

Blean Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, School Lane, Blean
on Monday 12th December
2016

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Those Present: Cllrs. B. Flack (Chairman); H. Samuelson; C. Dunster; G King; F Christophers; J. Rouse; K. Vant and Mrs D Horswell (Clerk).

Also present: County Cllr. John Simmonds and two members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. W. Leetham; C. Sturgeon; Family Commitments; Ward Cllr. Amy Baker; Ward Cllr. Ben Fitter-Harding – CCC Group meeting; Ward Cllr. George Metcalfe – Lord Mayoral Duties; PCSO Matt Hand – Off-duty.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Changes to DPI's & Declarations of Interest in matters to be discussed:
No changes.

3. To Approve: Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th November 2016:
The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on the 14th November were Proposed as a true record by Cllr. King, Seconded by Cllr. Dunster and all Members present AGREED.

4. Approval for Invoice Payments and signing of cheques: (Banking list circulated to Cllrs. prior to meeting):

Banking details for November 2016

Approval for invoice payments and signing of cheques:

Cheque No,	Payee	Description	Gross Cost
Chq. 002742	Mrs J C Rouse	Re-imbusement for printing of Fighting Fund leaflets	£166.00
Chq. 002743	Ms B Flack	Re-imbusement for Barrister Fees Advising in conference	£300.00 Vat £50.00
Chq. 002744	Ms B Flack	Re-imbusement for Barrister Fees Drafting advice/opinion	£900.00 Vat £150.00

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Chq. 002745	BVHMC	Hall Rent November and December 2016	£35.00
Chq. 002746	Mr K Waddington	Handyman Wages Nov 2016	£129.90
DD	Serco	Waste Collection for November 2016	£65.71 Vat £10.95
Chq. 002747	Mrs D Horswell	Clerks Salary Nov 2016	£717.38
Chq. 002748	HMRC	PAYE & NIC Nov 2016	£208.10
Chq. 002749	SLCC	Annual Membership 2016 (Proportionate amount to be paid by HPC)	£139.00
DD	Serco	Waste Collection for December 2016	£65.71 Vat £10.95

Total paid out: £2,726.80

Paid in:

BVHMC – 50% Waste Collection November 2016

£27.38

Total paid in: £27.38

Bank Statement as at 24th November 2016

Current Account - £2,000

Business Reserve Account - £20,710.80

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(Not including transactions to be approved and signed at this meeting).

4.1 To set Precept 2016/2017

Papers had been circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting setting out the need for an increase in the precept (see Chairman's report at the end of these minutes). After discussion it was agreed to set the precept at £15,599.30 with the Government Support Grant of £299.06 making a total of £15,898.36. This is an increase of 7.6% making an increase for a band D property of £1.23.

Proposed by Cllr. Samuelson, Seconded by Cllr. Christophers and AGREED by all Members present.

Cllr. Samuelson asked whether he and Cllr. Flack could vote as non-residents. This matter has been checked by the clerk with KALC's Legal Advisor – as an elected Parish Councillor they have the right to vote on all matters.

The Chairman will release a statement in Spring explaining the reasoning behind the increase. The increase will be ring-fenced in the accounts.

The clerk's hours were also reviewed and it was agreed to reduce the weekly hours from 20hrs to 17hrs. This would produce a saving of £1,430 per annum. However, the Chairman proposed that an option is available so that the clerk, at times of heavier workload e.g. Annual Return, Internal Audit etc. can claim additional hours up to a maximum of 12 hours per month. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman would sanction these additional hours as and when necessary.

Proposed by Cllr. Flack, seconded by Cllr. Leetham, All present AGREED.

4.2 Discussion to change from Nat West banking to Unity Trust.

The clerk explained the difficulties in not having internet banking. She had spoken with Nat West bank who were not able to offer the facilities needed by the Parish Council so she had explored changing to the Unity Trust Bank which is an internet based bank (used by SLCC). Cheques can still be used and paid in through the Post Office. It will be useful to be able to view bank statements.

It was agreed for the clerk to explore the possibilities of changing to this bank.

5. Planning (as previously circulated):

Planning Applications received since last meeting:

1. CA/15/01572/OUT - Proposed residential development for four detached dwellings - Builders Yard, Tile Kiln Hill – Comments by 15th December

This application was discussed with the matter of extra traffic and flooding problems arising. Cllr. Leetham had suggested prior to the meeting that a meeting should be arranged between the applicant, the agent and the Parish Council to discuss the possibility of affordable housing on this site.

