

BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held at KGV Memorial Hall, Bearsted on Monday 25 April 2016 at 7.30pm

Councillors Present:

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

Also in attendance: The Clerk Mrs M Rumble, 2 members of the public
The meeting was being recorded.

Cllr Bennett chaired the meeting
Item 9a was brought forward

Mr Malcolm Withnall was present and spoke on the report he had prepared and which had been circulated prior to the meeting to all members of the Environment committee. The report which looks at various sites around the parish and has been carried out in detail. The ideas include which plants they would like planted in which sites around the parish. Mr Withnall would like to approach local organisation and talk to local gardening groups and the WI. The project is a long term from 1-4 years.

Cllr Ash contributed towards the discussion and made some input on various sites around the parish as did Cllr F Hughes and Cllr Marshall. It was proposed by Cllr F Hughes and seconded by Cllr Marshall that the two sites they would like to put forward for recommendation to the Full Council are the area opposite the Railway Station and the Madginford Shops area. **RESOLVED** by all members and this will go to Full Council.

1. Apologies and absence

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr H Farrow, Cllr G Farrow

2. Declaration of Interest or Lobbying

None

3. Minutes of the last Environment committee meeting on the 21 March 2016

To consider the minutes of the meetings (previously circulated) and if in order to sign as a true and correct record. Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr S. Camp.

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

4. Matters arising from the last minutes

These would all be dealt with later

5. Highways

a. KCC Led Lights

The Clerk had contacted Cllr Carter regarding this and was awaiting an update on this, the Clerk will chase this and report back at the next meeting.

b. Verges A20

The Clerk had spoken with Kent County Council on this matter and was asked to report any further damage to verges to them.

ACTION CLERK

6. Church Landway

a. Lighting

F Hughes had circulated prior to the meeting a report which had been carried out by an Ecologist. The report is extremely positive. The report along with the spread of light received from Kingfisher will go off to Maidstone Borough Council tomorrow.

ACTION CLLR F HUGHES

b. Church Lane car park

The Clerk had received a quote for 2.5 to 3K from the civil engineer (Harlequin) they had met with for the cost of a surveyor to draw up a specification, another two quotes are needed.

ACTION CLERK

c. CCTV

The Clerk had contacted the PCSO and he had stated that they would normally have the connection to the CCTV at the top of the lamp post. The Clerk was asked to speak to Aylesford Electrical to ask if this could be moved to the top of the lamp post.

ACTION CLERK

7. Bearsted Green

a. Litter bins

A price for the litter bins had been received from Maidstone Borough Council, they will cost £250.00 per bin. The Parish Council are looking to replace 7 bins on Bearsted Green, place 1 bin by the shops and another bin up Hog Hill. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Ian Packer at Maidstone Borough Council to confirm if the price included fitting and also if they would be prepared to empty an extra 2 bins. This was proposed by Cllr J Hughes, seconded by Cllr F Hughes and RESOLVED by all members present. To be recommended to full Council

ACTION CLERK

b. Electrical test to be done by BW. May

Quotes to be obtained for the renewal of the electrical cupboard.

ACTION CLERK

c. Any further reports:

benches on the Green

The metal bench had been removed from the Green and taken for shot blasting, as a new bench has now been put in its place it was felt that this bench could be placed in Rosemary Road.

Mr Bolham has contacted the Clerk to replace his bench on the Green, the old bench has been offered to the Parish if still in sound condition.

The Clerk had received a response from the letter she had sent Mr Stroud. The Clerk will respond to Mr Stroud. It was suggested to approach Mr Eldridge to fit 2 or 3 wooden posts to prevent any further damage.

ACTION CLERK

Circus damage to the Green, Cllr J Hughes got a verbal quote from Warings to repair for £200. The Cricket Club claimed £50 for repairs they had to conduct as an emergency before their Saturday match. They wanted to claim another £50 for damage cause when the circus left, this was refused as Warings will conduct all repairs.

8. Open Spaces

a. Bulb planting

This will be deferred until the July Environment meeting

b. Street Allotments

The Clerk had met with Glebe fencing and once she has received a specification and price she will seek two further quotes.

Cllr J Hughes stated there was a small amount of asbestos at the allotment site which needed removing safely,

c. Button lane footpath

Cllr J Hughes asked if it was possible to get together a working party to clear some of this site.

d. Clearing of steps between Sandy Mount and Ware Street

The Clerk confirmed with members that she had asked Mr Yates to carry this out

9. Matters for discussion

a. This item was discussed earlier

b. Draft specification for maintenance/ gardener

It was felt by the members that they did not wish to employ someone on a permanent basis but would be quite happy to use local tradespeople who had the necessary qualifications to carry out the work required. This will be monitored on a monthly basis and all work will be agreed at the meetings. Mr Eldridge and Mr Yates being two local trades.

c. outstanding projects

Covered earlier

d. Garden Competition

Cllr Camp will proceed with this, the competition will take place in June and will be advertised on the Website and Social Media.

Cllr Bennett had received some correspondence from Cllr Conner asking about the Green being used for the distinguished gentleman’s ride and how they could prevent the Green from becoming damaged. Cllr J Hughes suggested that there could be a possibility of using planks to stand the bikes on.

ACTION CLLR BENNETT

10. Items for next meeting

Church Lane car park

Allotment fencing

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will on the 23 May 2016 7.30pm at the KGV Memorial Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

ACTION LOG

ISSUE	LEAD	TIMESCALE
Bearsted in Bloom	ALL	May meeting

Church Landway Lighting	Clerk	Ongoing
Church car park surface	Clerk	Ongoing
CCTV – Church car park	Clerk	May Environment meeting
Maintenance/Gardener spec	Clerk	May Environment meeting
Lighting	CLERK	May Environment meeting
Litter Bins	CLERK	May Environment meeting
Street Cleaning	CLERK	May Environment meeting
Benches on the Green	CLERK	Ongoing Environment meeting