



BEKESBOURNE-WITH-PATRIXBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7:30pm
Bekesbourne Village Hall.

Minutes to be formally agreed at the next meeting.

1. Election of Chair for the Council Year 2025-2026

Resolved: It was proposed by C.Ash and seconded by A. Nicholson that D. Sladden be nominated as chair for the council year 2025-26.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried. D.Sladden was duly elected as chair for the council year 2025-26.

2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Chair

D. Sladden signed the acceptance of office forms, followed by N. Purcell as the council's proper officer.

3. Election of Vice Chair for the Council Year 2025-2026

Resolved: It was proposed by C. Sladden and seconded by C.Ash that C. Sladden be nominated as Vice Chair for the council year 2025-26.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

4. Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Vice Chair

C. Sladden signed the acceptance of office forms, followed by N. Purcell as the council's proper officer.

5. Chair Opening Remarks

D. Sladden thanked all those for the nomination.

6. Those Present

Parish Cllr D. Sladden (Chair); Parish Cllr J. Watt;
Parish Cllr C. Sladden (Vice Chair); Parish Cllr C. Ash;
Parish Cllr A. Nicholson

Mrs N. Purcell (Clerk/ Proper Officer to the Council)

There were 2 members of the public present.

7. Apologies for Absence

Cllr M. Rhodes, and Cllr C. Tuffey

8. Policy Reviews and Adoption for Council Year 2025-2026

All Policies are available on the parish council's website. There were no noted changes this year except the dates.

Resolved: It was proposed by A. Nicholson and seconded by C. Ash to approve the following policies for the council year 2025-26:

• Adoption Leave & Pay Policy • Health & Safety Policy • Co-Option Policy • Councillor Email & Communication Policy • Data Retention & Disposal Policy • Disciplinary Policy • Equality & Diversity Policy • Expenses Policy • Flexible Working Policy • Freedom Of

Information Policy Councillors were also presented with: • Standing Orders 2023-24 • Financial Regulations 2023-24 • Code of Conduct • ICT Policy • Maternity Policy • Paternity Policy • Performance Improvement Policy • Sickness Absence Policy • Subject Access Policy • Training & Development Policy • Vexatious Complaints Policy • Whistleblowing Policy

9. Declarations of councillor interests relevant to this agenda

None.

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.

10. Public representation (*notified to the clerk in advance of the meeting, agenda items only*)

Member of the public has written in (agenda item 21. So the chair moved item 21 up the agenda.

A Member of the Public expressed concerns that the planning application for Rosary House has been approved and asked the Parish Council for help in challenging the decision. Specific issues were raised regarding the suitability of the road, access, and local infrastructure. The Clerk advised that while the Parish Council has no authority to overturn a planning decision, therefore residents would be best suited to monitor the development as it occurs and ensure that conditions such as traffic management plans are adhered to. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the Kent County Councillor and Canterbury City Council to express the concerns and seek further support.

11. External Reports

11.1 County Councillor Reports

Council noted that there have been an excessive amount of road closures that have been passed as emergencies.

Resolved: It was proposed by C. Sladden and seconded by J. Watt to write to KCC regarding the matter.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

11.2 City Councillor Reports

Circulated.

Parish Council meeting resumes

12. To confirm minutes of the previous meetings (*January 2025, March 2025*)

Resolved: it was proposed by C. Sladden and seconded by J. Watt that the minutes from the meeting held in January 2025 are a TRUE and ACCURATE record.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

Resolved: It was proposed by C. Sladden and seconded by J. Watt that the minutes of the meeting held in March 2025 are a TRUE and ACCURATE record.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

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

The survey regarding bus use will be issued in the summer months.

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

Application No: CA/25/00529

Proposal: Single-storey rear extension together with replacement of timber window to UPVC/aluminium French doors to side elevation.

Location: 15 Bifrons Road, Bekesbourne, Kent, CT4 5DE

Outcome: 5 out of 8 councillors responded, with all raising no objections.

15. Any updates from representatives from external groups (*if any*)

15.1 Recreation Ground Management Committee

The RGMC presented an application for a grant in the sum of £1,172.77 for the purchase of items to complete the refurbishment of the pavilion. (tables & Chairs, Mixed utensils, Cutlery, Tongs, Cups, Plates, Paint & Accessories, Made to measure blinds.)

