

# BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held at KGV Memorial Hall, Bearsted on Monday 1 February 2016 at 7.30pm**

### **Councillors Present:**

Cllr Geoff Bennett (chairman)  
Cllr Suzanne Camp  
Cllr Richard Ash  
Cllr Graham Farrow  
Cllr Jon Hughes  
Cllr Fabienne Hughes  
Cllr Pat Marshall MBE

Also in attendance: The Clerk Mrs M Rumble and one member of the public

### **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None

Cllr Bennett chaired the meeting

#### **1. Apologies and absence**

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr H Farrow (sick)

#### **2. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying**

Cllr Ash declared an interest in the item discussing Ragstone Road item and would not take part in any such discussion.

#### **3. Minutes of the last Environment committee meeting on the 4 January 2016**

To consider the minutes of the meetings (previously circulated) and if in order to sign as a true and correct record.

The minutes were agreed as a true and correct record and signed by Cllr G Bennett

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

Cllr Bennett spoke on item 4 for request for information from Mr Garry Reynolds, this information has not been forthcoming.

Cllr Hughes informed members that the Christmas Lights have been stored away in the allotment shed.

#### **5. Highways**

##### **a. St Faiths footpath**

The Parish Council had received a quote from Mr Andy Yates to carry out clearance work to this area, it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should sought another quote in order to make a comparison. A quote had also been received from Tantons to carry out an inspection on the three sycamore/beech trees at a price of £120.00 plus vat per tree. It was proposed by Cllr J Hughes and seconded by Cllr Farrow. **RESOLVED** by all members present to accept the quote. Clerk will contact Tantons.

##### **b. Any further reports**

The Clerk spoke about some email correspondence she had received from residents. The first was to do with parking in Romney Close and Rosemary Road. The Parish Council stated that this needs to be reported to the PCSO and the Police, this is not something the Parish Council is able to advise on.

The Clerk also received an email from a resident in Fauchons Lane regarding the private road and the maintenance of. The Clerk was asked to contact the resident to clarify that unfortunately this can only be dealt with by the residents.

**ACTION CLERK**

Cllr Ash asked for an update from Cllr Farrow, Cllr Bennett and Cllr J Hughes on whether they have walked the footpaths and was there a report on this.

The members also discussed the possibility of issuing certificates to members of the public who contribute their time voluntarily towards maintaining footpaths. Cllr Camp will come up with a design for this.

**6. Church Landway**

**a. Lighting**

Cllr F Hughes informed members that all extra information which had been requested from Maidstone Borough Council had been submitted to them and the Parish Council are hoping for a decision at the end of February.

**b. CCTV**

The Clerk was asked to seek quotes to have a socket placed on the lamp post in the Church Lane car park.

**ACTION CLERK**

**7. Bearsted Green**

**a. Footpath side of Smarts cottages**

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Farrow that this should be discussed in closed session at the next Full Council meeting. **RESOLVED** by all member's present

**b. Any further reports**

Cllr Ash asked Cllr Hughes when the benches would be removed for blasting, Cllr Hughes informed members that when the weather improves this will take place.

It was also noted that the Tree Guards have been delivered and one has been placed on the Green.

**8. Open Spaces**

**a. Ragstone Road**

Cllr Ash left the room and would not take part in this discussion

Cllr Camp informed members that she had received a letter from a resident of Ragstone Road, which will be circulated and a response to this letter was received from the Chair of Governors at Madginford Primary (this will also be circulated). Cllr Camp informed members what legally could be done by the Residents and would like the support of the Parish Council. This item will be added to the next Full Council agenda.

**b. Anti-vermin bins**

It was agreed there will be one last attempt at procuring bins for the Green.

**c. Cross Keys**

Cllr Hughes informed members that he has spoken to Mark Emmerson from Golding Homes regarding the fly tipping problem at the cross key garages. The Golding Homes representative stated that the garages are due for demolition as part of the new housing development. Cllr F Hughes has spoken to Environment and Enforcement at Maidstone Borough Council and the discussions seemed promising and that we awaiting a meeting with Enforcement.

**9. Allotments**

Allotment rents 2016/17

The Clerk spoke on this item and what the rents were at the moment for both allotment sites. It was proposed by Cllr Farrow, seconded by Cllr Marshall and **RESOLVED** by a vote  
VOTE 4 FOR

2 ABSTENTIONS

to apply for following increases.

Full Plots £2.00 increase

Half Plots £1.00 increase

**10. Matters for discussion**

Aims & objectives

This was not discussed and was **RESOLVED** by all members that it no longer needs to appear on the agenda.

Handyman

Cllr Bennett spoke on this item and stated that there were a few options. The Parish Council could either employ a Gardener or the Parish Council could ask someone to quote for the gardening work. It was **RESOLVED** by all members that first a specification needs to be drawn up for this.

ACTION CLERK

**11. Budget 2016/17**

This item will be removed from the agenda.

**12. Date of next meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Farrow to move all Environment meetings starting with March to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. **RESOLVED** by all members present.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm

**ACTION LOG**

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>LEAD</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>
Bearsted in Bloom	Cllr Camp	March meeting
Church Landway Lighting	Clerk	Ongoing
Church car park surface	Clerk	Ongoing
CCTV – Church car park	Clerk	March Environment meeting
Maintenance/Gardener spec	Clerk	March Environment meeting
Ragstone Road trees	Cllr Camp	March Environment meeting