15 minutes to allow discussion with members of the electorate of the parish of Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne present at the meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 7:34pm

Meeting resumed at 7:34pm

10. Highways Matters

10.1 Highways Improvement Plan

The Council discussed ongoing concerns regarding the safety of the A2 slip road serving Bekesbourne and Bridge. Councillors expressed their view that the concerns raised by the Parish Council have will not be adequately addressed by Kent County Council.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr C. Ash and seconded by Cllr A. Nicolson that the Clerk be instructed to draft and send a formal letter/email to National Highways on behalf of the Parish Council, setting out the Council's concerns and highlighting the immediate safety issues associated with the slip road.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

10.2 Any new matters to raise

Councillors discussed the possibility of re-establishing a Community Speedwatch group within the parish. The Clerk advised that, despite previous appeals for volunteers being advertised on the Parish Council's Facebook page, no expressions of interest had been received.

Action: The Clerk will continue to promote the need for volunteers and advertise opportunities to join a Community Speedwatch group to generate sufficient interest from the local community. A minimum of 3 volunteers is required.

11. Finance Matters

11.1 To not the May 2026 payment schedule & approve any new payments.

Date	Type	Recipient	Amount
14/05/2026	FPO	K. Lewis (Kerry's cakes)	£90.00
14/05/2026	FPO	V S Davidson – expenses	£31.15
15/05/2026	DD	HugoFox Website	£23.99
18/05/2026	DD	HugoFox Emails	£20.99
18/05/2026	PAY	Lloyds bank Service charge	£4.25
20/05/2026	FPO	Safe Play – Quarterly Insp	£96.00
20/05/2026	FPO	L. Robbins – Int Audit	£140.00
29/05/2026	FPO	V S Davidson - Pay	As per salary sheet
29/05/2026	FPO	HMRC	As per salary sheet
29/05/2026	FPO	MTF Diamond – Rec works	£7,648.20

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr. C Ash and seconded by Cllr. C Sladden to approve the May 2026 payment schedule.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

Payments Due for Approval:

Recipient	Detail	Amount
V S Davidson	Microsoft Subscription	£84.99
AJG Insurance Ltd	Annual Insurance premium	£1,617.80

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr. C. Sladden and seconded by Cllr. C Ash to approve the £1,617.80 payment made to AJG Insurance Ltd for the parish council's annual insurance renewal for the year 2026/27.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

11.2 To note the External Auditors report 2024/25

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr C. Ash and seconded by Cllr A. Nicholson to formally note the External Auditors report from 2024/24 and any actions that were required.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

11.3 Annual Governance Accountability Review (AGAR) 2025/2026

The Council considered the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the financial year 2025/26.

Council were asked to review each of the assertions contained within the system of Control (Section 1) in support of the Annual Governance Review.

Outcome: Council approved the Statement of Control for the year ending 31st March 2026. The Chair and Clerk signed the statement on behalf of the Council.

The Council considered Section 2 – Accounting Statements for 2025- 2026 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ended 31 March 2026 and the supporting bank reconciliation as of 31st March 2026.

Outcome: The Council approved that the Accounting Statements and supporting documents as provided by the Responsible Financial officer. The Chair and Clerk signed and dated the Accounting Statement of behalf of the Council.

11.4 S106 Funding

The Clerk informed Council that the first instalment payment of £7,468.20 has been made to the contractor in respect of the improvement works. Council noted the update.

12. Planning

12.1 To Receive Updates on previous consultee responses

None received.

12.2 To discuss any applications

None received.

13. Allotments

Correspondence was received regarding a suspected fault with the water pipe. The Clerk shared the information with Council and advised that, at the present time, the exact nature and cause of the problem remain unclear. Following discussion, the Council agreed that further investigation is required before any determination can be made regarding the cause of the fault or any remedial action.

Action: Clerk to enquire about any information report back to Council as appropriate.

13.1 Any updates

No update.

13.2 Any new matters to report

Council considered and reviewed a complaint relating to an allotment plot. Following discussion, it was agreed that a formal email should be issued to the plot holder outlining the matters raised and the Council's expectations.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr A. Nicholson and seconded by Cllr C. Ash that the Clerk

issue a formal email to the plot holder.

14. Confirmation of Insurance Arrangements for 2026- 2027

Council noted that approval had been given under Agenda Item 11 (Payments for Approval) for the renewal of the Council's insurance policy with AJG for the forthcoming year. The payment of £1,617.80 was authorised and recorded within the schedule of approved payments.

15. Correspondence

The Clerk read correspondence regarding the damaged zip wire seat. Council considered the matter and received an update from the Clerk on investigations into alternative materials for the replacement seat. It was noted that, following enquiries, a change of material is not recommended. Council discussed the options available and agreed to await a quotation for the repair of the existing seat.

Action: The Clerk is to circulate the repair quotation to all Councillors upon receipt for consideration.

16. Council owned Phone Box

Council reviewed photographs of the damaged glass panes within the telephone box, as presented by the Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr A. Nicholson and seconded by Cllr M. Evans that Cllr M. Rhodes be authorised to install replacement glass panes in the telephone box. Upon completion of the works and submission of a valid receipt for the materials purchased, Cllr M. Rhodes shall be reimbursed by the Council for the associated costs.

Resolved: That Cllr M. Rhodes be authorised to undertake the replacement of the damaged glass panes and be reimbursed for the cost of materials upon presentation of receipts to the clerk.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

17. Kent Devolution of Local Government Reorganisation

No update.

18. Next Meeting Date

Statutory Parish Meeting: Monday 13th July 2026
(Bekesbourne Recreation Ground Pavillion)

Meeting closed 20:24

It was agreed that these minutes are a TRUE and ACCURATE record:

Signed.....(Chairperson)

Date.....