

## PARISH COUNCIL OF BENENDEN

### Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 7pm, Benenden Memorial Hall

Present	Cllrs Beveridge, Cochrane, Driver, Grant, Lewis and Thomas	
In Attendance	Cllrs Dawlings and Holden; C Levett, Clerk; 1 parishioner.	
<b>Item</b>		<b>Action Responsibility</b>
1. APOLOGIES	Apologies were received from Cllr Cruse, Hagan and Warne.	
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	There were no declarations of interest.	
3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	The Parish Council minutes from the meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> June were unanimously approved as a correct record of the meeting.	
4. REPORTS BY COUNTY/ BOROUGH COUNCILLORS	<p>Cllr Holden reported :</p> <p><b>Bus Subsidies</b> KCC Environment and Transport Committee has recommended the proposal made in February to reduce subsidies paid to bus companies by £2.2m from £6m. A list of affected services went out to consultation. KCC is one of the few authorities which pays this subsidy. It was highlighted that KCC does not run bus services. Bus companies, for commercial reasons, are also cutting services. A reprieve has been given to the Kent Karrier service which serves the elderly and disabled, and this was withdrawn from the list of affected services. In the Autumn central Government will also be withdrawing subsidies and introducing a new Business Service Improvement Plan and KCC will be allocated some funding, but this cannot support existing services. Cllr Holden answered a question regarding free home to school transport.</p> <p><b>Ukraine</b> KCC is involved in housing families. 3,782 people have applied in Kent and matched to 1,500 sponsors. The initial phase was intended to last 6 months and consideration is being given to what happens beyond this time.</p> <p><b>Household Support Fund</b> KCC has used the fund, to support families with the cost of living and vulnerable people, by providing free school meals during half term and paying a £50 summer flat rate for the vulnerable to help with fuel bills.</p> <p><b>Children's Services</b> Ofsted inspectors gave KCC an outstanding report for children's services.</p> <p><b>Social Care</b> From 1<sup>st</sup> July the new integrated care systems came into place with an aim to ensure a proper relationship between the NHS and private residential care.</p> <p><b>Adult Social Care</b> This continues to cause grave concern for KCC.</p> <p><b>Wildflower Meadow</b> Cllr Holden supports a £1,000 grant from the Combined Members Fund.</p> <p>Cllr Dawlings reported :</p> <p><b>Annual Local Government Association Annual Conference</b> All political parties spoke positively about local government bodies, especially response and action at local level in circumstances where county councils and central government are too big to react quickly.</p> <p><b>Turnden Inquiry</b> Has been delayed beyond 4<sup>th</sup> July deadline.</p> <p><b>Finances</b> Despite the difficulties during the pandemic the year ending March 2022 showed a small surplus on the revenue account for the second year running. The new cabinet inherits no borrowings; £32m cash reserves (some committed); £137m of property assets, which has increased by £7m in last year. The new coalition intends to introduce an emergency budget, which the conservatives do not think is necessary.</p> <p><b>Ukraine</b> The borough has more than 500 Ukrainian guests, which is higher than any other borough in Kent. TWBC carried out household and DBS checks. These were necessary to ensure no predators.</p> <p><b>Civic Amenity Vehicle</b> No update.</p> <p>Cllr Warne reported :</p> <p><b>Safeguarding the Council's Finances</b> As a result of inflationary pressures since the budget was set, and formal notification of the fair funding review from the Department for Levelling Up and Communities is awaited, the Borough Partnership's Cabinet is proposing a set of interventions as part of an In-Year Budget Review. Proposals include increased fees and charges at a number of car parks, the crematorium service and the garden waste service. If all proposals are implemented, the current</p>	

Chairman..... Date.....

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*These minutes are not a verbatim record of the meeting, but a summary of discussion and decisions taken at the meeting.*

