

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Bekesbourne-with-Patrixbourne held on Monday 12th May 2025 at 18:30pm- Bekesbourne Village Hall

Minutes to be agreed at the next APM

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

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

1. Chairman welcome and introductions

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

2. Receive Apologies

None received.

3. Agree minutes of 2023 APM

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the previous annual Parish Meeting held in 2024 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 £2000 available for the next financial year, anybody can bid for the money for projects which will benefit the villages.

Following on from last year when we started making smaller more manageable plots available to people the allotments have been well tended and productive.

The section 106 money from the new houses is currently being earmarked for various projects. Many of these are being arranged through the recreation ground management committee. We have also had a consultation for the play area, which is now being collated ready to upgrade the play park.

We have had a small number of planning applications this year. The majority of these have been supported by the parish council, as they have been minor improvements to peoples home, or repairs, others have been objected to. I would like to remind everyone that as a parish council we only have the same powers as a general

member of public, so if there is something you either want to support or object to please do this on the Canterbury City council website. Tomorrow I will be attending the CCC meeting where the large development in Littlebourne will be debated. I have collated the objections raised by the parish councillors and will share these tomorrow.

5. City Cllr reports

April was a busy and productive month, during which I continued to engage with parish councils and residents across the ward.

Early in the month, I attended the Littlebourne Parish Council meeting, where a range of local matters were discussed. It was encouraging to see community members actively participating and raising important issues that affect their daily lives.

I also took part in the Annual Meeting of Ickham and Well Parish Council, which featured an insightful presentation from the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership. Their talk highlighted important environmental work taking place in the area, particularly regarding biodiversity and river restoration. In addition, we heard comprehensive reports from all the various committees, reflecting the breadth of work being done at the local level.

Later in the month, I joined the Adisham Parish Council meeting. Topics discussed included the Canterbury District Local Plan, grounds maintenance, and ongoing discussions around devolution. These are all vital issues that will shape the future of our communities, and I welcomed the chance to contribute and hear the concerns of residents and councillors alike.

At Wickhambreaux Parish Council, several key concerns were raised, particularly around parking, food and garden waste collections, and further updates on the devolution process. I am continuing to follow up on these matters and liaise with officers where necessary to ensure progress is made.

Throughout April, I have been actively involved in a variety of casework. This has included a frustrating water leak in Wickhambreaux, a planning case in Stodmarsh, and supporting a resident in Bekesbourne with a complex housing application. I have also continued to press for resolution of several waste and bin collection issues across the ward, ensuring that residents' concerns are heard and addressed.

Behind the scenes, I have been chasing up enforcement cases in Littlebourne, Wickhambreaux, and Stodmarsh, working closely with council officers to encourage timely and effective responses. These efforts often go unseen, but they are crucial to maintaining standards and protecting our communities.

On a political note, I was delighted to see my friend and colleague Mike Sole re-elected as our Kent County Councillor for Canterbury South. His significant win reflects the trust residents place in his work and offers him a renewed mandate to serve during what promises to be a complex and challenging period for the county. I'm also proud to report that our colleague in Canterbury North was also elected, contributing to the Liberal Democrats becoming the official opposition on the County Council.

Looking ahead, a significant moment approaches on 13th May, when the City Council Planning Committee will consider the controversial Gladman development proposal for over 300 homes on The Hill in Littlebourne. As a planning committee member who has been openly opposed to the proposal, I will speak at the meeting but will not be able to vote. The Parish Chair, the local action group, and many residents will also speak in opposition. I encourage everyone concerned to attend and show the strength of

community resistance to this overdevelopment, which threatens the rural character of our village.

As always if I can be of any assistance please get in touch.

6. Local Groups reports

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

7. Questions From Residents

None

Meeting ended 7:22pm

Chair

Date

Minutes agreed at APM 2026.

Bekesbourne with Patribourne Annual Parish Meeting 2025 Appendices.

Appendix A

Bekesbourne Village Book Club

Bekesbourne Village Book Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Red Lion, Bridge. Our numbers are increasing, 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. We would welcome new members, and look forward to meeting you!

