

BERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on **Monday 20 May 2024** at 8.00pm

Present: Duncan Murdoch (from 8.15pm), Harry Wadsworth, Debbie Thomson, Antonia Bolcas, Kerry Calder, Kathleen Merino

Public: John Walker

320.0	Apologies: Diane Holt (holiday)
320.1	Declarations of interest: None
320.2	Approve minutes of Berden Parish Council from Monday 15 April 2024: Proposed by Kathleen, seconded and signed by Harry.
320.16	T Party at Great Mimms 6 July 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Walker joined the meeting to report that Peter and Deborah Patrick are holding a classic car event at their home, Great Mimms, on Saturday 6 July, 2-5pm and have applied for a temporary event notice. In view of all the extra traffic on single track roads, John has called for volunteer Road Marshalls to work from 1pm on that afternoon to manage the flow. Marshalls will be equipped with 2-way radios.• John also reported on low profile down lights that the Village Hall Committee is keen to attach to the exterior wall of the Village Hall along the road for the safety of pedestrians. He wished to speak to Ray Gooding to see if Highways need to be informed.
320.7	Highways Community Speedwatch <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kerry reported that she has been out once and found that the 5-6pm slot was successful with 46 cars identified as speeding. Letters will go to those driving over 38mph. She is aiming to do four sessions this month and has identified three locations in the village from which the team can operate.• She did miss out on a Police Community Speedwatch visit due to work commitments and lack of volunteers. Traffic and Speeding Steering Group <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kerry reported that she was unable to attend the first meeting in Albury but will try to attend the next on 28 May.• Duncan expressed interest that Braughing has a 20mph speed limit in the village. It was thought that this was due to the school in the village. Kerry said that she would like to investigate signage for Berden and would see if there are any grants available. Kathleen reported that at a Stansted Speedwatch meeting it was said that 20mph signs have not been found to be very effective, because the Police cannot legally enforce this speed limit.

320.3	<p>Nomination of Chair for Berden Parish Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duncan Murdoch was nominated and approved as Chair for the next year.
320.4	<p>Solar/Battery Units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berden Hall and Pelham Springs – nothing from Planning Inspector yet. Crabbs Green battery scheme – our objection has gone to Uttlesford Council. Greens Farm – Duncan is meeting Cambridge Power with representatives from Stocking and Furneux Pelham on 21 May. This is seen as an opportunity to go over the fundamentals of the issue and to consider the implications of construction traffic.
320.5	<p>Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storage Lagoons, Furneux Pelham – Duncan has sent our response re HGVs coming through the village. Pelham Grid expansion – Duncan has queried the clearance of trees in anticipation of this and has asked to be included in decisions on replanting. Neighbourhood Plan – Duncan proposed that creating our own Neighbourhood Plan would enable us to have one coherent policy on solar and battery applications, but that we would need professional help and a grant for this to happen. He asked Councillors for comments: Kathleen asked for more time to consider this proposal and raised her concern about using good agricultural land for solar development. Kerry expressed support for a plan. Antonia thought it useful to be able to pre-empt applications. Harry would be happy to have a plan but is concerned about the work required e.g. a referendum in the village. Duncan will speak to UDC re the process of applying for a grant. Janice suggested he speak to Charles Bartram in Manuden.
320.6	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debbie reported that Diane had sent the final year-end 2023-24 accounts to PKF Littlejohn Ltd at the beginning of May. Insurance: the invoice for renewal of the Parish Council policy for £994.28 has been received and needs to be paid by 1/6/24.
320.8	<p>Footpaths and grounds maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paths – Harry will start cutting the paths end May/beginning of June and asked Duncan to send the map on which he can highlight the footpaths in Berden Parish Council which he will be cutting. This map can then go on the Parish Council notice board with an alert in the Parish Magazine. Grass cutting – Harry has just completed his fifth cut for the Village Hall. Hedge cutting – Harry will trim the hedge at Simon's Field on Frank Tinney's side once the birds have fledged.

320.9	<p>Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathleen reported that the storage facility build is finished, and that Janice is invited to officially open it on 7 June, followed by the unveiling of the King's portrait. • The Ford Britain application was unsuccessful so the requirement for new benches still needs to be addressed. • ECC has closed the EV charger scheme and Kathleen asked about her application for village charging points.
320.10	<p>Berden Emergency Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonia has a meeting planned for 24 May with Harry and John Walker. She has a new draft based on the old Plan. She anticipates that the new Plan should be finished by the end of the summer.
320.11	<p>Neighbourhood Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonia reported that she and Debbie are working on a MailChimp email for the village but have some issues with the landing page at the Neighbourhood Watch website to resolve.
320.12	<p>Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is now up to date.
320.13	<p>Playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RoSPA playground inspection report was received shortly before this meeting. Antonia had been able to have an initial look and reported mainly green flags, some yellow and no red. She will study it more closely to ascertain what urgent work is required, if any, and obtain quotes.
320.14	<p>Berden Parish Council Subcommittees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berden Village Open Gardens – the latest meeting was held on 8 May 2024 and everything is in order for the day. • JustGiving/Fete – Duncan reported that Natalie has suggested a fundraising page known as I love Berden 2024 be set up to raise funds for the Church, Village Hall and playground as the fete is not happening this year. The Parish Council agrees with this way of raising funds but queried how the money would be divided between the playground, Village Hall and Church i.e. would a third of money raised go to each. Natalie has indicated that funds raised would be apportioned depending on the needs of the three recipients as had been done after Village fetes.
320.15	<p>Defibrillators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both reported in good order during April.
320.17	<p>Cllr Loughlin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janice was welcomed back by Duncan.

320.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janice reported that she is no longer on the Local Plan working group. Regulation 19 should be published this July and the Plan should be finished by July 2026. • Berden does not have any development potential identified in the Plan. <p>Cllr Gooding was not present.</p> <p>Meeting ends 9.15pm</p> <p>Next meeting will be held on 8 July 2024.</p>
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