

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Bokesbourne-with-Patrixbourne held
on Monday 13th May 2024 at 18:30pm- Bokesbourne Village Hall

Minutes to be agreed at the next APM

Present at the meeting, alongside members of the public were representatives from:

- Bokesbourne with Patrixbourne Parish Council
- Bokesbourne Recreation Ground Management Committee
- Canterbury City Council
- Kent County Council
- St Mary's Church- Patrixbourne
- St Peter's Church- Bokesbourne

1. Chairman welcome and introductions

D.Sladden as Parish Council Chairperson, welcomed everyone, and thanked them for attending.

2. Receive Apologies

Bokesbourne with Patrixbourne Cllr Tuffey and Cllr Ash

3. Agree minutes of 2023 APM

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the previous annual Parish Meeting held in 2023 are a true and accurate record.

4. Chairperson Report

Welcome everybody and thank you to everyone who has contributed to our meetings and the life of our villages over the year. Particular thanks to our councillors for the time they have given over the year and especially to Nicola our clerk who has worked tirelessly for the good of the village.

The Parish Council's precept had a small increase this year in line with inflation. This has allowed us to keep offering the grants set up last year. Just to remind everyone that we have £2500 available for the next financial year, any community group or organisation can bid for the money for projects which will benefit the villages.

The allotments have continued to flourish, with the smaller plots appealing to new allotment holders.

We are still working through our response to the new local plan, which appears at the moment to have less of an impact on our villages than the previous plan, with much less

development on this side of Canterbury. Any increase in public transport is most welcome.

Our Highways improvement plan has been updated to focus on smaller projects as advised by KCC. These will be going ahead soon. There has also been interest in setting up a speed watch group, hopefully this will be trialled later in the year.

Councillors have also been liaising with HiCo, about their development plans, and the impact of the winery, which was approved last year.

As ever planning has been near the top of the village agenda. Locally we have looked at a variety of applications. These have included the reappearance of the large development next to the zoo, which we have objected to and are waiting to hear about.

The unresolved cyber-attack on Canterbury City Council has made the All proposals for development in the villages is carefully looked at by the Parish Council, but our views on plans count only the same as anyone else, so please exercise your rights and respond online to any plans in your neighbourhood.

5. City/County Cllr reports

KCC Cllr Mike Sole:

I have been in post for 3 years now and that time has flown by. I am responsible for 16 Parish Councils, so am always busy- which is a good thing.

In May elections occurred at the city council which saw the election of Cllr Lee Castle, who continues to work hard for the community.

There is a new Labour-LibDem administration, bring about positive changes, such as taking steps to regenerate the Canterbury Market, expansion of Park & Ride services, and a reduced rate parking for residents of Canterbury.

I have been involved with Highways matters and Highway Improvement Plans. We have been successful in introducing a 30MPH limit in Woolage, and a 40MPH limit on Stone Street. After a two year challenge, we have now been in successful in implementing accessible bus shelters in Kingston.

6. Local Groups reports

Bekesbourne Village Book Club	See Appendix A
Bekesbourne Explorers	See Appendix B
Friends Of Bekesbourne Church	See Appendix C
Bekesbourne Village Hall Management Committee	See Appendix D
St Mary's Church	See Appendix E
A257 Traffic Management Group	See Appendix F
Bekesbourne Recreation Ground Management Committee	See Appendix G

Rivergroup
Bridge C of E Primary School Governor’s Report

See Appendix H
See Appendix I

7. Questions From Residents

None

Meeting ended 7:25pm

Chair

Date

Minutes agreed at APM 2025.

Appendix A

Bekesbourne Village Book Club

Bekesbourne Village Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Red Lion, Bridge. We are a group of 14 female members now, (a slight increase on last year,) and we range in ages. We pull texts at random from the pot of suggestions that all members are free to contribute to, which ensures a great variety. Ranging from modern murder mysteries, (the Thursday murder club) to classics, (Jane Eyre.) Amy researches and supplies a set of 10 questions a week before we meet and we discuss them over a drink and have a chat about the book, always culminating in a score out of 10 from each member. Our highest rated book to date is 'Where The Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens which we rated 9 out of 10, and our lowest rated book so far is 'A Room of One's Own' by Virginia Woolf with three out of 10.

Appendix B

Bekesbourne Explorers

Bekesbourne Explorers have continued our monthly expeditions, we have been fortunate in finding Peter Boyce, a very experienced walker, to lead us on new interesting and scenic routes around the area. Numbers have varied from half a dozen walkers to well into double figures.

A new problem is the recent loss of the Village Hall car park as an assembly point. Possibly we could continue to use it so long as all of our cars are moved by 0950.

Tom Webster

Appendix C

Friends Of Bekesbourne Church

Members: Graham Duplock, Wendy Howard, Nicky Fry and Steve Thomas

I would like to give you a brief report on the first-rate work the Friends Committee undertake, and I am very happy and proud of the work we have undertaken in 2022, after having been dormant for 2 years, due the Pandemic.