Appendix B

Bekesbourne Explorers

Bekesbourne Explorers continue to walk on the first Wednesday of every month. There are no fees or membership requirements, just turn up at the Village Hall at 0945. We usually drive to the walk's starting point and walk for about 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 miles.

The walks which are friendly and not competitive are led by the very experienced Peter Boyce who knows all the best walks in our glorious Kent countryside.

We are always keen to welcome new walkers, if anyone needs more information they should contact me on 07796 954974 or tw28646@gmail.com.

Appendix C

Friends Of Bekesbourne Church

The Friends' strongly believe our work helps towards protecting the future of our Church building. We do this by organising various events bringing the community together throughout the year. Last year's events are listed below together with the profit made from each event.

100 club Draw, organised by Steve Thomas, raised £1250

Wine & Wisdom Quiz Night in the Village Hall, raised £506.50 in May

Summer Lunch Party at the Old Palace, raised £460 in July

Charlie Sings Evening in the Village Hall raised £140 in October

Xmas Bazaar in the Village Hall, raised £552 in December

We have also had donations of £300.

We funded the replacement of a new Chanel ceiling light costing £338.

We wish to thank our wonderful volunteers who enable us to run these and all villagers who have supported them and hope you continue, and more villagers will follow your example in the future. These events bring together newcomers and encourage them, and the stalwarts, to enter into the community spirit. Please spread the word and look out for events the Committee is organising this year. Any ideas for other events would be most welcome.

Currently, we are appealing for additional funds to help restoration of the Lych Gate which has been tilting over for sometime.

Again, thank you all for your continuing support, and we will endeavour to achieve a successful and profitable 2025 continuing to support the fabric of our beautiful church.

Christine Dutfield

Chair Friends' of Bekesbourne Church.

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

Appendix D

Bekesbourne Village Hall Management Committee

Secretaries Report for Bekesbourne Village Hall 2025

Bekesbourne Village Hall has continued to thrive during 2024/25. Bookings have remained steady throughout the year with groups leaving and new ones starting. Feedback from users remains positive.

The Drama and English Home Education group left the hall due to being offered a theatre to hold their sessions. The Bridge Club finished using the hall due to lack of members, they found players were keen to use play the online games and not attend in person.

The hall has gained 3 new weekly hirers over the last year, these include a Choir, Cardio rehab exercise group and a baby/Toddler signing group.

Our usual weekly hirers that remain using the hall are:

John Ripley	Boxercise
Marcela Pearce	Pilates held twice a week
NHS	Cardio Rehab Clinic twice a week
Sarah Barnes	Circuits

Private bookings included Children's birthday parties, AGMs for outside groups, adult birthday parties, four day cycling event, workshops, wedding receptions, christenings, teambuilding events, local and general elections and Christmas parties during December including Christmas day.

Regular hirers include The Really Promising Drama group, Friends of Bekesbourne Church, Parish Council Meetings and Parochial meetings.

Bekesbourne village hall held several fundraising events throughout the year. These were Coffee Mornings held every second week of the month, Strawberries and Cream event, Quiz night, Pumpkin carving for the children and a craft fair.

The following admin and services have been out at the hall:

Renewal of Insurance

Repair of a leaking radiator and waterpipe in the kitchen

Service of the heating system

Bi-monthly window cleaning by Peter Murphy

Repair to a window blind and door blind due to user damaged

P.A.T tests on the portable appliances, all passed apart from a small kettle that has now been removed from the hall.

The car park and garden areas are being kept tidy by our gardeners and the hall kept clean by our cleaner, recently the cleaner's hours were increased by 2 hours due to the rise in users as well as the hourly rate.

In April 2024, two complaints were received from a resident in Station Approach, regarding noise and parking. These were investigated and it was found that the cars parking in station approach was not due to hall users. The noise complaint regarding a child's party was due to the kitchen door being opened to allow the hall cool down. The resident approached the user and asked for the door to be closed. Our findings were given to the resident. They did not agree with the outcome and advised that they would be taking matter further. No further communication was received. Therefore, the committee has closed the complaint.

