

BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at KGV Memorial Hall, Bearsted on Tuesday 13 September 2016 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Richard Ash
Cllr Geoff Bennett
Cllr Helena Goodwin
Cllr Pat Marshall MBE
Cllr Fiona Redman (Chairman)
Cllr Tony Ryan

Also in attendance was the Clerk Mrs Michelle Rumble, 5 members of the public

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Fiona Redman
The meeting was being recorded by Cllr Ryan

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Graham Farrow. Cllr Helen Farrow, Cllr Mark Wallace, Cllr Jon Hughes, Cllr Fabienne Hughes, Cllr Richard Camp, Cllr Suzanne Camp, Cllr Paul Young, Cllr Dan Conner

2. Disclosure of interest or Lobbying

Cllr Ryan re MOTG

3. Minutes of the previous full Council meeting

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 9 August 2016 as a true and correct record. The Clerk will make some small grammatical amendments and then the minutes will be signed at the next meeting.

Play scheme 2016

The meeting was adjourned to hear from Amanda Franklin – Play scheme
Amanda said that this year's play scheme was a great success and advertising early played a huge part in this and would like to thank Mrs Barbara Dunford for this, there were a lot more younger children attending this year and every day was full with waiting lists. Amanda sent Evaluation Forms to parents and the feedback from them was excellent. Cllr Ash thanked June Wilkins for all her help as well. The clerk was thanked for her contribution. The Mayor of Maidstone also attended and it was positive feedback from him. There were no major issues and no "lessons learned". The price of the hiring of the field was discussed – Mrs Franklin felt it was high but Cllr Ash felt that per child per day it was a reasonable price.

Music on the Green 2016

Jo Conner (chair) Bearsted Events was present along with the other committee members of Bearsted Events. The event was a resounding success and was sold out two weeks before the date of the event, there were no major injuries and of course as with a first event there is always scope for improvement such as more toilets, earlier warning

of removal of fences. The feedback which has been received was extremely positive. There were no major risks identified. The event was helped out by many local residents especially when it came to setting and up and taking down all the equipment. Bearsted Events worked very well with the Cricket Club.

Bearsted Events advised the Council that over £15k was made for charities, i.e. donated to the Goodman Centre in Bearsted, NSPCC and Rainbows Play group. Bearsted Events then asked the members if they would consider them using the Green again next year for the Event. The date they were looking at was the 27th August 2017 which will need to be agreed with the cricket club. This does clash with the Farmers market and the Council will discuss with the Farmer's Market Manager. It was proposed by Cllr Marshall, seconded by Cllr Ash. **RESOLVED** by a VOTE 5 FOR 1 ABSTENTION.

Bearsted Events then spoke on another note which was if they could hire the Elizabeth Harvie Field for a spring/summer evening event. This will be discussed at the next Communications & Community committee meeting. Bearsted Events (Jo Conner) will put the request in writing to the Clerk. Cllr Marshall pointed out that the covenant of the field needs to be reviewed prior to agreement. In addition the Village Green policy has not yet been ratified – this will include fees for all parish areas. **ACTION C AND C COMMITTEE**

4. **Reports**

4.1 **Report from the PCSO and Police Issues.**

PCSO Ed Money was not in attendance but the following report had been received. covering the period 09/08/16 – 10/09/16

Theft – Milgate car park
Fuel Theft – BP A20 x2
Theft – co-op x2
Criminal damage – The grove
Theft – Cross keys
Theft from vehicle – Winifred Road
Garage Burglary – Ashford Road
Fuel Theft – Esso
Criminal Damage – Ashford Road
Theft – Thurnham Lane

Cllr Ash was asked by the Chairman to contact the PCSO as some of these crimes which had been reported to the Parish Council were not within the Parish but in fact fell under Thurnham Parish Council.

ACTION CLLR ASH

4.2 **Report from the Community Warden**

Community Warden Sally Williams was not in attendance but a report had been received.

Val Springett (Cllr) emailed me requesting further information on the vehicle that has been abandoned in Yeoman Lane Car park, as Val has kindly offered to assist with the matter, as I am having difficulties getting the vehicle removed. This is my email response to her.

