

BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at
**Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted on Tuesday 9 February 2016 at
7.30pm**

Present:

Cllr Richard Ash
Cllr Geoff Bennett
Cllr Suzanne Camp
Cllr Dan Conner
Cllr Fabienne Hughes
Cllr Jon Hughes
Cllr Pat Marshall MBE
Cllr Fiona Redman
Cllr Tony Ryan
Cllr Paul Young

Also in attendance The Clerk Mrs Michelle Rumble and 7 members of the public

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Fiona Redman

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Graham Farrow (work commitments), Cllr Helen Farrow (work commitments), Cllr Helena Goodwin (Holiday), Cllr R Camp (work commitments), Cllr Cox (work commitments).

2. **Disclosure of interest or Lobbying**

Cllr Ash declared an interest as a Governor of Madginford Primary School
Cllr Ash had also been lobbied regarding the Lord Bearsted Painting

3. **Minutes of the previous full Council meeting**

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 12 January 2016 as a true and correct record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman with handwritten additions.

The meeting was adjourned to hear from members of the public

Mary Richards a representative from the Bearsted and Thurnham Society spoke on the footpath at the side of 1 Smarts Cottages, she stated that it appears to have been on the agenda for the last few months but under a closed session which excludes the members of the public and press from attending this part of the meeting. Mary Richards stated that the footpath is part of the community and has been for a considerable time, it is now continually blocked by parked cars and is hoping that the Parish Council will pursue this and continue to support the residents.

Jo Conner the Chairman of Bearsted Events updated all members of the progress of Music on the Green 2016, she stated that ticket sales were progressing nicely and that all

the entertainment has now been sourced and agreed. They will be producing some poster and banners which they would like to place around the Village.

Cllr Paul Carter was in attendance and his report focused mainly on planning and applications, he stated that the Maidstone Local Plan is now in its final part and has gone out for Consultation. The Integrated Transport Strategy has also been published. It is noted by Cllr Carter that Maidstone Borough Council are not the Highways Authority. KCC have also recently signed a contract to change all the street lights to LED Lights. This should hopefully be completed within 14 months and each light can be adjusted individually. Cllr Carter also stated that the Local Government across the country has taken a large hit. KCC settlement has been reduced to 900million from 1.1 billion 2 years ago.

The meeting resumed

4. **Reports**

4.1. Yasmine Gordine the new Parish Liaison officer for Maidstone Borough Council was in attendance and spoke on the new role and how she is hoping to work with Parish Council's over the next months. The new role stems from the Parish Charter which was adopted.

4.2 Report from the PCSO and Police Issues.

PCSO Timon Gurr was in attendance and his report had been received.

4.3 Report from the Community Warden

Community Warden Martin Sherwood was not in attendance,

5. **Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Reports had been received from all three of our Borough Councillors Cllr Val Springett, Cllr Mike Cuming and Cllr Richard Ash.

6. **Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings**

For the parish council to receive the minutes. Members are allowed to ask questions of the Committee Chairman but may not initiate a discussion.

6.1. Planning Committee 28 January 2016

As Cllr Graham Farrow was not in attendance Cllr Conner reported on the last planning committee meeting and updated members on applications

6.2. Environment meeting 1 February 2016

Cllr Bennett reported on the last meeting and the following item was reported on. Cllr Ash left the room at 8.30pm and returned at 8.45pm when the item regarding Madginford Primary school was discussed.

- Cllr Camp spoke about Ragstone Road and read out to all members a letter that she would like to see sent to the Chair of Governors at Madginford Primary School. It was proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Young. **RESOLVED** by all members that the letter can be sent.
- Cllr Camp informed the Council and members of the public that she had spoken with Mr. Malcolm Withnall with regard to the Beautification of Bearsted and that he would be putting together a presentation to the Environment Committee in March.
- Cllr Camp circulated the Artwork for the Certificate In Recognition of Contribution to our Community for approval. A vote was taken and resolved by all members.
- Cllr Bennett informed members that a recommendation from the committee to increase allotment rents by the following
£2.00 for Full Plots

£1.00 for Half Plots

This was proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Ryan. **RESOLVED** that rents are increase VOTE 7 FOR, 2 ABSTENTIONS

6.3 Finance and General Policy meeting of the 3 February 2016

Cllr Young spoke on this meeting and gave his report.

6.4. Communications & Community committee meeting of the 20 January 2016

Cllr Conner informed members that some of the Councillors had attended Rosecare Junior School and a meeting with the school council had taken place and how they would like to work together and that it was an extremely productive meeting. Cllr Conner suggested that perhaps there could be an opportunity for the local schools to re design the Parish Council Logo.

7. Finance

7.1. To authorise list of payments made from 13 January 2016 to 9 February 2016 - for approval and signing, including list of individual payments exceeding £500.00. All members agreed the payments including previous cheque presented at full council meeting. Proposed by Cllr Ash and seconded by Cllr Marshall. **RESOLVED** VOTE FOR 9 1 ABSTENTION.

7.2 To note Account balances. **RESOLVED:** All members noted the account balances

8. Chairman's Report

Cllr Redman gave her report.

9. Vice Chairman's/Deputy Vice-Chairman's report

No report.

10. Reports from councillors

Cllr Young gave all members an update on the Church Landway Lights.

11. Matters for discussion

The Lord Bearsted Painting was discussed but it was felt that at this time not enough information was available to make any decision. This will be ongoing.

12. Correspondence

Maidstone Borough Local Plan

External audit for smaller authorities – This will be discussed at the next Finance and General Policy meeting.

13. Resolution:

Footpath side of 1 Smarts cottages, Bearsted

To resolve to go into closed session and to exclude the press and public during items 13 (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in accordance with standing order 10 (xi).

Covered in Closed session

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Full Council will be at the KGV Hall on the 8 March at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm