



BEKESBOURNE-WITH-PATRIXBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10th August 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 Colin Spooner
Parish Cllr Joanne Watt

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

There were 2 members of the public present.

2. Apologies for Absence

Parish Cllr Mary Evans

No apologies were received from Cllr Mark Rhodes, who was absent from the meeting.

3. Declaration of councillor interests relevant to this agenda

Parish Cllr Andrea Nicholson

4. Public Representations

There were 2 members of the public present.

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 7:35pm

During this time one member of the public spoke. See appendix A

5. External Reports

5.1 County Councillor Report

Cllr Sole's monthly report was received and circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting and read out at the meeting by the Clerk.

5.2 City Councillor Report

No report received.

Meeting resumed at 7:42pm

6. To confirm the minutes from the previous meeting.

A typographical error was noted in the spelling of Cllr C. Spooner's name. The correction was agreed. The minutes were then approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr C. Sladden and seconded by Cllr A. Nicholson that minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th June 2026 are a 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 formally noted that under delegated authority pursuant to Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillors had been consulted by email regarding the renewal of the Parish Council's subscription to the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) for the 2026/27 financial year.

Three of the eight councillors responded Cllrs C. Sladden, C. Spooner and A. Nicholson each confirmed their approval of the renewal and authorised the Clerk to make payment of the annual subscription of **£463.97**.

Relevant to **Agenda Item 12**, the Clerk reported that, since the meeting held on 15 June 2026, a planning application had been received and circulated to all councillors for consideration. Responses received from councillors were collated by the Clerk and, under the delegated authority granted pursuant to Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Parish Council's response was submitted within the statutory consultation period.

Resolved: That the Council note and formally record the planning consultation response submitted under delegated authority.

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 with an update on works at the pavilion.

9.2 Village Hall Management Committee

The Clerk read correspondence received from M. Smith (Secretary to the village hall) with an update on the village hall.

9.3 The River Group

No update.

9.4 KALC

The Clerk highlighted that the annual KALC subscription had been renewed.

9.5 A257 Traffic Management Group

No update.

10. Highways Matters

10.1 Highways Improvement Plan

The Council reviewed the current **Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)** and considered the status and priority of each of the highway improvement measures currently identified within the Plan.

Following discussion, Councillors agreed the following amendments:

1. **Priority 1 – 20mph Scheme**
To remain as **Priority 1** until the scheme has been fully completed.
2. **Priority 2 – Junction of A2 Slip Road with Bokesbourne Road**
To be moved from **Priority 8 to Priority 2**. The existing Priority 2 relating to **Adisham Road** is to be removed from this position.
3. **Priority 3 – Station Road towards Bifrons Road**
To be **moved to a lower priority** within the Plan.
4. **Priority 4 – Chalkpit Hill**
To **move to Priority 3**.
5. **Priority 5 – Adisham Road**
To **move to Priority 7**.
6. **Priority 6 – Bokesbourne Hill**
To **move to Priority 5**.
7. **Priority 7 – Station Road/Bokesbourne Lane (from the railway bridge to the Zoo)**
To be **removed from the Highways Improvement Plan**.

Members noted that there are signs down along the section of **Station Road/Bokesbourne Lane** currently identified under Priority 7. Although this item is to be removed from the Highways Improvement Plan, it was agreed that the damaged/fallen signage should be reported separately to Kent County Council.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr C. Sladden and seconded by Cllr J. Watt that the Highways Improvement Plan be amended to reflect the changes and revised priorities detailed above.

Outcome: All those in favour, motion carried.

Action: The Clerk to make the agreed amendments to the Highways Improvement Plan and submit the updated version to **Kent County Council (KCC)**.

Action: The Clerk to separately report to KCC the signs that are down on **Station Road/Bokesbourne Lane**.

10.2 Any new matters to raise

None.