We have lost a couple of Committee Members, namely Vicki Woolnough and Sheen Gall, due to their workload, and thank them very much for their invaluable help, but we have now gained two, Nicky Fry and Steve Thomas.

The Friends of Bokesbourne Church was formed in 1994 when a nucleus of like-minded villagers strongly believed action was needed to protect the future of the Church building, and this has been the Committee's commitment ever since.

At the same time we are very keen to encourage all villagers to be involved and support the events we organise throughout the year. These events also bring together newcomers and encourage them, and the stalwarts, to enter into the community spirit, which we also endeavour to achieve.

We would like to thank the villagers who have supported our events during 2022 with their generosity and in giving of their time. We hope you continue, and more villagers will follow your example in the future. Please spread the word.

Finance and events:

Account balances at 1st February 2023: Current £4,703.12. Reserve £7,684.16. Total £12,387.28.

Down ~£2,000 on pre-Covid level.

We received our annual donation of £260 from Mrs Hill and an increased £2,037 was received from the 100 Club account (thanks to Steve Thomas again for organising).

Our Organ Recital raised £370 and two successful Wine & Wisdom evenings raised £422 and £519 respectively, despite being held in Littlebourne VH!

The return of the Christmas Fair in the newly refurbished Bokesbourne VH was very welcome and enjoyed by all successfully raising £716 for PCC.

£2089.38 has been transferred to the PCC to cover insurance up to 31st March.

£850 was paid out for Roof repairs and Tree work.

The Committee is meeting to discuss ideas for this year, and if any of you have your own ideas of what you would like to see us organise, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us. We would welcome these ideas for new Village Events, as they would encourage a community spirit.

Again, thank you all for your continuing support, and I look forward to reporting that 2023 will be a highly successful and profitable year in order for us to support the fabric of our beautiful church.

Christine Dutfield

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Appendix D

Bekesbourne Village Hall Management Committee

After 2 years of being closed due to lockdown and the planned refurbishment the hall reopened in September 2022.

The refurbishment process began in 2021 with architect's plans being drawn up by Nathan from PMF Ltd. Unfortunately, due to work commitments Nathan was no longer able to continue with the refurbishment and withdrew in August 2021. In October 2021 we were lucky to have Mervyn Gulvin, an architect from Bridge to take on our project. Mervyn quickly got the ball rolling and by March 2022 work began in the hall by C&D Builders.

Dave and Chris moved at an amazing pace and by September 2022 we were ready to reopen to the public.

We held an opening ceremony on the 24th of September 2022, which was well attended. Estella Last, our local Vicar officially cut the ribbon and relaunched the hall.

Funds for the refurbishment were from hall reserves and a large amount was funded by Bekesbourne with Patricxbourne parish council. Bekesbourne village hall management committee and I am sure the local community are extremely grateful for the donation of these funds.

We applied for a grant in July 2022, from Valencia Credits, formerly Viridor Credits, to help purchase items for the new kitchen as well as blinds for the main hall and cleaning equipment. The grant was approved in January 2023, all items have now been purchased and are in place within the hall. Items were purchased from Elite Blinds and various online retailers.

The hall has been well received and this shows in the number of hires and good comments from users and guests.

We currently have 8 exercise classes: Boxercise, Pilates, High Intensity Impact Training (HiiT), Circuits, FitSteps and Zumba. Unfortunately, last week Laigh, who held a hoola hoop class, has decided to withdraw from the hall due to lack of attendance.

We have NHS Cardio Rehab on a Monday and Wednesday run by Penny. This is for people who have had heart attacks and gives them exercise classes and a clinic. This is a closed hire.

Bridge club is on a Thursday run by Tyler Hill Bridge Club, and St John Ambulance who hold a training class for their members.

As well as the weekly hirers we have hosted 11 parties from birthday, Christmas dinners to Christenings.

Our frequent hires are the Parish Council, Parochial Meetings, Buddhist Meetings, Friends of Bekebourne Church who have held a quiz night and a Christmas Bazaar, Canterbury City Council for the local elections, Odyssey Cancer Charity who host a residential week for people affected by Cancer. They use the hall for the initial introduction for the planned weeks activities.

BVH have held community and fund-raising events for the hall to help with further costs from the refurbishment. So far, we have had a quiz night, mature driver awareness evening presented by KCC as well as a demonstration by St John Ambulance to raise awareness of heart attacks, strokes and some general first aid. This was a very informative event. Money raised from this event, £60, was donated to the St John Ambulance. BHV plan to hold one or two fundraising or community events each month.

Community events include the hall opening, food and charity collections. Items received were donated to the food bank and the pilgrim's hospice charity. We also ask for donations of Christmas decorations for a project/event to be held in November 2023. We had a good amount of donations overall. A tea afternoon tea party to celebrate the Coronation with approx. 70 guests attending. Food was kindly donated by the community, with Sid Moon proposing a toast and a verse of the national anthem. It was a lovely afternoon.

