

BEAN PARISH COUNCIL

The COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic and the unprecedented Government measures in response to the crisis (e.g. prohibitions on gatherings, social distancing, self-isolation and shielding of those deemed to be the most vulnerable) have meant that the requirement for local authorities to hold public meetings in person with all members present in one place cannot currently be met. The statutory requirements for meetings are mainly contained in the Local Government Act 1972 (“the 1972 Act”) and the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (“the 1960 Act”). In recognition of the difficulties of holding and attending meetings, the Government included s.78 in the Coronavirus Act 2020 and provided the Secretary of State with the power to make Regulations for the provision of holding alternative format meetings.

As such, this meeting will be held under terms agreed by Members being to conduct the Council business via internet link.

Additionally, the legislation allowed for the cancellation of the Annual Parish Council meeting and all current appointments continue until May 2021.

MINUTES
BEAN PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 11th January 2021 at 7.00 pm
via MS Teams
Members of the public were asked to contact the Clerk should
they wish to join the meeting

Present: Cllr C Bates, Cllr K Burgin (Chair), Cllr. D Hammock, Cllr A Munday (Vice-Chair), Cllr S Weeks, Cllr D Wood.

Apologies: Cllr K Impiazzi

The meeting was preceded by a presentation from Paul Boughen, Community Building Manager for EDC together with Peter Smith who is leading for EDC on transport related projects including the A2 upgrade works and Mary Rouse the Health & Well-being Hub Manager.

Members were introduced to a new video on the EDC website **What has life been like for residents in Ebbsfleet Garden City for the last 12 months?** <https://ebbsfleetdc.org.uk/what-has-life-been-like-for-residents-in-ebbsfleet-garden-city-for-the-last-12-months/>

Paul Boughen spoke about the Ebbsfleet Garden City’s Community Board currently comprising seven residents who applied to be on the board, three members of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation board including the Leader of Dartford Council Jeremy Kite as chairman, and two council representatives from Gravesham and Dartford. With over 2095 houses now completed the Board would like to increase the membership of residents.

There followed a question-and-answer session, including the following.

Q Are you working with the Police to design out ‘hot spots’?

A We do get involved with this but not as much as previously.

Q Will the walkways be lit?

A That depends on the location. We are looking at lighting the access between Castle Hill and Swanscombe and with regard to the Sandy Lane underpass we are engaging with Highways

England who have identified this as an area for improvement and together we intend to upgrade it and the links to it including a crossing over Watling Street.

Q We have attended meetings of Bean Triangle for over 5 years, have the outcomes from those meetings been included in your plans?

A Yes, the purpose of those meetings was to feed into a business plan for funding schemes and to produce a Bean environmental strategy. Two schemes have been produced by Atkins.

1) Non motorised User Scheme

2) Environmental Improvements

These include

- Sandy Lane Subway
- Bean Village Environmental Improvements
- Bean Gateway Improvements
- Beacon Woods – environmental improvements

Q We met with representatives from Atkins on 14 August 2019 and on 10 November 2020 advised our Clerk, by telephone, that they are putting together a proposal for both Beacon Woods and the approach to Bean and improvements to subway in Sandy Lane which is part of the SRN structure and would email us the details but we have not received anything.

A We can look into this for you.

Q Are you making provision for cemeteries in the Garden City?

A No information, will revert.

Q We note that there is a new community vehicle available to members within the EGC and wondered why EDC had not insisted on the vehicle being electric

A We have queried with Henly Camland about their plans to have electric cars available at Castle Hill and have been advised that they have to put in electric charger points.

Members were very concerned at the lack of health provision within the EGC which has meant that the nearest GP service, Swanscombe Health Centre which also serves Bean, appears to be accommodating the majority of new patients which has an impact on Bean Village Surgery.

Members were advised that the requirement of a Health Hub was included in the design at the request of Dartford Borough Council and not by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) so there is no legal requirement for it to be provided even though the CCG have been offered land at market value. The CCG's preference has been to develop and enhance existing provision first. Furthermore, the CCG have advised that all the local practices are still open and have capacity to accept new registrations.