11. Finance Matters

11.1 To note the June/July 2026 payment schedule & approve any new payments.

Date	Type	Recipient	Amount
01/06/26	SO	V S Davidson - Work phone	£5.00
04/06/26	FPO	SLCC – Annual Membership	£200.00
12/06/26	FPO	Recreation Ground – CCF	£4,188.00
15/06/26	DD	Hugo Fox – Website	£23.99
16/06/26	DD	Hugo Fox – Emails	£20.00
16/06/26	FPO	V S Davidson – Microsoft Subscription	£84.99
16/06/26	SO	Lloyds service charge	£4.25
29/06/26	SO	Lloyds service charge	£4.25
30/06/26	BP	V S Davidson – wage	
30/06/26	SO	V S Davidson – work phone	£5.00
30/06/26	BP	HMRC – wage payroll	
13/07/26	FPO	A J Gallagher Insurance 2026	£1617.80
13/07/26	FPO	Essentially Hops – Chalkpit AED Electricity annual	£18.00
15/07/26	DD	Hugo Fox – Website	£23.99
15/07/26	FPO	H. Willet – Kent Pest Control	£60.00
16/07/26	DD	Hugo Fox – Emails	£20.99
17/07/26	FPO	KALC – Annual Subscription	£463.97
29/07/26	FPO	Kent Pension Fund – Back dated 1 st March 2026	
30/07/26	SO	V S Davidson – work phone	£5.00
31/07/26	FPO	V S Davidson – Wage	
31/07/26	FPO	HMRC – Wage Payroll	

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

Outcome: All in favour, motion carried.

Payments Due for Approval:

There were no new payments due for approval.

11.4 S106 Funding

The Council noted that the Parish Council has a remaining balance of £3,267.68 in Section 106 funding, held by Canterbury City Council, which must be used to enhance semi-natural spaces and deliver biodiversity improvements in accordance with the funding conditions.

Councillors decided to discuss this matter under **Agenda Item 16 – Future Projects**

12. Planning

12.1 To Receive Updates on previous consultee responses

The Clerk referred Councillors to the Parish Council's response to **Planning Application No. CA/26/01018**, a copy of which had been included under Agenda Item 8.

The Clerk informed the Council that **no further response, update or decision had been received from Canterbury City Council** in relation to the comments submitted on behalf of the Parish Council.

12.2 To discuss any new applications

None received.

13. Allotments

The Clerk provided an update on the allotments and advised that a video had been circulated to Councillors via email showing the potentially damaged water pipe. The Clerk reported that the water tap itself appeared to be in good working order; however, the wooden post to which it was attached was not secure.

Council agreed that this matter would be discussed further under Agenda Item 16.

13.1 Any updates

The Clerk provided Council with an update received since the preparation and circulation of the agenda pack. One tenant had advised that, due to personal commitments, they would not be renewing their allotment tenancy and would be returning their keys at the end of the month.

The Clerk noted that there was already one vacant allotment plot and that, following the end of this tenancy, the total number of vacant plots would increase to two.

13.2 Any new matters to report

None.

14. Grant Applications

14.1 Church Application

Cllr A. Nicholson, having declared an interest in this matter, provided Council with an update regarding the lack of an increase in church funding from Canterbury City Council. Following the update, the Clerk asked Cllr Nicholson to withdraw from the discussion and consideration of the grant application due to her declared interest. Cllr Nicholson took no further part in the discussion or decision.

The grant application had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting for consideration. Council discussed the application, including the budget requirements associated with the maintenance of the churchyard and grass cutting.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr C. Sladden and seconded by Cllr C. Ash that the Church grant application for £800 for 2026 be approved.

Outcome: All those eligible to vote were in favour. The motion was carried.

15. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that an update had been received from KCC confirming that the resident's concerns had been received and logged. KCC advised that a further update would be provided in due course should any works be scheduled.

With the Chair's permission, the Clerk invited Cllr C. Ash to raise concerns regarding the damaged fence line along the railway, following correspondence received on the matter. Cllr J. Watt provided a further update, advising that the gate was also damaged.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr J. Watt and seconded by Cllr C. Sladden that the Clerk respond to the correspondence and contact Canterbury City Council to raise the concerns regarding the damaged fence line and gate.

15.1 Councillor Identification Cards

The Clerk presented the proposal and associated costs for the introduction of identification cards for Councillors undertaking Parish Council business. A Councillor outlined the reasons for suggesting the use of identification cards, following which Council discussed the proposal.