The Committee has had a new member join this year, Nicola Fry. Nicola has attended the last two meetings and will become a Trustee at the AGM meeting on 2nd April 2025.

The Committee now has 5 Trustees and 4 volunteers.

BVHMC would like to recognise and thank, Gill & Sid Moon, Sue & John Gallagher and Tracy Bury for their continued support and help with the running of events.

Copies to: Graham Duplock Chairman to BVH – Stephen Gilham Vice Chairman
Nicola Purcell Parish Clerk to Bekesbourne with Patribourne Parish Council.

Appendix E

St Mary's Church

The church has been awarded the silver level eco-church status and is working on a project to build a toilet with a shower and kitchenette facilities, along with a social space for after-service coffee and meetings.

The church is a Sanctuary offering low-cost pilgrim accommodation in a historic church setting, with limited facilities currently available.

The church has undergone significant restoration work, including the restoration of the chancel, nave, tower, and south aisle by architects.

These updates reflect the ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance the historical and religious significance of St Mary's Church in Patricbourne.

Andrea Nicholson – Churchwarden

Appendix F

Bekesbourne Recreation Ground Management Committee

The Bekesbourne Recreation Ground is a community hub that offers a variety of facilities and events for the local population. In April 2025, the ground will continue to host local football activities, fitness classes, community get-togethers, and children's parties. The pavilion, which is ideal for hosting functions, will be available for hire and is a real community asset, hosting the weekly 'BREW' coffee morning. The ground is managed by a committee of trustees appointed annually.

Some amendments are required to the disabled toilet. Looking at some exterior works to the building to improve drainage and remove damp. The interior changing rooms are looking great. Next steps: to explore a parking solution and works to the kitchenette
Chairman: Steve Gilham; Treasurer: Leo Craig.

Appendix G

Rivergroup

We haven't met much this year. Environment Agency assure us the status is Flow not Flood. River is flowing well. The group will convene more often if required.

Andrea Nicholson

Appendix H

Bridge C of E Primary School Governor's Report

The school remains oversubscribed with a full role of 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). During the year we sadly lost Margaret Clarke who had supported the school and children for so many years.

The House system and naming of classes continues to give children inspiration and ownership of their groups with House Behn winning the Cup for 2023-24. Parental Phonics and Reception workshops were held.

Our senior leadership structure has changed following KCC approach to second James to provide School Improvement services (2 days a week). He is now Executive Head with Michael Taylor becoming Head of School. This provides us with significant financial return to bolster our financial position.

The financial situation remained challenging this year, but school has retained its diversity and quantity of experiences for the children, protecting its arts/music provision, expanding Forest school and offering a great variety of visits and classroom focuses (many repeated each year) including:

Swimming lessons, exchange with pupils from Montpelier, Dutch teachers visited this year, year 5 pupils day at the Science Museum, a Safer Internet Day held, Museum of Kent Life visit, outdoor learning on site and Forest School visits at Covert Wood, Sports Day, year 5 & 6 residentials, year 6 production of wizard of Oz, full school year of class trips and interschool sporting events including: Tag Rugby, Girls & Boys Football, Dynamos Cricket, Netball, Hockey and Cross Country

School is now working to improve childrens' play times by implementing OPAL, an Outdoor Play and Learning initiative .

Children have continued to visit Bridge Church for Lent, Easter, end of year, year R welcome with parents, Harvest Festival, Advent and year 2 Nativity services.

Working with the local community is important to the school with events: Messy Church at school, PTA Firework Display (raising >£15K) and joint Summer Fete (with Church) taking place. Our usual preparations for the Christmas Festival; Church Christmas Card design competition, Salvation Army concert, children's Nativities, senior citizen's party, Carols in the village took place.

We again had more than 50% of pupils assessed as eligible for grammar school places and our KS2-SATS results showing 85 – 90% meeting required standards for Reading, Writing, Grammar Punctuation Spelling and Maths compared to 70 – 75% nationally.

The school community has continued to provide a Christian foundation for its children and the community.

Graham Duplock

Foundation Governor

- **End of Appendices-**