EDC has, following a successful appeal, secured additional pharmacy provision at Castle Hill and they are also looking to move some services out of Darenth Valley Hospital into the Health Hub thereby releasing the capacity at DVH. It is also hoped that buildings new to the Hub could be used to accommodate step up/step down transitional beds thus releasing bed blockage at DVH.

Ms Rouse offered to attend the February meeting of the Council to discuss health provision in greater detail.

The Chair thanked the EDC representatives for attending and answering members' questions and they then left the meeting at 8.24 pm

The Council meeting resumed at 8.25pm

Members noted that following a resolution passed at the October 2010 Meeting, Item 7, and in accordance with Standing Orders 12a the Minutes of the previous meeting will be taken as read.

	Agenda Item	
1	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u> Were received and accepted from Cllr. Impiazzi who was unable to attend the meeting due to technical problems in obtaining remote access to the meeting.</p>	
2	<p><u>Declarations of interest</u></p> <p>2.1 Updates to the Register of Interests None</p> <p>2.2 Declarations of interest against an agenda item. None</p> <p>2.3 Dispensation to discuss Council Budget The Clerk granted dispensation to members for discussion of the budget.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>3.1 Minutes of the Council Meeting held via MS Teams on Monday 14th December 2020 that they be received as a true and complete record and that the resolutions contained therein be deemed to be the resolutions of the Council.</p> <p><i>RESOLVED:</i> <i>That the Minutes of the Parish Council held on 14th December 2020 be approved and adopted as a true record</i></p>	
4	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>4.1 Healthcare provision at Eastern Quarry Refer presentation from EDC which preceded this meeting</p> <p>4.2 Operation London Bridge and Forth Bridge The Clerk confirmed that an In Memoriam Book together with black edged loose pages have been purchased. The Letters of Condolence were approved. Clerk to contact DBC on sourcing relevant photographs.</p>	Clerk
5	<p><u>Announcements from the Chair</u> None</p>	
6	<p><u>Community Rural Warden</u> The Dartford Area Supervisor has advised that the Warden who it was hoped would cover our area has been released. They had hoped to recruit again in the near future however due to lockdown and Covid-19 restrictions this is now uncertain. In the absence of a full time Warden, Paul Hassell will be covering 2 x per week and the support Warden Jacqueline Fuller will cover the remaining days when she is able, both time sheets indicate that this instruction is being carried out.</p>	

	<p>Current staff comprise 6 Wardens, 3 Dartford and 3 Gravesham all of whom have multiple areas to cover.</p> <p>Concentration at this time is directed towards Safeguarding vulnerable persons and those in isolation and providing assistance to those affected by COVID 19. Should we have any specific issues which we feel need addressing we are to contact the Area Supervisor.</p>	
7	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KCC Elections 6 May 2021. We have been advised of the following measures that will be taken in light of Covid-19. Although guidance may change, we are currently planning these elections with the following measures expected to be in place: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Staff will be required to wear a Face Mask when moving around the Polling Station (but may choose to remove when sitting behind their sneeze guard) • Electors will be required to wear face coverings inside the Polling Station unless exempt • Social distancing will be upheld inside the Polling Stations and the number of electors entering at one time will be controlled. • Electors will be required to use hand sanitizer on entering, and staff to follow hand cleaning practices • Regular cleaning of shared surfaces will be undertaken during the day by our officers. - KCC COVID-19 Update 31 – 4 January 2021 listing new national lockdown measures - The Rural Bulletin, 15 December 2020 and 5 January 2021 	
8	<p><u>KALC/SLCC/NALC</u></p> <p>All information received from the above relating to COVID-19 and other urgent matters have been forwarded to Councillors on receipt.</p> <p>The following were noted.</p> <p>8.1 KALC December newsletter</p> <p>8.2 KALC CEO bulletin</p> <p>8.3 NALC Chief Executives bulletin – 11 December 2020</p>	
9	<p><u>Parish Forum</u></p> <p>The next meeting will take place on 12 January 2021 at 5pm via zoom and will be attended by Cllr. Munday and the Clerk. Agenda includes:</p> <p><u>Census 2021</u></p> <p>The presentation from the Harjit Goraya, Census Engagement Manager, North West Kent has been postponed.</p> <p><u>COVID-19, EU Transition & Winter Pressures - Community Impact for Parish/Town Councils</u></p> <p>To receive a briefing from Tony Cannon, DBC Emergency Planning Officer.</p> <p><u>Local Plan Update</u></p> <p>To receive an update on progress from the Council's Policy Planning Section.</p>	