	<p>year's deficit would reduce from £944k to £560K, with a further reduction for 2023/24 from a projected £2.6m to £1.8m.</p> <p>It was commented that proper consultations have not been carried out regarding these increases.</p> <p><b>Planning Department</b> The new Head of Planning, Carlos Hume, and the new Tree Officer, Paul Roberts are now in post.</p> <p><b>Cranbrook and Sissinghurst NDP</b> Submitted to TWBC for Regulation 15 review and consultation.</p>	
5. REPORTS BY CHAIR AND PARISH COUNCILLORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>TWBC Local Plan Examination Hearing Session 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cllr Thomas and Paul Tolhurst attended the session via Zoom. The Benenden allocated sites were on the agenda and the Friends of East End and barrister were also in attendance and made representations against the two hospital sites. Cllr Thomas responded with corrections when she could. The Inspector listened to the representations and did not respond with many queries.</li> <li>➤ There was a useful discussion between the Inspector and the TWBC QC also in attendance regarding the wording of the Local Plan relating to the BNDP becoming part of it when adopted. They agreed on wording that would be appropriate and would avoid loopholes being created that developers could potentially exploit.</li> <li>➤ The other two Benenden allocated sites were not discussed at all.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>KALC Area Committee Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cllr Thomas attended the meeting held in Paddock Wood which opened with an update on the new Community Centre being built, funded partly from S106 monies received from developments being built in the area, and partly a loan which will be repaid over 50 years – partly funded by the increase in the precept from the new houses.</li> <li>➤ The main topic of discussion was the Boundary Commission consultation. The Goudhurst PC Chair was seeking support for a draft letter to TWBC. There seemed to be some support for this, but not unanimously. BPC had discussed this issue previously and decided not to comment.</li> <li>➤ There was a discussion led by the Chair of Hawkhurst PC about the F4F Hawkhurst Foodbank <a href="https://local.kent.gov.uk/kb5/kent/directory/service.page?id=QvmXoJydtJE">https://local.kent.gov.uk/kb5/kent/directory/service.page?id=QvmXoJydtJE</a>. The Chair spoke to Cllr Thomas directly about Benenden which Cllr Thomas will pass onto to BAT.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	NT
6. PLANNING	<p>a. <u>Planning Applications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>22/01852/FULL Finns Barn, Standen Street</b> Erection of detached oak framed garage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Left hand of the converted poultry sheds in Standen Street.</li> <li>➤ Proposal : 6.5 x 7m two bay oak frame over a brick plinth car barn type with plain clay tiled pitched roof and weatherboard cladding to side and rear elevations.</li> <li>➤ Does not affect neighbouring properties, or the listed buildings to the NW and S.</li> <li>➤ Suitable location within the plot</li> <li>➤ Of traditional style and in keeping with the area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>22/01695/FULL Netters Farm, Attwaters Lane, Hawkhurst</b> Proposed Development of a Photovoltaic Solar Array, Battery Storage and Associated Infrastructure  Site Constraints: Usual constraints including Grade 3b agricultural land and Grade 4 (Grade 4 land is not mentioned in the planning statement and may be elsewhere on the farm not affected by the proposal), +30M Buffer Area for Ancient Woodland.  Info from Planning Statement : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Period of 40 years after which the array would be decommissioned and the site returned to its existing condition, unless permission is secured for continued operation.</li> <li>➤ Photovoltaic solar panels and associated support frames — angle of 20° and facing south, lowest edge 900mm above ground level to allow sheep grazing, support frames arranged in rows 3m apart and max height of the panels approx. 2.47m;</li> <li>➤ String inverters;</li> <li>➤ 3 no. Transformer Stations each approx. 6.06m long x 2.44m wide x 2.90m high (total footprint c.44.5sq.m);</li> <li>➤ 2 No. Battery storage containers — contained within a modified shipping container 12.19m long x 2.44m wide x 2.59m high, footprint of each container 30sq.m, and associated</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- inverter/transformers;
- 1 No. Distribution Network Operator (DNO) Substation c. 30.5sq.m;
- 1 No. Control Centre Building c. 11sq.m.
- 1 No. Switchroom building c. 28sq.m;
- c. 1.05km of new/resurfaced internal access tracks (3.5m wide and constructed using compacted Type 3 stone) The total area of development associated with the access tracks would be approx. 3,850sq.m;
- 3.4km deer/stock fencing @ 2.1m high;
- C. 20 No. 3m high CCTV cameras;
- c. 3ha of species-diverse grassland margins;
- c. 150m of native species hedgerow planting;
- C. 0.3ha of native species woodland planting.
- Lighting: limited to the Switchgear Building and Control Buildings. Low level lighting positioned above access doors on these buildings and activated by passive infra-red (PIR) sensors for security/emergency purposes or when switched on by a maintenance engineer. No areas of the development would be continuously lit during operation.
- The grid connection point is within the site, connecting directly into the overhead 33kV lines.
- Two parcels of land:
- Northern parcel approx. 10.6ha comprising two fields of pastoral farmland, set within field boundaries formed by hedgerows, woodland shaws and ancient woodland. Several tree clumps which are fragments of historic field boundaries remain within the fields, along with pond set within these tree clumps, and
- Southern parcel approx. 6ha comprises the western part of an irregularly shaped field currently in arable use. The northern, western and southern boundaries of the Southern parcel are formed by woodland shaws and ancient woodland; the eastern boundary follows the line of a historic field boundary which is no longer present in the landscape, such that the eastern boundary is open to a wider field. A tree belt which is a remnant part of a former field boundary lies centrally within the southern parcel.
- No PRoWs crossing the site, but there are to the west and east of the site and would be visible.
- Grade 3b agricultural land — not classified as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Land.
- Ancient Woodland — 15m offset from the boundary or offsetting by the root protrusion areas of trees, whichever is the greater distance. NOTE: Constraints state +30M Buffer Area.
- Construction period — approx. 28 weeks including testing and commissioning.
- BNG target of +10% after development. Scheme suggests that +151.51% for area-based units and +72.44% for linear-derived units will be achieved. The Landscape & Biodiversity Officer has not yet commented on the application.