We have a booking for a wedding reception in January 2024 and an enquiry for a wedding reception in August 2025.

Tara Fisher- Secretary

Appendix E

St Mary's Church

This year we've had to seek the assistance of a tree specialist to take some dangerous trees down. Moles have been a persistent problem in the grounds of the church, but we now have an echo Sona deterrent which seems to be working.

The church is open every day visitor numbers have increased and we've had some pilgrims staying overnight Thanksgiving to the RGMC for the use of the toilets. We are pleased to say we have large parties of visitors now.

The church building is a major project in itself as it's been empty for such a long time. We conducted an electrical inspection, and unfortunately, the lights had suffered from damp and were no longer safe. However I'm pleased to report that the works on the lights have been completed and it looks stunning. We now have LED lights with dimmer switches which add a wonderful atmosphere within the church. However, this work has taken funds away from the plans of refurbishing the toilets and the kitchenette for the Pilgrims. We have held two concerts inside the church over the last 12 months.

Thanks to all those who helped with the churchyard maintenance and events and as always to the Friends of Patricbourne Church.

Andrea Nicholson - Churchwarden

Appendix F

A257 Traffic Management Group

The A257 group has been meeting for approximately 20 years and looks at traffic issues along the A257 from Canterbury all the way to Sandwich. Membership of the group consists of councillors from Parish, District and KCC from along the route and its main feeder roads, the two local MP's also attend when available. The group meets approximately 6 to 8 times a year.

The group is an effective way of addressing and reporting areas of danger and looking at possible solutions. In 2018 the group published a comprehensive document, "The A257 Plan Working towards a safer A257" which was well received by KCC and has been used as a template for other areas to action traffic issues.

The group has succeeded in reducing the speed on the bend by the Haywain pub, extended speed limits in the Littlebourne gateway and supported the introduction of the 20 mph limit through Wingham. It is currently, particularly working to improve safety along Roman Road past the Wingham Wildlife Park, seen of many accidents.

The group will be reviewing the plan in the future and hope to include some issues in the Bekesbourne area to work in conjunction with KCC and CCC.

G.Duplock

Appendix G

Bekesbourne Recreation Ground Management Committee

This year has been the first year we have been able to fully function since the Pandemic.

We are close to completion on the works to the building.
It has been a busy year, we have approximately 6 Adult Football Teams.
Mary Evans – Committee Chair

Appendix H

Rivergroup

We have just held our annual meeting which was well attended by all except Southern Water. Environment Agency assure us the status is Flow not Flood. River is flowing well. The RGMC will convene more often if required.

Andrea Nicholson

Appendix I

Bridge C of E Primary School Governor's Report

Bridge and Patricxbourne School had finally almost returned to "normal" following the disruption of Covid and enjoyed another productive year despite some disruption under the careful leadership of James Tibbles, the Senior Leadership team and the Governing Body.

The school remains oversubscribed with a full role of nearly 420 pupils and 70 staff members. Estella is on the Board of Governors and PTA committee and the ministry team lead collective worship in school weekly. The PCC nominates two Foundation Governors (Graham Duplock and Victoria Pattison).

The year started in the shadow of the previous year's Covid restrictions and high numbers of pupil and staff absences. Through the Spring Messy Church, weekly parents prayer meetings, interschool sports events and school trips were restarted. Careful discussions were had with pupils explaining the situation with the war in Ukraine and events supporting the people of Ukraine were held. During terms 5 and 6 school life further returned to normal with outdoor music performances and the year 6 production of "Matilda the Musical" taking place. The joint School/Church Bridge Fete successfully took place for the first time since 2019 and end of year church services were held again.

An unfortunate fire in the Reception area at the start of the Summer holiday caused extensive, mainly, smoke damage and meant starting the new school year with Reception classes in the year 6 classrooms and utilising the School Hall for year 6. Everyone pulled together successfully to minimise the effect on the childrens' education.

With school back to normal year 5 and year 6 (rescheduled from the last year) Residential took place. Church visits for Commemoration of our Queen, welcoming reception children and parents and Harvest Festival took place. Plans for resumption of Messy Church with a new team in January were formulated. The first PTA Firework Display took place since 2019. Our usual preparations for the Christmas Festival; Church Christmas Card design competition, Salvation Army concert, childrens' Nativities, senior citizens' party, Carols in the village and Advent church services all took place. Finally, Reception doors and canopy were replaced to complete repair of the fire damage..

Estella continued to lead sessions for both teaching staff and governors on implementation of the SIAMS Framework within the school community. In the autumn a new SIAMS inspection framework was announced for introduction from September 2023. Our Christian vision and strands are now being re-examined to match the new framework.

The foundation governors would like to thank the staff, parents and PTA for their continued support for the school throughout the year. Despite the above the school community has continued to provide a Christian foundation for its children and the community.

Graham Duplock
Foundation Governor

- **End of Appendices-**