10	<p><u>GDPR</u> No matters to consider at date of publication.</p>	
11	<p><u>Ebbfleet Development Corporation /Bean Triangle/ London Resort</u> It is noted that a planning application on behalf of London Resort has been submitted.</p>	
12	<p><u>Consultations</u> No consultations to consider at date of publication</p>	
13	<p><u>Kent Police</u> The following reports were noted. 13.1 Police newsletter for Bean and Village Park, December 2020 13.2 Kent Police Rural Task Force Report to 31 December 2020</p>	
14	<p><u>Planning</u> The following were noted 14.1 Weekly planning lists from DBC 14.2 Weekly planning lists from EDC</p> <p>It was NOTED that the following application has been APPROVED</p> <p>14.3 20/00797/FUL Adjacent 31 School Lane Bean Kent DA2 8AL Erection of a 1 bed dwelling with associated parking and landscaping</p> <p>This application was APPROVED by a majority vote of the DCB.</p> <p>Members considered the following application</p> <p>14.4 20/01541/FUL Demolition of existing brick-built garden storage area and erection of a single storey rear extension 17 Beacon Drive, DA2 8BE</p> <p>No objections</p>	
15	<p><u>Highways</u> 15.1 Blocked drains in Beacon Drive and High Street Have been reported to Highways who have responded that as parking at both locations have previously caused problems in accessing the gullies and as we have entered yet another lockdown, with the exception of safety critical works, the decision has been taken to put jobs that require ‘no parking’ cones/restrictions on hold. This acknowledges that more people will now be at home and moving vehicles / finding alternative parking may prove difficult. However, if severe flooding is being caused that needs attention, such as has happened around the junction of Drudgeon Way in the past, they will attempt these. It was noted that the drain opposite the village hall is also totally blocked</p>	
16	<p><u>Environmental Issue</u> 16.1 2 x new litter bins to be sited each end of the lay-by opposite the shop DBC has kindly agreed to assist us with the purchase of new litter bins at a</p>	

	<p>cost of £100 each. They currently have a new batch on order and will advise us when they have been received. DBC has also agreed to have them installed free of charge and will add them to their contract with Urbaser for emptying on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.</p> <p>RESOLVED: <i>That 2 x litter bins be purchase from DBC at a cost of £100 each and be installed at each end of the lay-by opposite the shop.</i></p>	
17	<p><u>Footpaths</u></p> <p>17.1 The Clerk together with SL Tree Care inspected DR22 on 15th December to confirm the scope of the outstanding tree work. A date for commencement of work is to be confirmed.</p> <p>17.2 It has been reported that there is a sewage leak on to DR23, approximately 10m from its junction with the High Street. Clerk to contact Thames Water.</p>	Clerk
18	<p><u>Beacon Woods</u></p> <p>18.1 Volunteers are urgently required to open Beacon Woods on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.</p> <p>18.2 The Clerk together with SL Tree Care carried out an inspection of the Woodland track and all hard standing pathways in the woods on 15th December and identified 7 trees that required felling for safety reasons. It was also identified that a number of the trees at the top of the bank opposite the shop are very heavily ivy laden which could contribute to their instability (one has already fallen over and is currently laying behind the telephone pole at the end lay-by) and it was agreed that the ivy be killed on as many of these trees as possible by cutting the growth at the base of the trees. A full report will be presented to members on receipt.</p>	
19	<p><u>Recreation Facilities</u></p> <p>19.1 The Inspection report undertaken in October 2020 only identified matters of low or very low risk with the recommendation that the former issues are monitored, eg wear on swing chains, matting, etc.</p> <p>RESOLVED: <i>That following the next inspection report all identified remedial work be undertaken.</i></p> <p>19.2 Awaiting quote and recommendation from Vitaplay for item of play equipment to replace the Typhoon Spinner in the Toddler Area.</p>	
20	<p><u>Bean Village Hall</u></p> <p>20.1 As of 5th January 2021 Dance Fever have stopped all classes until further notice. The current sole user is Jumping Beans who have not been instructed to close under Covid-19 guidelines during the current lockdown.</p>	
21	<p><u>Allotment Association</u></p> <p>21.1 The tree that was leaning across the allotments fell over during the wind and rain 26/27 December damaging the boundary fence and a shed. The land owner made arrangements for the tree to be removed and is in discussion with the owner of the damaged shed and the Allotment</p>	