Pre-app advice was sought on and the advice given : "Although the Local Planning Authority are supportive of the principle of renewable energy schemes, there are significant concerns about the proposal given the size of the development and its highly sensitive location within the High Weald AONB and open countryside. The development also has the potential to harm the setting of nearby heritage assets. Given the high sensitivity of the site, I recommend that you do not proceed further with your enquiry and explore other less sensitive locations."

**The Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to the application** for the following reasons : the disconnect and separation of the landscape and its natural wildlife corridors with the introduction of deer fencing, transforming the rural landscape with rows of solar arrays, access tracks, and buildings which require concrete slabs to be constructed. All of which will also be visible from the Public Rights of Way. Narrow single-track lanes that will be disturbed and damaged during construction by the transportation of large machinery to the site. The Buffer Area for Ancient Woodland should be +30m not 15m. Statutory duty of TWBC to preserve and enhance the AONB. This location is unsuitable for this type of development. Solar arrays should not be sited in the rural landscape in the heart of the countryside. Whilst BPC supports the use of renewable energy, this proposal will completely transform this isolated, rural location for a period of at least 40 years, and will cause the loss of use of farmland, which whilst not of BMV quality, is farmland none the less and should be retained to

	<p>contribute towards national food security. Solar Farms are better located on brownfield sites, alongside main roads (or at least those with 2 lanes), railway lines/motorways, and outside the AONB. etc. PRoW WC134 runs immediately alongside the length of the western boundary of the 'northern' parcel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>22/01748/FULL Dulwich Preparatory School, Course Horn Lane, Cranbrook.</b> Refurbish and remodel of existing teaching block, addition of new rear windows, roof lights, external grilles and air conditioning unit, addition of photovoltaic cells to roof, door alterations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Outside of the parish but TWBC has invited comment.</li> <li>➤ Existing teaching block with intention to remodel it over 2 years starting in 2023.</li> <li>➤ Main points of interest are the additional roof lights (Velux windows) — 4 at present and a further 7 to be added. Light pollution potential.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application</b> with a request for outdoor lighting schemes to be conditioned in the consent to control and limit light pollution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>22/01948/LBC Dingledden House, Dingledden</b> (Retrospective Listed Building Consent) To remove poor and failing recent historic detail of replaced jetting and repair structural timbers, reinstate timber frame supporting wall under jetting and finish to detail in sympathy with the surrounding building fabric</li> </ul> <p><b>The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application</b> subject to the works being to the satisfaction of the Conservation Officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>22/01880/FULL Shirley Cottage, The Street</b> Proposed second floor to create larger attic bedroom with en-suite including alterations to existing roof form to the rear, alterations to ground floor rear fenestration (retrospective) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Within Conservation Area</li> <li>➤ Not Listed</li> <li>➤ Infill of valley between the rear hips to extend and enlarge the existing second floor (attic) level to provide a modest master bedroom and ensuite</li> <li>➤ The alteration to the roof will not be visible from the front of the property</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this application.</b></p> <p>b. <u>Other Planning Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dark Skies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Village Hall Manager has reset the timings of lighting at the Village Hall and will be more aware in future of any power cuts which may override the settings.</li> <li>➤ Cllr Cruse had sent a follow email and copy of the report to Benenden Hospital following the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
7. HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS & TRANSPORT	<p>a. <u>Highways Improvement Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Kent Highways Services has been restructured. There are now two Highways Improvements Teams (East and West Kent). A new Communications and Engagement Team will work with the Parish Council to continue to develop the HIP. A revised HIP has been received but this is not a final version which the Parish Council can discuss or approve. The Clerk has asked how Benenden's HIP has moved forward and what action might be expected but no response has been received. The Clerk to chase.</li> <li>➤ Cllr Driver advised that items reported online to KCC Highways have been actioned.</li> </ul> <p>b. <u>The Green</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cllr Thomas advised that The Bull has no objections to no parking signs on the fence, and that these should be by order of Benenden Parish Council, and the signs made in a sympathetic material and font. The Parish Council agreed to 3 signs in the first instance.</li> </ul>	CL

