

## BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at KGV Memorial Hall, Bearsted on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2017

Present: Cllr G Bennett (Chair)  
Cllr J Hughes (Vice Chair)  
Cllr R Ash  
Cllr S Camp  
Cllr F Hughes  
Cllr P Marshall

Also in attendance was one member of the public. The minutes were recorded by Mrs Sarah Lewis in the absence of a clerk.

Public Forum: A member of the public raised the issue of rubbish accumulating at the Church Lane allotments and would like consideration for the provision of a skip for ground clearance before the spring. Cllr J Hughes informed the resident that there is a plan in hand that will be discussed during the meeting as per agenda item 8b and that he will contact the resident with details following the discussion.

The member of the public left the meeting.

**ACTION: JH**

**1. Apologies and absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Farrow (family commitments) and were noted and accepted.

**2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**

There were no such declarations.

**3. Minutes.**

Minutes of the previous Environment Committee Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **agreed** that these minutes were a true record and were duly signed.

**4. Matters arising from the last minutes.**

The committee were informed that an email had been received from MBC regarding the installation of the bin near to the newsagents on the Ashford Road. The installation has been scheduled to take place at the earliest opportunity. The need for a larger bin in Rosemary Road is being monitored and is ongoing. Request has been made for bins to be emptied on Mondays and Fridays of each week, particularly at the Green.

The committee were informed that the next cleansing schedule for the parish was due week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> February during which time the roads will be swept. Suggestion was made to enquire as to exact dates for cleansing during the 6 weekly cycle in order to advertise it to residents and encourage removal of parked cars.

The WI have informed Cllr Ash that the bench that they are funding near to the children's play area is in hand and due for installation soon.

Discussion took place regarding the Egremont Road/Ragstone Road footpath and the chestnut paling fencing. Contractors have been contacted for removal and replacement of the fence and the committee are awaiting prices.

Consideration was given to the list of recommendations recently received with regards to the play equipment at the Church Landway. None are considered to be priority at this stage however the situation will continue to be monitored. Committee were informed of the planting of spring daffodils at various locations within the parish.

**5. Highways and Footpaths**

- a) Acceptable quotations have been received from Warings with regards to maintenance for the footpath at St Faiths Lane/Roseacre Lane and the committee were informed that this will go ahead when the weather is more suitable.
- b) Discussion took place following a recent walk of the parish with a representative from Warings to address various works requiring attention. Subsequent pricings have been received and will be circulated. It was suggested that an area be marked off for the collection of leaves within the allotment site. This will be further investigated. The footpath from the Women's Institute to Church Lane was discussed and it was **agreed** that this work was priority. It was suggested that the committee seek S101 Power of Delegation (LGA, 1972) from full council to vote on financial decisions within the realms of the Environment budget, without having to refer such decisions to full council approval. This will be put forward as an agenda item to the next full council meeting.

**ACTION: ADMIN**

Attention was drawn to a small area of mud at the end of the Madginford School pathway that had been damaged by vehicle wheels. A quote to concrete this area has been obtained however was considered to be too expensive to pursue.

**6. Church Landway Church car park**

- a) Surfacing Update: The issue of water collecting on the Church Landway by the Bowls Club and the entrance to the Woodlands Trust was discussed. The committee were informed that a design consultant has surveyed the area and has suggested the installation of a soakaway on the Woodland Trust land. The Woodland Trust have indicated that they would be willing to work with the Parish Council in respect of this project. The plan put forward is to lift the surface of the affected area and install a French drain, and to resurface the entire Church Landway. The installation of the drain will be situated initially outside the tennis courts and a design specification has been produced for tendering purposes. It was **agreed** to tender for a further 3 quotes. It was further **agreed** that the car park should be treated as a separate issue for future discussion.
- b) Possibility of extra lamppost by steps to replace bollard on Church Landway. To be deferred.

**7. Bearsted Green**

- a) Post quotes update. This matter is ongoing and prices are being negotiated presently. Deferred to next meeting. The committee were informed that the sign post for Holycross Church has been damaged and needs reporting to KCC.

