

## BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at KGV Memorial Hall, Bearsted on 27<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017

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

The minutes were recorded by Mrs Sarah Lewis in the absence of a clerk.

Public Forum: There were no members of the public present

**1. Apologies and absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr F Hughes (holiday), Cllr G Farrow (work commitments) and Cllr R Ash who may be late..

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

Cllr Marshall declared an interest in item 7d as vice president of Bearsted Cricket Club.

**3. Minutes.**

Minutes of the previous Environment Committee Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 had been circulated prior to the meeting, and were signed as a true copy and duly signed.

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

There were no such matters.

**5. Highways and Footpaths**

a) The footpath at St Faiths Lane/Roseacre Lane update:

The footpaths were walked this weekend and reported good condition and have been well attended to as requested by Warings.

b) Any further reports

Correspondence and complaints have been received from members of the public regarding Virgin Media and the poor repairs of highways and footpaths that have had to be disturbed during the installation of high speed broadband. Advice has been given from the Parish Council for residents to be placing direct complaints to KCC Highways regarding this situation.

**6. Church Landway Church car park**

a) Surfacing Update: Clerk will chase tender information from other contractors.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**7. Bearsted Green**

a) Post quotes update. The committee were advised that 3 quotes have now been received in respect of replacing the damaged hard wood posts at The Green.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that an inspection of the posts will be conducted by Cllr Bennett to see which posts need replacing and French Fencing Ltd

will be asked to replace an initial small batch of posts in hardwood with steel collars for as per their quote at £51 per post.

**ACTION: GB**

- b) Benches: A group of people would like to sponsor a bench for a recently deceased resident. Possible sites for the bench could be to the left of the Cricket Pavillion or to the right of the bins towards Bearsted House formerly known as Eylesden Court. Discussions will be held with the proposer of the bench regarding installation requirements and preferred locations.

**ACTION: GB**

**Cllr Richard Ash joined the meeting at 20:00hrs.**

- c) Any further reports. Discussion took place regarding an area of the green which had previously been granted permission to a resident for access to his property with a strict covenant for the access not to be used for parking. Councillors were informed that the area does appear to be being used for parking, and it was therefore agreed that enquiries would be made to see who the car belongs to and an appropriate letter be sent asking for the owner to park elsewhere.

**ACTION: JH/CLERK**

- d) Bollards on the green by the Pavillion. Council were informed of a request from the Cricket Club to remove 3 bollards in order to better manouver their mower into the shed where it is kept. A proposal was made to decline permission for the removal of the bollards, was seconded and agreed with 4 in favour and one abstention. The clerk will inform Mr Pierce of this decision in writing.

**ACTION: CLERK**

## **8. Open Spaces**

- a) Rosemary Road – Waring’s have provided a quote for heavy pruning and general maintenance, and for a tree removal. It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote. Cllr J Hughes will instruct Warings to go ahead.

**ACTION: JH**

- b) Church car park allotments – BPC Shed maintenance. It had been previously discussed that paint is to be purchased to paint the children’s play area on the green, the excess will be used to paint the sheds. This is ongoing.

- c) Notice Boards. The committee were informed that three quotes have been received to put in order nine of the Parish Noticeboards. It was agreed with a unanimous vote to accept the quote from Simon Veness for £1,260 excluding paint.

**ACTION: GB**

- d) Comingle Bins/BPC Dog waste bins. Conversation was held regarding replacing some of the parish dog bins with comingle bins and moved closer to the main route in order that the bins could be serviced by MBC. It was agreed that the situation will continue to be monitored and readdressed in the summer. There are two bins yet to be received from MBC which will be chased.

**ACTION:**

## **9. Matters for discussion**

- a) Beautification for Bearsted Updates/Meadow Bank: It was decided that the Beautifucation for Bearsted scheme should not proceed inline with the original plan and

is to be replaced by various environmental projects to be carried out in a more piecemeal fashion within the Environment Committee budget.

The bridleway to the side of Meadow Bank was discussed along with vehicular access to the Upper Chimes. The surface of the bridleway is now showing signs of deterioration and may need considerable attention in the future. Sheep grazing was suggested for the meadow bank in conjunction with the sheep farmer who grazes the adjoining land. Other suggestion was given for planting the area with birch and hazle for a small coppicing income.

- b) Draft specification for maintenance/gardener/litter picker. Proposal was made to use Jen Contractors for litter picking Down to Earth contractors for repair and maintenance. It was agreed to put forward S101 (LGA 1972) Power of delegation to the Clerk (or acting clerk) to employ the services of the contractors for essential ad hoc tasks when necessary as an Agenda item for the next Full council meeting approval.

**ACTION: CLERK**

- c) Traffic Survey, volume and speed. A letter to KCC has been drafted by Cllr Askin and was discussed by the Committee. It was agreed to obtain prices from KCC/Amey for traffic survey. The Clerk will make enquiries for funding opportunity with KCC/MBC.

**ACTION: CLERK**

- d) Community Asset Fund, Sport England. The committee were advised that funding is available for to help people to become more active within the community. The funding is aimed at open spaces and welcome applications for projects which could incorporate an open air exercise area. Discussion was had as to a location for such a project, and the Elizabeth Harvie field was suggested, as was a walkway through meadowbank, Fauchons Lane, corner of Mote Park, as a circuit walk with various regular activity areas every few meters. The Asset Fund will match a contribution from the applicants. Cllr S Camp will contact other potentially interested organisations such as The Woodlands Trust and the Medical Centre with the aim of forming a committee to formulate an application.

**ACTION: SC**

**10. Date of next meeting**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the KGV Memorial Hall, Manor Rise, Bearsted at 7.30pm.

**There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 21:07**

**Signed.....**

**Date.....**