	<p>➤ There appears to be a wider issue of parking on and around The Green and this needs further consideration.</p> <p>➤ The Clerk has contacted the Cricket Club and Landscape Services regarding the mowing of the clumps or grass around the signs and flagpole but has had no response. The Clerk to chase and if necessary will ask Tompsett to carry out strimming.</p> <p>c. <u>Parking</u></p> <p>➤ Cllr Cruse advised of inconsiderate, obstructive and dangerous parking on the pavement opposite the primary school. Vehicles are parked all day making the pavement impassable for pedestrians who have to step out into the road, and the sightlines for those pulling out on to the main road are significantly impaired. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Town and Country Housing and the PCSO.</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>CL</p>																																																																																																																																
<p>8. RESOURCING/ FINANCE</p>	<p>a. <u>Monthly Finance</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Brought forward</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>89360.86</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Payee</td> <td>Reference</td> <td>Amount</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Standen Fruit Farm</td> <td>Server Recharge</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Benenden Shop</td> <td>Server Recharge</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Village Hall</td> <td>Server Recharge</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>90.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Supplier</td> <td>Reference</td> <td>Amount</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DD</td> <td>NEST</td> <td>Pension</td> <td style="text-align: right;">71.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Unity Trust Bank</td> <td>Bank Account Fee</td> <td style="text-align: right;">18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>C Levett</td> <td>Clerk's Salary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">946.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>edf</td> <td>Public Toilets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">108.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Tenterden Twilight</td> <td>Public Toilets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1248.85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Tompsett Landscaping</td> <td>Grounds Maintenance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">206.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Employer Contributions Q1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">204.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Krystal Hosting Ltd</td> <td>Parish Server</td> <td style="text-align: right;">179.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Anthony Hicks</td> <td>Parish Wells</td> <td style="text-align: right;">816.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>C Levett</td> <td>Postage</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>3800.60</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Reconciled with bank statement 065 30 June 2022</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>85650.26</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>July 2022 Payments Approved</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>DD</td> <td>NEST</td> <td>Pension</td> <td style="text-align: right;">71.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>C Levett</td> <td>Clerk's Salary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">972.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>edf</td> <td>Public Toilets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">123.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Tenterden Twilight</td> <td>Public Toilets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">523.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>Tompsett Landscaping</td> <td>Grounds Maintenance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">484.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>edf</td> <td>Defibrillator</td> <td style="text-align: right;">207.53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>TP Jones&amp;Co</td> <td>Payroll Q1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">57.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>David Buckett</td> <td>Internal Audit</td> <td style="text-align: right;">350.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BACS</td> <td>C Levett</td> <td>Copier Paper</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>2794.23</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>b. <u>Audit 2021-2022</u> The internal audit report had been circulated to all Councillors and included many positive comments from the internal auditor. The Parish Council thanked and commended the Clerk for her work in achieving a successful audit. The Clerk to review all policies and recreate the missing Policy page on the website.