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Other points raised were that, should this development be built, the present bus stop should be moved nearer to the John Graham Centre with a pavement being built from the development to the John Graham Centre.

The majority of the Parish Cllrs. supported the application.

Decision Notices:

1. CA//16/01516/FUL - Proposed 8 no. semi-detached bungalows. - Land rear of 40 School Lane, Blean, CT2 9JA – REFUSED

2. CA//16/02227/LUE - Application for lawful development certificate for the use of the Parlour as a single dwelling house.- Brook Farm, Denstroude Lane, Blean, CT2 9JX - WOULD BE LAWFUL

Tree Notices: None

9.2 KCC Volunteer Support Warden Scheme:

As Hackington Parish Chairman, Ray Evison, had attended the meeting to discuss this agenda item approval was given from the Members for the item to be moved forward.

Cllr. Evison spoke of the scheme which is being presented by KALC and KCC. The Wardens would be volunteers and would work under the guidance of a Community Warden. Three or four parishes could work together and therefore split the cost of the uniform, mobile phone etc.

Chestfield had expressed an interest in joining with Blean and Hackington.

It was agreed that it would be worth investigating but not to commit ourselves to anything for the time-being.

6. Reports from County Councillor and Ward Cllrs:

6.1 County Cllr. John Simmonds reported that the A290 is mentioned in the Autumn Statement as being a road with accident hotspots and requiring remedial schemes.

The KHS Drainage Team are to investigate the drains in Denstroude Lane with X-ray cameras to look at the problem with surface water running down the road.

There are concerns that the water is running off privately owned land. Salt and materials will be provided for residents to use in the case of ice and frost.

He also spoke of the overspend of around £8million or £9million this year on social care. It will cost £20million next year to meet basic needs.

The NHS Sustainable Transformation Plan is due out in January.

7. Reports and Updates: (Reports circulated to Cllrs prior to meeting)

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7.1 Chairman's Report: *Attached to these minutes:*

Cllr. Flack mentioned that Cllr. Rouse and Cllr. Vant as new Cllrs may be interested in the 'Dynamic Councillor' event to be held by KALC in February..

7.2 Village Hall Report: *Attached to these minutes:*

Councillor Flack voiced her concern regarding the possible overspill of wedding receptions from the hall to the recreation ground, which would be detrimental to other users. BVHMC will monitor the lettings to ensure this does not happen.

Cllr. Sturgeon, in her absence, asked that the following response be given:

"BVHMC have no power to prevent hirers from using this public space. December's BVHMC report states our intention to update the Hall website and this will include the booking form and user guidance notes and will read as paragraph below or similar wording.

"Blean Village Hall is situated adjacent to Blean Memorial Ground. Hiring the hall does not grant exclusive access to this public space. If hirers are intending to make use of this space, we would ask that respect is shown to others using the field. Thank you".

7.3 N.H.W. Report/Speedwatch Report:

7.4 Footpath report: *Attached to these minutes:*

Cllr. Vant added that CB27 is blocked in two places and the signpost has fallen on CB29.

It was agreed that we need to write to Kent College again reminding them of the work that needs to be done on their footpaths.

Cllr. Samuelson said that year 6 will clear the litter on the footpath near the school.

8. Matters raised by the public

8.1 Mrs Letts raised the matter of the speed and volume of the traffic on Tyler Hill Road which is narrow. Cllr. Flack replied that Blean together with Hackington Parish Council had explored the possibility of asking for the 30mph speed limit to be extended along the whole road but it is an unclassified road and, as such, doesn't fit into the remit.

9. Matters to be discussed:

9.1 Insurance claim for seesaw update:

The insurance claim regarding damage to the seesaw is progressing.

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9.2 KCC Volunteer Support Warden Scheme:

This agenda item had been moved forward (after planning).

9.3 Proposal to set up a permanent planning sub-committee:

It was agreed that this would be a good idea and that the Members would be Cllr. Flack, Cllr. Leetham, Cllr. King and Cllr. Christophers with the first meeting being held in January.

