

BERDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13th September 2021,
8.00pm

Present: John Burton, Amanda Coomber, Duncan Murdoch, John Riddell,
Diane Holt, Pete Hewitt, Laura Free ECC: Cllr Janice Loughlin (8.20pm)

<p>221.0</p> <p>221.1</p> <p>221.2</p> <p>221.3</p> <p>221.4</p> <p>221.5</p>	<p>Apologies: Ian Stumpf</p> <p>Declarations of Interest: N/A</p> <p>Public Participation. N/A</p> <p>Ratify Decisions and Approve Minutes of last Berden Parish Council Meeting 12th July 2021. Approved.</p> <p>Clerk's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Re-sent 20/09/21 with Minutes.● Will keep the report going for reference. Along with Financial Reports from Diane. <p>Crabbs Green Battery Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● No movement as of yet on this application. <p>East End Battery Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Savills are the planners for this scheme, they have issued a letter to the council (please see online). The basis of the letter is that Savills have stated that all current reservations can be overcome once planning has been granted. DM states " issues can be sorted after planning, noise assessment, wooden fencing is not realistic" A letter from environmental health was read aloud, this states that further assessments/reports need to be conducted before decisions are made.● DM to compose a letter of response to Savills from Berden Parish Council only, JB will then share this with our neighbouring councils. The PC that a joint parish letter is not required at this point.● Application is still open so objections can still be logged.
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	<p>Battles Farm Solar Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● No application has been submitted. So therefore nothing further has happened with this scheme. <p>Stocking/Furneux Pelham Solar Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● No application submitted to date. There have been 2 meetings in Furneux Pelham and 2 in Berden over the summer. It is the PC belief that the Pelham's felt we were just working on our own in regards to this scheme but as a result of the joint Berden meeting where Claire Russel spoke they now understand the BPC position. They have also asked CR to speak at their most recent meeting.● A letter has been sent to the local MP's, local planners and will also go out to East Herts planners in due course, JB to add additional material before issuing. <p>Park Green Solar Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● No application to date. <p>General Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● John Riddell has set up a dropbox to put all the Solar facility information into. If anyone wants access or wants to add to it please let John know.● Leaflet being amended to include more Hertfordshire information.● CPRE- should the Solar Facility in Cambridge be discussed with Richard to see if anything can be learnt?● John Burton writing a piece for the Parish Magazine.● The Stansted Airport plan to put in solar panels seems very sensible. <p>Review of Recent Meeting</p> <p>As mentioned above 4 meetings have been held. All very positive, all councils are on the same path and are striving to the same outcome. 11 villages now involved. Clavering has made no comments currently.</p> <p>221.6 Finance Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 3 Payments have been made, Mortmiers, Laura Free, HMRC● Website payment approved● Rural England payment approved.● £40 CPRE donation received, awaiting final cost information but believe total will be £50 for the Leaflet.● All members agreed to pay Frank Tinney for footpath cutting before payment is received from ECC.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● LF to see how we go about receiving the money from ECC● Opening balance on the accounts was incorrect by .7p, this is now corrected.● Vat return complete, for both Village Hall & PC● There is Vat due back to the PC accounts to the amount of £2451.11.● The playground account value is £4047.37 after the vat rebate● HMRC no payments in May, June, July have been submitted and all is fine.● HSBC are soon to be charging for use of the accounts, Diane going to investigate to see if we can move banks so we do not incur charges.
221.7	No objections/issues to Ravens. Field House refusal. Now complete
221.8	Playground Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Well done to Ian for securing the further funding.● The Trail costs are basic £5300, Plastic £7,000 Luxury £9200, so need a min of another £1300, fundraising is ongoing.● The regular £500 (housing fund money) organised by Janice Loughlin will be used to help the playground fund. All members voted this money into this account. Thank You● Grass on top of the tunnel is worn, can't see a way around this.● Goal posts at the football pitch need fixing and moving forward. PH to speak with Chris re a price for this.● Nets need re-tying.
221.9	Village Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Boules Pitch is nearly complete. Very nice job looks great.
221.10	Highways <ul style="list-style-type: none">● No communication from Ray Gooding.● Community Speedwatch, location has now been approved. Volunteers now need to be recruited. Possible two teams of 3. Guidance is for 2 hrs per week. Speak to Sarah Youens at Benskins Close.

221.11	Footpaths <ul style="list-style-type: none">● PS contract agreed. Payment agreed. Now complete. JB to write a note of thanks to Mr Tinney.
221.12	Dog Waste Bin <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Now complete. Thank You Pete● JB to arrange to be emptied.
221.13	Street Party <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Great success, well attended, a worthwhile community event. Thank You to all involved.
221.14	Parkers Access <ul style="list-style-type: none">● DM to speak with Darren & Kerry Calder before issuing a letter. All members agreed on Duncan's letter.
221.15	Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">● JB has 6 Christmas Trees and JW has 1 to be planted in the orchard, hopefully to be used on the village green at some point. Permission to plant all agreed.● 3 Fruit trees to be bought with the money from nature group money. All agreed.● Some trees in the orchard might need pruning in the winter.
221.16	Defibrillator <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Little London wishes to purchase their own unit, BPC have asked that it be from the same supplier as the existing machines so as to have continuity. JB will do weekly checks as per the other units in the village. AC to add onto the system.● Pads with the Village Hall machine are currently at 50%, possible new ones required by end of the year.

221.17	Janice Loughlin <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Quiet currently. Face to Face meetings have restarted.● New CEO● The head of planning has now resigned.● Review of the planning department ongoing to see what if any improvements can be made.● Call for sites list distributed. There is currently no up to date plan. Working from the 2005 plans. Which is out of date and needs reviewing. Nothing is currently forthcoming. Frustrating for all residents and councillors.● Nigel Brown has stated that no planning applications are pending currently for the Solar Facilities.● BPC has concerns that Clr Peppers information on Battery Units, Substations and Solar Facilities are incorrect. Is there any way to communicate the facts with her?● Does CPRE have information in regard to wy/where sub-stations are positioned? JB to review with CPRE.● JL and heard all the companies are linked in some way. Unsure about this.● JL stated planning look at all applications without emotion.
221.18	Ray Gooding not in attendance