</p>	Brought forward			<b>89360.86</b>	Income					Payee	Reference	Amount		Standen Fruit Farm	Server Recharge	30.00		Benenden Shop	Server Recharge	30.00		Village Hall	Server Recharge	30.00		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>90.00</b>	Expenditure					Supplier	Reference	Amount	DD	NEST	Pension	71.17		Unity Trust Bank	Bank Account Fee	18.00	BACS	C Levett	Clerk's Salary	946.88	BACS	edf	Public Toilets	108.15	BACS	Tenterden Twilight	Public Toilets	1248.85	BACS	Tompsett Landscaping	Grounds Maintenance	206.40	BACS	HMRC	Employer Contributions Q1	204.11	BACS	Krystal Hosting Ltd	Parish Server	179.99	BACS	Anthony Hicks	Parish Wells	816.00	BACS	C Levett	Postage	1.05		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3800.60</b>		Reconciled with bank statement 065 30 June 2022		<b>85650.26</b>		July 2022 Payments Approved			DD	NEST	Pension	71.17	BACS	C Levett	Clerk's Salary	972.33	BACS	edf	Public Toilets	123.40	BACS	Tenterden Twilight	Public Toilets	523.20	BACS	Tompsett Landscaping	Grounds Maintenance	484.80	BACS	edf	Defibrillator	207.53	BACS	TP Jones&Co	Payroll Q1	57.60	BACS	David Buckett	Internal Audit	350.20	BACS	C Levett	Copier Paper	4.00		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2794.23</b>	<p>CL</p>
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9. ENVIRONMENT & MAINTENANCE	<p><b>a. Beacon Field Wildflower Meadow</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cllr Driver reported that the field has had a single cut using a flail, but due to the height of the thistle many of the stems were pushed over rather than being cut; a second cut with a Topper; and a final cut with a Finishing Flail. Cllr Driver has sought a quote for harrowing the field and will also request that the field is rolled, and will contact the Bumblebee Conservation Trust regarding a management plan.</li> <li>➤ A paper had been circulated regarding responsibility for the field and the wildflower meadow and action not carried out and whether this is KCC, the school or Kier's responsibility. Cllr Dawlings had contacted KCC Leader and Deputy Leader and will continue to pursue the matter.</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Parish Wells</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cllr Beveridge remains in constant contact with Anthony Hicks, who have received permission from TWBC to carefully dismantle Benenden Well and transport it to their workshop for detailed assessment of damage and repairs required. Cllr Beveridge and Graham Stevens of Anthony Hicks are meeting with the insurance company's loss adjustor to inspect the damage and agree the next steps. Anthony Hicks has provided an initial quote for the repairs of £26,000 (additional to the original quote for restoration of £15k), plus any other additional required repairs which become apparent once assessed.</li> <li>➤ Cllr Grant has spoken again to the HWAONB Unit and the application to the Sussex Lund has been revised to focus on the Iden Green Well with reference only to the Benenden Well. The highest amount of grant funding which the Parish Council may be awarded from Sussex Lund is now £5,000. It is possible that an application could be made next year for the Benenden Well.</li> <li>➤ Cllr Grant has written an article for the August Village Magazine, which has also been posted on the Parish Council website and facebook page.</li> </ul> <p><b>c. Village Asset/Maintenance Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Queen's Canopy sign is ready to be positioned next to the trees. Cllr Hagan apologises that no further action has been taken on maintenance issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>d. Iden Green Defibrillator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cllr Lewis reported that the Congregational Church is happy to accommodate the defibrillator, and that she and Peter Ellis will meet at the church to discuss site options etc.</li> <li>➤ Peter Ellis had carried out a check of the defibrillator and advised that the pads need replacing, which he will organise. He will also show Cllr Lewis how to change the pads.</li> </ul>	<p>PD</p> <p>TD</p>
10. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS/ COMMUNITY	<p><b>a. Co-option</b> : The Parish Council considered 2 applications received to fill the current vacancy and agreed to co-opt Cathy Presgrave. The Parish Council was impressed with both applications.</p> <p><b>b. Bequest</b> : Thomson Snell and Passmore has confirmed receipt of the signed AS1 Land Registry transfer form. This will be signed by the executors and returned to the Parish Council. The Clerk to chase.</p> <p><b>c. Benenden Action Team</b> : Cllr Hagan reported that BAT had recently responded to a request from a resident.</p>	<p>CL</p>
11. COMMUNICATIONS	<p>Nothing to report.</p>	
12. CORRESPONDENCE/ PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS	<p>A resident had complained about the removal of the oak tree on Benenden Recreation Ground. As previously minuted and reported in the Village Magazine, the tree surgeon and TWBC Tree Officer advised that the tree was diseased throughout and in major decline with increasing amounts of large dead wood, decay at the base and movement across the whole tree, and a risk to the public and the roadside. Both the Parish Council and Benenden Village Trust have been involved in recent projects of extensive tree planting around Benenden and Iden Green Recreation Grounds.</p>	
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm, Iden Green Pavilion</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 8.45pm.</p>	

C Levett, Clerk to the Parish Council, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Chairman..... Date.....

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*These minutes are not a verbatim record of the meeting, but a summary of discussion and decisions taken at the meeting.*