**ACTION: JH**

- b) Crown lifting of walnut tree quotes. The matter of the crown lifting was discussed and it was **agreed** that this needs attending to imminently. The low hanging branches are the main issue however it was **agreed** that the tree needs trimming in height as well. Planning permission will be required as the tree is in a conservation area. It was **agreed** that planning permissions would be sought.

Some quotes have been obtained and it is hoped that the work will be carried out in February.

**ACTION: FH**

- c) Any further reports

**8. Open Spaces**

- a) Rosemary Road Waring's quote to remove a tree. This matter is ongoing. It was suggested that some further trees be sourced for the area to replace the lost trees. The Woodland Trust will be approached in respect for a grant for trees.

**ACTION: ADMIN**

- b) Church car park allotments – BPC Shed maintenance. External painting is required to the parish shed in the allotment area. Suggestion was made to buy extra paint when supplying materials for the forthcoming play area painting project which can be used to paint the shed.

The condition of the sheds at the Church Car Park allotments was discussed and it was **agreed** that a letter will be drafted for circulation to send to allotment holders requesting confirmation of which sheds are being used. A further request will be given for allotment holders to ensure possessions are contained in the sheds or within the allotments prior to a planned ground clearance action.

**ACTION: JH**

- c) Notice Board. The committee was informed that there are 10 notice boards, one of which has a different key to the others. It was **agreed** to employ a locksmith to change the one lock to match the others.

**ACTION: JH**

It was noted that a number of the notice boards need some maintenance. It was **agreed** to obtain quotes for restoration.

**ACTION: FH**

- d) Christmas tree lights, snowflakes and sockets on lamppost.

The committee were informed that some of the sockets on parish lamp posts are in a poor state and are in need of attention. It was acknowledged that this is a potential Health and Safety hazard. Unanimous **agreement** was made to obtain a quote from Aylesford Electricals to replace all sockets. It was also discussed that the installation of the lights for Christmas 2017 needs to be booked.

**ACTION: JH/FH**

Discussion took place regarding providing lights for the Christmas Tree at Madginford. It was **agreed** to obtain a quote into providing a power supply for such lights from Aylesford Electricals.

**ACTION: JH**

**9. Matters for discussion**

- a) Beautification for Bearsted Updates/Meadow Bank

The committee were informed that a former Steering Group concerned with the upkeep and improvement of the Parish which is now disbanded has excess funds of upwards of £1000. These funds are in the process of transfer to BPC.

The issue of some unkempt and unruly sycamore trees inside the conservation area was discussed. KCC are in support of BPC's application for a cultivation license and would support an application to remove the trees in question. Further enquiry will be made as to any financial or contractor help from KCC towards this project. It was suggested that some railways sleepers could be acquired to secure the bank by the pavement.

The matter of a letter of enquiry received under the FOI was discussed. This issue will be addressed in a letter which admin will draft and circulate for approval.

**ACTION: ADMIN**

There have been concerns regarding the banking at the old quarry site known as Meadowbank. The committee were informed that the area has been looked at by KCC and there is no sign of slippage. Suggestion was made for the area to be returned to meadow land. It is thought that future management of this area is needed to prevent it degenerating further. This matter is to be discussed further.

- b) Draft specification for maintenance: RD Landscapes and Construction require further specification for duties in order to provide a quotation. Cllr S Camp will send the relevant information.

**ACTION: SC**

- c) Ground Maintenance specifications: There were no further comments.
- d) Great British Spring Clean March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>: It was **agreed** to circulate the flyer via email, facebook and the parish website and to monitor response for volunteers. Approach will also be made to local businesses for their support.
- e) Traffic survey Volume and Speed. It was agreed to seek advice from our County Councillor as to potential funding and costs to the Parish Council for various surveys across the parish.

**10. Date of next meeting**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 at the KGV Memorial Hall, Manor Rise, Bearsted at 7.30pm.

**There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 21:47**

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....