Resolved: It was proposed by J. Watt and seconded by C, Sladden to award the grant in full totalling £1,172.77.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

15.2 Village Hall Management Committee

As per report shared at the Annual Parish Meeting earlier that evening.

15.3 The River Group

Nothing to update this month.

15.4 KALC

No updates

15.5 A257 Traffic Management Group

No representative.

16. Highways Matters

16.1 20mph limit at Patrixbourne

Ongoing.

16.2 Any new matters to raise

None.

16.3 Speedwatch

The first session was attended by a few volunteers and was successful. There is the need for greater numbers of volunteers.

17. Finance Matters

17.1 To note March/April 2025 payment schedule & approve any new payments.

April/May Payment Schedule

Payments Made Since the last meeting as per financial Regulation 6.8 iii.

Date	Type	Payment	Amount
15 th April 25	DD	HugoFox Ltd	£23.99
30 th April 25	SO	N.Purcell	As per salary sheet

Payments Due for Approval:

Recipient	Detail	Amount
N.Purcell	May phone bill	£10.00
N.Purcell	May HP Ink Subscription	£9.99
Bekesbourne Village Hall	Hire Fees for 2025-26	£224.00
AJG Community Services	Insurance 2025-2026	£1,400.02
Safeplay	Chain-link repair for cradle swing	£196.90
KALC	Annual Subscription	£435.07
SLCC	Annual Subscription	£202.00
RGMC	Concurrent Functions Funding 2025-26	£4,093.00

Councillors discussed the possibility of holding summer meetings at the recreation ground pavilion, and winter meetings in the village hall to further support both organisations and explore ways of encouraging greater attendance to meetings.

Therefore, the payment for the VHMC will not be approved, pending a revised invoice and confirmation of availability from the RGMC.

Resolved: it was proposed by A.Nicholson and seconded by C. Sladden to approve the April/May payment schedule, apart from the payment to the VHMC for the reasons noted above.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

17.2 S106 Funding (update, Recreation ground and Playground)

Playground quotes will be presented at the next meeting.

The RGMC have obtained two quotes for proposed improvements to the recreation ground. The work includes:

- **Excavation and levelling of the gated entrance**
 - **Installation of a hard-standing surface and new fencing**
 - **Laying a concrete pad at the front of the pavilion with an integrated planter**
- The concrete pad will help mitigate damp issues and reduce the build-up of mud around the pavilion, especially during the wetter months when football is still being played.

At this stage, the RGMC have decided to hold off on installing grass parking matting. Their hope is that repairing the entrance will alleviate much of the water pooling, preventing puddles that currently get pushed up the field when cars drive through them. The RGMC also have further ideas for enhancing the space depending on allocation of funds:

- **Installation of additional benches** – two at the front of the pavilion and three to four along the far right-hand side of the recreation ground (when facing the play park from the pavilion)
- **Creation of a wildflower area** – possibly with a mown path running through it, along with bird, owl, and bat boxes positioned in trees
- **Informative and creative wildlife signage** – to help visitors identify local species and encourage engagement with nature

Quote One: £8,538.00

Quote Two: £7,700.00

Resolved: It was proposed by C. Ash and seconded by C. Sladden for the clerk to liaise with the RGMC regarding their choice of contactors and for the clerk to take the necessary steps to facilitate this work.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

18. Planning

18.1 To Receive Updates on previous consultee responses

None

18.2 To Discuss any new applications

Application No: CA/25/00650

Proposal: Single-storey rear extension with external staircase and side dormer.

Location: Penton , Aerodrome Road, Bekesbourne, Kent, CT4 5EX

Resolved: It was proposed by J. Watt and seconded by A. Nicholson that the council raise no objections.

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

19. Allotments

19.1 Any Updates

None

19.2 Any new matters to report

None

20. Emergency Planning

No updates.

21. Correspondence

Correspondence circulated as part of the agenda pack, and this agenda item was moved up the agenda, as above.

22. Kent Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (*any updates*)

No update.

23. Next Meeting Date

9th June 2025

Meeting closed 20:36

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

Signed.....(Chairperson)

Date.....