	Association regarding repairs/replacement of the shed and repairs to the boundary fencing.															
22	<u>Residents' Association</u> To note the updates from the Asst. Secretary.															
23	<u>Spirit's Rest</u> The report from Spirit's Rest was noted as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water connected at the beginning of January - Electricity connected this week - All buildings have been erected and the majority of the fencing completed - Assisting RSPCA with call outs - Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 there have been no fund-raising events but are very grateful to both Balfour Beatty and Atkins for their help and support. 															
24	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>24.1 Bank and Scribe reports up to 31 December 2020 The following were noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op Bank Account summary as at 5 Jan 2020 – please note that this includes payment received in January of £862.50 from Jumping Beans which does not appear in the Scribe accounts - Co-op Bank transactions on all accounts 1 – 31 December 2020 - Balance in all accounts as at 31 December 2020 - Bank reconciliation on all accounts - Monthly breakdown of receipts and payments - Net position by cost centre and code - Receipts and payments forecast - Summary of receipts and payments all cost centres and codes - Cost centre year comparisons <p>24.2 Balance as at 31 December 2020 on all accounts <u>Bean Parish Council</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Reserve Account</td> <td>20866.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Account (No. 1 account)</td> <td>12752.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Petty Cash</td> <td>75.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>33693.69</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Bean Village Hall</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Current Account (No. 2 account)</td> <td>11657.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Petty Cash</td> <td>170.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>11827.65</td> </tr> </table> <p>24.3 Budget 2021/2022 The budget was discussed and Cllr. Hammock, seconded by Cllr. Burgin proposed the following resolution which was carried unanimously.</p> <p><i>RESOLVED:</i> <i>That Bean Parish Council agrees a budget with an 0% increase in the precept for 2021-2022. The precept remains the same as the previous year at £19,678</i></p>	Reserve Account	20866.01	Current Account (No. 1 account)	12752.19	Petty Cash	75.49	TOTAL	33693.69	Current Account (No. 2 account)	11657.23	Petty Cash	170.42	TOTAL	11827.65	
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	<p><i>which gives a Band D rate of £35.62 calculated on a base rate of 552.44</i></p> <p><i>(The base rate for 2020-2021 was 563.16 which gave a Band D rate of £34.95)</i></p>	
25	<p><u>Items of interest</u></p> <p>25.1 Chair's Items None</p> <p>25.2 Borough Councillor's Items Cllr Hammock advised that on behalf of DBC he has non-perishable food parcels available for anyone in Bean who needs one.</p> <p>Cllr Hammock reported that he had been very impressed with the service provided by the Swanscombe Health Practice with their delivery of the Covid-19 vaccine and has asked the Leader of DBC if he would write to all GP practices involved with the vaccine delivery thanking them for their work.</p> <p>25.3 Members' Items Cllr Wood requested that ways in which to encourage public attendance at Parish Council Meetings be included on the February agenda.</p> <p>25.4 Clerk's Items None</p>	

There being no further business the chair closed the meeting at 9.57pm

Chair..... Date