10. Councillors' Reports:

10.1 Cllr. Christophers felt that it was important that the Fighting Fund was not funded by the Parish Council.

10.2 Cllr. Dunster spoke of a burglary that had occurred at a property in Blean Common.

11. Any Other Business for discussion at next meeting:

11.1. There being no meeting in January the date of the next meeting will be 13th February 2017 at 7.30pm.

11.2 The Chairman wished everyone a happy Christmas.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Date _____

Signature _____

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND BACKGROUND NOTES - DECEMBER 2016

Following our meeting in November, various items have received attention within the office.

- Again, a number of nitrous oxide canisters were found in and around the recreation ground and village hall car park. This was reported to PCSO Matt Hand, and has been logged. He will when shifts allow visit the area and engage with any youths etc around at the time.
- Mrs Worley of School Lane, reported that a tree had fallen in the recreation ground and was resting against her fence. Denise asked Mr Buchan to remove the said tree and check for any damage. Mrs Worley thanked the parish council for their prompt and polite action. {Thanks Denise}
- Consultation notifications have been received and forwarded to Parish councillors regarding the CCC Budget and St George Pedestrian re-development proposals. I would urge councillors to please respond despite some recent opinion in local press, responses are considered and there have been in the past changes and alterations to proposals.
- Cllr Robert Thomas, a city councillor has been appointed Heritage Champion for Canterbury City Council. He is keen to hear from others as to their views on preserving and enhancing the rich heritage of Canterbury, Herne Bay, Whitstable and the rural areas. Cllr Thomas also sits on the Planning Committee.
- There is a Dynamic Councillor course available in the new year. Please see Denise about it, it is not only for new councillors but also for all who would like a refresher.
- Cllr John Simmonds has kindly offered to Blean Parish Council, a member's grant of £2,500 towards the repairing of the safety surface and the renewal of the swings. {Thank you, John}

Denise, Amy [our Ward Cllr] and myself had a very fruitful meeting with Mr Macey from Southern Water. We addressed a number of issues with him and got some productive results from the meeting. Mr Macey is arranging for a jet wash and survey of the pipework adjacent to the village hall. He is going to further follow up the issues of foul sewerage overspill at properties in School Lane. He has given us the contact for the Engineer who is responsible for the pumping stations Mr Alan Yarnall. He will also consider other complaints of foul sewerage overspill that we bring to his attention. We have a follow up meeting scheduled with him in 3months time. A very useful contact and one that we will continue to work with in a positive manner.

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Denise and I also had a 'fixed fee' hour conference with our barrister, Mr Paul Tapsell about the forthcoming appeal with Gladman and CCC. Costs, tactics and evidence were amongst the topics discussed. Following this conference, Mr Tapsell has accepted instructions to prepare an Action on Merits Statement for Blean Parish Council, this will be a working document and allow us to focus on the areas of the appeal. To date we have spent £1,200 on fees [of which £200 is VAT and recoverable by the Parish Council]. The date for the Appeal Inquiry has been set for 21st Feb 2017 for 3 days and 28th Feb 2017 for a further 3 days. The Inquiry will be held at the Guildhall, Canterbury and members of the public can attend. As we have no meeting in January, Denise will circulate the Parish Councillors will all new information as it becomes available. The Fighting Fund has received a steady flow of donations and stands at £3,250 at present [less above payments]. Leaflets have now been distributed to every household within the parish explaining what is happening with the appeal etc.

BACKGROUND to AGENDA ITEMS

Concurrent Funding, Precept and General Finances

Denise and I have had lengthy discussions about the finances of the Parish Council. We have reviewed our present situation and looked at projected costs for the next four years in the light of recent meeting of RAMP where decisions were made about the 4-year cycle of funding. We have received from CCC the projected figures for CFF payment - listed below

YEAR	REQUESTED	TO RECEIVED	BE	NOTES
2017/18	£9,438.50	£6,066.92		64% of our request which includes the play equipment repair allowance
2018/19	£8,012.50	£5,488.20		68% of our request
2019/20	£7,562.50	£5,136.15		68% of our request
2020/21	£7,562.50	£5,118.08		67% of our request