Following consideration, the majority of Council did not support the introduction of identification cards. During the discussion, it was suggested that clear photographs of Councillors could instead be displayed alongside their names on the Parish Council website to assist members of the public with identification.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr A. Nicholson and seconded by Cllr C. Ash that, for public identification purposes, clear photographs of Councillors be displayed alongside their names on the Parish Council website.

Outcome: All those in favour. Motion carried.

16. Future projects

16.1 Defibrillator

Council discussed the proposed location of the community defibrillator at Woolton Farm. Councillors raised concerns regarding the accessibility of the proposed site, noting that the site may operate on a seasonal basis and could potentially be closed during the winter months. Councillors also considered that a location nearer the end of the driveway may provide better public accessibility than the position currently proposed further within the site.

Action: The Clerk to clarify with the site owner whether the site remains publicly accessible throughout the year, including during the winter months, and whether a location nearer the end of the driveway could be considered for the defibrillator.

16.2 Council Owned Phone Box

Council discussed potential landscaping improvements to the area surrounding the Council-owned telephone box and considered various ideas for improving the appearance of the site. It was agreed to pause consideration of any specific improvements until a local landscaper has inspected the area and provided advice on suitable options, together with indicative costs.

Action: The Clerk to arrange for a local landscaper to inspect the site and provide suggestions and indicative pricing for potential landscaping improvements.

16.3 Recreation Ground Enhancement

Council considered the options presented for enhancing the recreation area and agreed that Option A was the preferred approach. This would include the installation of seating overlooking the meadow, together with additional tree and wildflower planting to enhance the natural setting and support biodiversity.

Councillors expressed a preference for concrete benches with wooden slats and agreed that suitable trees and wildflower seed options should be explored. It was noted that the proposed improvements would enable available S106 funding for the enhancement of semi-natural space to be utilised.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr D. Sladden and seconded by Cllr C. Ash to proceed with Option A, as set out in the agenda pack, and to utilise available S106 funding to support the proposed improvements.

Outcome: All those in favour. Motion carried.

Action: The Clerk to request the S106 funding from Canterbury City Council and liaise with the Recreation Committee regarding suitable landscaping options and quotations for the proposed works.

16.4 Allotment Improvements

Council discussed the current maintenance requirements at the allotments and considered various options for improving the communal areas, walkways and general condition of the site.

Following discussion, Council agreed not to undertake any immediate works. It was agreed that the matter would be considered further alongside the preparation of the new tenancy agreements, which are due for renewal in October.

The Clerk would also provide an updated allotment map to assist Council in considering the responsibility for maintaining and cutting communal walkways adjoining individual allotment plots.

Action: The Clerk to prepare the updated tenancy agreements and allotment map for further consideration by Council prior to the October tenancy renewals.

16.5 Speed Indicator Device

Council reviewed the information provided in the agenda pack regarding the potential installation of a Speed Indicator Device (SID). It was noted that indicative costs could not be provided until an application had been submitted and the relevant assessment process undertaken.

Following consideration, Council agreed not to progress with a Speed Indicator Device at this time.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr C. Ash and seconded by Cllr A. Nicholson that Council not pursue the installation of a Speed Indicator Device.

Outcome: All those in favour. Motion carried.

17. Kent Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (any updates)

The Clerk provided Council with a summary update on the ongoing local government reorganisation across Kent and Medway.

Councillors discussed the changes and the potential implications for the Parish Council, local service provision and residents. It was noted that further information would be provided as the reorganisation and transition arrangements progress.

18. Next Meeting Date

Statutory Parish Meeting: Monday 14th September 2026
(Bekesbourne Recreation Ground Pavilion)

Meeting closed at 21:16

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

Signed.....(Chairperson)

Date.....

Appendix A

Pavilion Coffee Shop

C. Peck

- Preparations are nearly complete for a small coffee shop to operate from within the Pavilion.
- The coffee shop will operate during football hours on Saturdays and Sundays.
- The owners will be responsible for collecting and disposing of any litter generated by the coffee shop.
- A small selection of confectionery and ice cream will also be available for purchase.