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in my response, I have been on sick leave and only returned to work on 7th September 2016.

In answer to your question regarding the vehicle in Yeoman Lane car park, the registration number is T536 SCG - Mercedes A170 CDi - Silver Grey in colour.

The car is parked near the end of the doctor's surgery, and has all of its windows open.

The reference number from MBC when I reported it was 675380, and at the time of reporting the vehicle was SORNED with DVLA.

I hope this information is of help to you, and many thanks for helping me with this problem.

Visible presence @ Roseacre and Madginford School.

Issues with possible Rogue Traders in Bramley Crescent Bearsted, men knocking on resident's doors wanting to clean driveways for money. I spoke to the men and asked for forms of company identification – this they refused to give me, I then explained that they were in fact in a “No Cold Calling Zone” and they then left the area. I reported the incident to the Police on 101 and obtained a reference number of 09/0647. I also reported it to Trading Standards for intelligence purposes only. I also called straight around to the resident to see if she was ok – and gave her some advice on Rogue Traders, and left my contact details for her.

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

Borough Councillors Report – Cllr Val Springett

The biggest number of complaints I have dealt with by far over the last few weeks relate to the parking of cars in Ware Street, just west of the junction with Sandy Lane. Although vehicles parking here are not contravening any rules, because this is on a slight bend and on a slight hill, it is causing a lot of complaints because of the lack of visibility for vehicles trying to overtake. It is also making it more difficult for some of the property owners to get into and out of their driveways. So far, I have drawn a blank with both MBC and KCC as there is no history of accidents in this location and therefore they do not consider it a safety issue! I have asked if our PCSO could assist, as it may be a case of politely asking the vehicle owners to park away from the bend in the road which would solve the problem and avoid the need for parking restrictions. I am collating all the complaints I have received and will continue to pursue this matter. I know the issue has also been raised at Thurnham Parish Council as it is near to their boundary, and I wondered if it was possible for Bearsted Parish Council to liaise with Thurnham Parish council to see if together, you could also apply pressure to either discourage owners from parking there, or encourage KCC to consider a short stretch of double yellow lines to keep vehicles from parking right on the bend in the road. I also had a request for parking restrictions at the top of Manor Rise at its junction with Yeoman Lane, but again as there have been no accidents it is not considered a priority in these days of budget cuts.

I have had several calls over the last month or so regarding continuing clearance work being carried out on land near the Golf Club and the addition of a caravan. Although not in Bearsted Ward it has caused alarm amongst residents. I have been pursuing this with officers at MBC. I have been advised that the land clearance is allowable and the caravan

stationed there is for use of the workers whilst clearance work is being done and does not require planning permission.

Concern also continues over tree felling in the vicinity of 162 and 164 Ashford Road. The Landscape team are monitoring the site and will be visiting it again to review the current Tree Protection Order (TPO) to see if any further trees need protecting. As before, clearance of the large site that sits back from the road is permissible.

Following on from the last Parish meeting, I am still trying to chase up removal of the abandoned car in the Yeoman Lane car park. So far no success but I will pursue this ridiculous situation.

Another planning application has been submitted for two properties to replace St Faith's Bungalow in St Faith's Lane. Although permission has previously been granted for one property on this site I am disappointed that the owners are still trying to squeeze two properties in, and I will be objecting to the revised scheme as I consider it too cramped and out of keeping with the locality.

Borough Councillors report – Cllr Mike Cuming

As it has been holiday season, not much has been happening at MBC last month, so nothing to add to Cllr. Springett's report, except that the Maidstone Gateway will be closed for refurbishment later this month until February next year, facilities being temporarily relocated to a nearby unit in The Mall shopping centre, with fewer public access computer terminals and only one payment kiosk.

Borough Councillors report – Cllr Mike Revell

Sorry that I have picked this up late. I have had a closer look at the Ramblin Man concert and the complaints that I have received from residents. I now have the recorded levels of sound taken from Mote House. These show that on the Friday the agreed level of sound was exceeded five times. Not by much but definitely over. I think there was a cat and mouse scenario played out, unfortunately there were no council officers available for residents to complain to, instead they were asked to complain to the organisers directly by a given phone number.

