

BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held at

KGV Memorial Hall, Bearsted on

Tuesday 23rd October, 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Jon Hughes (Chair)
Cllr Richard Ash
Cllr Suzanne Camp
Cllr Fabienne Hughes
Cllr Pat Marshall MBE

Also in attendance was the assistant clerk Erin Sugden, and 1 member of the public.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public reported on the initiative of environmental enhancement around Bearsted which started around the shops along the Ashford Road. 6 members of the public took part in this and there are plans to continue this initiative as a long term project within the Parish. The organiser has spoken to KCC about the length of time the traffic lights and also the traffic/parking in this area of Bearsted.

1. Apologies and absence

Cllr G Bennett gave his apologies (other commitments).

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

There were no such declarations.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of 25th September, 2017 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed as a true and correct record.

4. Matters arising from the last minutes

The Assistant Clerk gave an update on the action points. It was agreed to remove KCC Legal advice from this committee as it sits in Finance and Policy.

5. **Expenditure against Budget report.**

Cllr R Ash questioned the income showing on the I&E as it doesn't read correctly. Speak to Nicola Line as the budget set for the year is not being shown as the committee understand it currently. More clarification is required.

ACTION:ADMIN

6. **Church Landway / Church car park**

a. Cllr J Hughes to chase the quotes for the Church Landway resurfacing as these have not been received.

ACTION: CLLR J HUGHES

b. Cllr F Hughes reported that some of the benches in the surrounding area need to be painted. It was suggested that the 3 benches to be treated/painted and repaired. This was proposed and unanimously agreed by all. Prices to be sourced from Ed & Evie and Harlands

ACTION: ADMIN

c. Potential faults to the play area on the Green were highlighted via the independent report as a concern. As the equipment is not very old the Assistant Clerk will check the warranty of the equipment

ACTION:ADMIN

7. **Highways & Footpaths**

a. Correspondence:

i) Appeal of Allotment Holder: The environment committee discussed the request of appeal for the allotment holder to keep their allotment. It was felt that the Allotment Committee had followed all policies and therefore the allotment holder was refused. This was proposed and unanimously agreed by all been. The Clerk will inform the allotment holder of the decision.

ACTION:ADMIN

ii) Overhanging hedge The Limes- The Clerk to call and send letter to estate agent to find out who the solicitor is for this property and instruct them to clear the hedge or the parish will do this and send the bill to them due to the number of complaints.

ACTION: ADMIN

b. A Letter has been sent to resident of the owner of the bees.

c. There are no footpaths that require maintenance this month

d. Cllr R Ash gave an update of KCC Highways and Transportation Survey which is due to be returned by the 1st December. Cllr Ash also gave a briefing about the Parish Seminar. It was highlighted there are 2 lights that need replacing on Hog Hill –Assistant Clerk to action

ACTION: ADMIN

e. Waste bin issues and management updates:

Bell Lane dog bin is going to be replaced, but the MBC Bin needs to be in place first. Church Landway dog bins will be removed as the co-mingle bin is in place. Cllr F Hughes proposed 2 new bins, Sutton Street and Elizabeth Harvie Field and it was unanimously agreed by all.

Cllr F Hughes suggested that the Parish Office looks in to the cost of having separate waste bins as somewhere for the office waste. Clerk to look in to this.

ACTION: ADMIN

- f. It was suggested the planter in the shed can be put by the newsagent on Ashford Road and filled with seasonal plants. Clerk to contact MBC about the space that the notice board stand along Ashford Road to see if the council are able to put paving rather than grass. This was proposed and unanimously agreed by all.

ACTION: ADMIN

- g. Not all quotation where received and so no decision has been made for the railway sleepers for the bank retaining wall at Ware Street. Confirm with KCC that we would be able to put the sleepers in.

ACTION: ADMIN

- h. Ashford Road enhancements: Evaluate the report produced by the organiser.

8. Bearsted Green

- a. The repair to the corner of Yeoman Lane has been deferred due to only one quote being received.
- b. A response from MBC is still outstanding with reference to the double kerb west of the Green.
- c. Cllr R Ash had a call from a member of the public who would like to donate the star for this year's Christmas Tree. He would like to meet with the appropriate person to discuss. Cllr Ash to put them in contact with Cllr J Hughes.
- d. Christmas Fair stallholders should be given one parking space which will be should be allocated at the rear of the stand and then the perimeter of the fair fenced. Cars will then only be allowed to leave when the Event Manager deems it safe for them to do so.

9. Open Spaces

- a. No Correspondences were received.
- b. The ecology survey and tree surgery for Meadow Bank will take place in the Spring.
- c. The tree surgery of the bank at Ware Street was complete but one complaint was received due to concerns the chippings may block the drains.
- d. Quotes are outstanding for the hedge and fence maintenance at the Elizabeth Harvie field and any possibilities for grant funding.
- e. Thurnham Parish Council have agreed to donate half the cost towards a new bench at Sharsted Way. It was proposed that new slats fitted and this was unanimously agreed by all. Clerk to get a quote.

ACTION: ADMIN**10. Allotments**

- a. The committee spoke about the recent fire and agreed a letter will be signed and sent by Cllr G Bennett.

ACTION: CLLR BENNETT/ADMIN

- b. The committee spoke about The Street Allotments request to change section 5f of the Rules and Regs, the increase of Key deposit to £20 and the introduction of a refundable £30 deposit. The committee agreed these were good ideas and do not have any issues with this. The clerk to inform the allotment committee

ACTION: ADMIN

- c. Clerk to send the committee the current copy of Rules and Regulations for Parish owned allotment sites for them to review and update at next meeting.

ACTION: ADMIN

11. Matters for discussion

- a. Coal yard, Ware Street: There are annual funds available to Parishes for Capital Expenditure via the KALC/DCLG Parish Loan. This can be up to £500,000 per annum.
- b. KCC Legal Advice service –this item is going to be deferred to Finance and Policy.
- c. No information way put forward for the Downs Mail.

10. War Memorial maintenance.

A contractor has been appointed to maintain the War memorial.

11. Future Agenda items.

Issues highlights by Environmental Enhancement project
 Church Landway/ Church Car Park
 Ware Street wall retainer
 Yeoman Lane/The Green Corner
 Elizabeth Harvie Field hedge/fencing
 Church Landways Lights

12. Date of next meeting

Monday 27th November, 2017 at the KGV Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 9.36pm.

Signed..... Date.....