It is recommended that all Parish councils hold in their reserves one year of running costs, which for BPC is £15,500 minimum, Denise has projected that we will just meet this target at the end of the financial year. BPC were prudent in entering a fixed four - year contract for our public liability insurance and that we made the decision to stay with Landscape Services who have only increased their contract for next year by 2% and who are willing to reduce or increase their services as the parish council decide during a contract year. However, as you are all aware other costs are rising and will continue to so do over the coming years. There is also uncertainty to the continuation of CFF after the four- year period. To maintain the standard of service to the residents and to potentially absorb the shortfall of services provided by CCC and KCC as their respective

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budget cuts take effect, it is evident that BPC needs to increase their reserves. To do this, we need to look at ways of cost cutting and at raising the precept. Firstly, the cost cutting, last year we increased Denise's working hours to 20 hours per week to accommodate the additional workload with the changes in transparency code etc that were extended to parish councils and other additional meetings etc. Denise, in conjunction with myself, has now reviewed the work load and is happy to reduce her weekly hours to 17hrs. This would produce a saving of £1,430 per annum. However, I would like to propose that we keep an option available that Denise, at times of heavier workload e.g. Annual Return, Internal Audit etc. can claim additional hours up to a maximum of 12 hours per month. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman would sanction these additional hours as and when necessary.

With regards to the Precept increase I would like to propose to council an increase of 7.5% on a Band D property. This would mean a payment of £23.79 an increase of £1.66 per year (equivalent to 14pence per week). Although this increase in percentage may appear large it will result in an increase in income to the parish council of £790 per annum. The total precept with this increase and the reduced government grant would be £15,888. I would further propose that this small increase in precept be ring-fenced by Denise, as our Financial Officer, and be fed back into payment for the services under CFF if required next year 2017/18. If not required, it could be carried forward into the following financial year 2018/19 along with any additional increase in precept that we would consider for that year. It is vital that we look at the long-term finances of the parish council, we are in a position in that we need to safeguard our position to continue to give the same standards of service to our community. These are difficult decisions and I hope we will be able to fully explore them at our meeting, I hope this background will give you an opportunity to think about our way forward on Monday.

KCC Volunteer Support Warden Scheme, I understand that this has been circulated and that members have made comments, but since then there has been further communication from Chestfield and Hackington PC about forming a small cluster. Mr Evison, Chair of Hackington PC, will be attending our meeting to explain his viewpoint and we will discuss whether, on further consideration, we could explore this possibility.

The last item on the agenda is the proposal to use our planning committee monthly to consider all applications, not just large applications as was designated. All applications would be circulated as at present, with the opportunity for all councillors to make their individual comments. Following this the planning committee would meet to collate the comments and relate these and local knowledge to the NPPF and CCC policies giving our comments greater strength within the Planning Department. With the constant changes taking place with planning law and regulations it is vital that our comments have strength and

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are not solely based on local knowledge etc. Further discussion about this will take place on Monday, along with further training in planning matters.

I look forward to seeing you at our meeting and would like to thank you for your time and commitment throughout this year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Barbara

BVHMC report for Blean Parish Council meeting 12th December 2016

Hall bookings – Letting Officer continues to deal with an increasing amount of enquiries for regular and private hires so we request that people who contact her remain patient, plan bookings in advance, please acknowledge and respect this system, which ensures a time scale of 72 hrs to accommodate enough time for a reply to be made.

BVHMC's Letting Officer details: All bookings, enquiries, communication/messages via <bleanvillagehall@gmail.com> email account. Phone number is: **07709530860**, address for all documents/letters/payments to BVHMC Blean Village Hall 2 School Lane Blean Canterbury Kent CT29JA post box is emptied by Letting Officer or a BVHMC member on a regular basis.

The hall is oversubscribed with requests for bookings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, all requests that are unable to be met due to existing use is recorded and noted, to inform Phase 2 public consultation process which is hoped will begin in spring 2017.

Hall window cleaner is unable to clean the windows until 2107 due to ill health.

Plans for 2017

Memorial Gate, car park action– estimates being sought from two known contractors ASAP as funds have been designated from fund raising events. All yellow lines and disabled signage/designations for parking will be undertaken when new tarmac is laid.

Hall inventory record book in place for installed equipment & large items of furniture.

Main hall replacement high windows all + 2 x replacement rear doors installed all work completed. A matching set of curtains are on order for the community space new glass fire door.