I think there to be a rethink of the contract made between MBC and Ramblin that clearly makes the organisers responsible for the noise level and for MBC to hold a deposit that is not refunded if the levels are exceeded at any time. I would welcome a response from your Councillors.

County Councillor Paul Carter

Cllr Carter was not in attendance and no report had been received. **MICHELLE – IS THIS REQUESTED ? – PLEASE ADVISE**
MICHELLE – PLEASE COULD YOU ADD DETAILS OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED WHEN REVIEWING THE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS, I.E THE DISCUSSION AROUND WARE STREET AND ALSO RAMBLING MAN. PLEASE GET BACK TO CLLR REVELL WITH REGARD TO THIS DISCUSSION AS HE REQUESTED THIS

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 25 August 2016

Cllr Ash reported on the last planning meeting and spoke on the applications which had been discussed at that meeting.

Cllr Ash spoke on the Local Plan and that all dates had been set and will be heard at the Town Hall. Cllr Ash also stated that on the planning decision notice for the Church Landway Lights there were some conditions which had to be met. After speaking to Louise Welsford these conditions are not necessary as the Parish Council did not need planning permission for the lights originally. As they could have been installed under Permitted Development Rights the conditions do not need to be met. The Clerk will ask Louise Welsford the Planning officer if this could be put in writing to the Parish Council for their records. ACTION CLERK

6.2 Finance and General Policy 7th September 2016 – Cllr Camp was not in attendance and the minutes had not been reviewed.

7. Finance

7.1 Payments made outside meeting

None

7.2 To authorise list of payments made from 10 August – 13th September 2016 - for approval and signing, including list of individual payments exceeding £500.00. All members agreed the payments presented at full council meeting. Proposed by Cllr Marshall, and seconded by Cllr Bennett **RESOLVED** by all member's present.

7.3 To note Account balances and receipts. **RESOLVED**: All members noted the account balances and receipts.

8. Chairman's Report

Cllr Redman handed over to Cllr Marshall who spoke on this year's Mynn Awards. Cllr Marshall asked the Councillors if they wished for the Mynn Awards to go ahead for this year, all members wished to see this continue. It was decided to have the cut-off date as the 15th November 2016 with the Awards being presented at the December meeting.

This will be organised by Cllr Marshall, Mrs Barbara Dunford and Mr Brian Clifford. The council thanked the team for taking this on. The Clerk will add this to the Website and it will be advertised in the Downs Mail. ACTION CLERK

Cllr Redman then spoke on the Fireworks and that an Event Manager is needed for this event, Cllr Conner and Cllr Young will both not be available for this. If no councillor is able to take this on, Cllr Redman mentioned the possibility of recruiting someone to run this event. This will be discussed at the next Communications & Community meeting.

ACTION C AND C COMMITTEE

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

Cllr R Camp was not in attendance.

10. Reports from councillors

Cllr Ryan stated that the Older Persons event has now been booked for the 29th October at the Bearsted & Thurnham WI Hall starting mid afternoon. Cllr Ryan asked members if he could have a cheque for £100.00 as deposit for the hire of the hall. This was **RESOLVED** by all members and the Clerk added this to the cheque list for payment.

11. Matters for discussion

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Young was not in attendance and no update had been received. Cllr Ash highlighted that the timeline had not been adhered to in his view. ACTION CLLR YOUNG

Gold Standard NALC

Cllr Conner was not in attendance; the Clerk was asked to speak with Cllr Conner regarding this.

ACTION CLLR CONNER/ CLERK

Farmers market

The Clerk was asked to speak with the Farmer's Market Manager on this.

12. **Correspondence**

Cllr Redman had received a card of thanks from a resident who had received the Newsletter

13. **Future agenda items**

Neighbourhood plan

NALC Gold Award

Email addresses

Christmas Market

Policies – Capability and Village Green, plus other key priorities as previously discussed

14. **Resolution:**

Smarts Cottages/ HR Matters

To resolve to go into closed session and to exclude the press and public during items 14 (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in accordance with standing order 10 (xi).

Covered in Closed session

15. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Full Council will be at Madginford Hall 7.30pm on the 11th October 2016.

There being no further business this part of the meeting closed at 9.05pm