Priority main hall job is to construct a flush threshold and repairs to door frame from foyer to main hall, will be completed over Xmas school holiday. Disabled toilet lock handle replaced. New bracket for projector in committee room received 02/12/16 and will be fitted over Xmas holiday with other work undertaken.

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Roof work at east end of hall gable completed, scaffolding removed. However the front of hall fascia board is rotted & supports the gutter, now undermined by multiple jackdaw nests, this is a priority repair job and will be undertaken when funds become available.

Main store – new chair stacking system appears to be observed by most regular user groups, picture example needed as reminder.

Hall sound system + radio mic + CCTV system installation – still being researched, installation will be undertaken when suppliers identified. RAMP grant of £1250 granted to meet 50% of the cost of CCTV system to be claimed from CCC when system installed and receipt of purchase submitted.

BVHMC to install a new plug socket ceiling height in community space for Wi-Fi router to maximise signal = next electrician's job in January 2017.

Level 3 Hallmark application remains on agenda/matters arising – start work in 2017

Single grant gateway application date missed as CCC changed notification format to RISE – messages received in junk email folder! BVHMC needs to cover 2017 Hall insurance costs from rental income and will renew annual policy with existing provider as cost effective/appropriate to need, following consultation and discussion with BVHMC members. 2 x quotes received Norris & Fisher (new provider) Allied Westminster (existing provider) read in detail.

Front of hall doors internal and external sides will be painted ASAP when access to hall available & weather conditions favourable.

The Christmas Fair event on Saturday 19th November was very successful for stall holders and extremely popular with the public – £700+ profit generated for Hall maintenance/repair projects. Thanks to the local charities and organisations who booked a table and for all the help and support from the volunteers and above all, the public who came along and spent so generously.

A volunteer led cleaning party in the hall 6th and 7th January will attempt to clean all the hall walls, make the necessary repairs, and generally tidy up the main storeroom, internal and external areas to maintain the high standard of decor inside and outside the hall which makes it such a popular as a venue to hire.

The focus for the hall in the long term is for it to be financially sustainable from income generated from hires/bookings without the need for regular fund raising and volunteer activity, especially as volunteer numbers are limited and the Hall needs younger people to represent their ideas and needs for the future. Inevitably this means annual increases in rent charge for all hires and groups to cover and maintain current high standards in the hall will need to be increased, to balance the budget, cover internal/external maintenance and running costs of the Hall, in the future.

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Website, hall booking form and guidance update and revision is intended for 2017 to include a variety of users advice re: no bouncy castle or inflatable use and respect for others using the Memorial ground.

2017 dates for Calendar of social events and fund raising completed @ November's fundraiser's meeting. Sent to Blean Church & FOBC to ensure no clash of dates/events occur. To be circulated via email ASAP to secure list of names.

Finally on behalf of all the BVHMC members and volunteers we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year, and look forward to welcoming you all back to the first coffee morning of 2017 on Saturday 28th January 10am – 2pm.

Carol Sturgeon - Chairman BVHMC

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/SPEEDWATCH REPORT- Oct/Nov 2016

Blean village co-ordinator:- David Greenman, 3 Vicarage Lane, Blean, CT2 9ET
Phone: 450853/mob 07843962986
e-mail: david.greenman@btinternet.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

eleven relevant reports were received from Kent Police between Oct 10 and Nov 9.

There were three reports of theft from motor vehicles and one theft of a vehicle. There was also a report of a theft from a van on Blean Common. Three chainsaws were stolen. It has been some time since the last spate of thefts of garden equipment in the village but this crime may be re-emerging.

There was an incident at Blean School at the end of September when the main doors were damaged but the building was not entered. I may have mentioned this in a previous report.

The police launched *Operation Castle* in October. This is a seasonal anti-burglary campaign that goes on to until January. This initiative is designed to encourage the general public to be more aware of simple security measures. The following is an example:

*Most of us lock our homes before going out or going to bed, but do you also:
. use timer switches on lights and radios to make it look like you're home?
. store car keys and cash/handbags somewhere safe and out of sight?*

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- . security-mark and photograph important items to help identify them if needed?*
- . use a safe to store gold jewellery - or better still, a safety deposit box at your bank?*

Householders are also reminded of ways to deal with unexpected visitors such as bogus callers.

Fraud Alerts are a regular feature of police messaging and three such reports were received during the period covered by this NHW report.

SPEEDWATCH

Two Speedwatch sessions have taken place since the last report. Both on the A290, one at the junction with Vicarage Lane (9 vehicles recorded as speeding- mostly low-end) and one at junction of Westfield (6 vehicles). The vast majority of speeding was low-end. Interestingly, the previous session at Vicarage Lane, a few weeks earlier at the same time of day, also produced ten recordings.

You are probably aware of three very serious crashes in and around Blean about a month ago. These happened at night but we are not allowed to operate at night. For one thing, the screen is too bright and would cause distraction and, secondly, we would not be able to see enough to record the necessary data.

We occasionally receive a letter from the manager of the Speedwatch scheme and here is the latest:

Dear Denise

Thank you for the roadside observations from 24/11/2016 that you recently sent in.

You have added a total of 9 new observations of speeding vehicles to Kent's Community Speed Watch Support database.

We can confirm that these observations generated 1 letter of advice for a second detection of mid-range speeding.

Thank you for the valuable contribution that you and your team continue to make to Community Speed Watch in Kent.

Kind regards

Alan

Unfortunately, one of our volunteers has withdrawn recently so we still need more volunteers.

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David Greenman
December 9, 2016

RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT FOR BLEAN SOUTH, DECEMBER 2016

CB25: No problems except the litter which has blown onto it from the school playground.

CB31: This almost redundant path looked picturesque in the December sunlight, as it dreamt of past times when farmworkers regularly used it to get to work from the cottages on the A290. No problem except it is so forgotten that there are no signs on it at all.

CB30: No problems.

CB9: From Moat Lane to the junction of CB 10 as ever the part of the footpath which runs parallel with Moat Lane is over grown to the extent of being impassable. The bonfire site and manure/compost heap are cleared at the moment, but the path beyond them is overgrown and no doubt the deep puddle still exists on the field side where the stile goes into the field containing CB10 (I could not see over the hedge).

CB10: Was going to go along this to CB11 but as I approached the field gate (unable to use the stile as mentioned) three of Kent College's horses came to welcome me. Not wanting to let them out by mistake, and knowing there was no stile at the CB11 end and I would have to use the field gate there I decided not to walk it.

When are Kent College going to take notice of their footpaths? I was in the Tourist Office today and a couple of keen walkers from mainland Europe were asking about footpaths in the area. They were given leaflets on the Great Blean Walk and the Cycle Track by someone who obviously didn't know the paths so I warned them that the Great Blean Walk could be problematic. If CB11 and 9 had their surface made safe it would have not been necessary, not to mention the other tweaks along the paths which would make them a pleasure to walk.

CB12A: The area between the pond and step through the fallen tree is very slippery in spite of their being little rain recently. The field before the church had no way marked out by the farmer when they last worked on it. As the signs are non-existent it would be difficult for a stranger to know the route of the path.

CB12: The section from the Pumping Station to the Cycle Track had two deep pot holes in it at the beginning of this report's timespan. The first was right next to the one reported to and filled by KCC in the summer, and the second was a bit closer to the Cycle Track just off the path. KCC were prompt in filling them. However the first hole being next to a filled one is I think on the track of an old culvert from the sponginess of the ground next to it in a line to the stream. I will keep an eye on it.

By the Pumping Station until the gate behind the pub car park is quite a bit of litter.

The bridge which crosses the Sarre Penn from CB12 to CB13 at the foot of Brotherhood Wood, which was improved by KCC in the summer, was the victim of a fallen tree and quite badly damaged. KCC were quick to repair it after I reported which is good as I meet

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more and more people on this path now the bridge has become more useable. Lets hope the dead tree which is still by the bridge does not copy its former neighbour.



See before and after



CB13: No problems.

CB24A: The cycle track was clear. The ditch has been dug alongside where it floods by Church Cottage, although the culvert under the track just before Tyler Hill Road was unable to be cleared. Unfortunately the ditch does not extend as far as the worst point for flooding by Church Cottage which in bad weather is often impassable for pedestrians.



In the picture, taken after storm Angus, the puddle is beginning to form and the ditch can be seen on the right, further forward.

CB8: Dry!!! No problems.

CB28: Clear, a couple of trees need trimming to give a good head height as it is a bridle path.

Fran Christophers, footpath warden Blean South