

BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at King George V Memorial Hall, Manor Rise, Bearsted on Tuesday 19th February, 2019 at 7:30pm

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

Also in attendance was the Clerk, Sarah Lewis.

Reports from members of the public

There were no such reports.

1. Declarations of intention to record

The Clerk declared the recording of the meeting for transcription purposes.

2. Apologies and absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Bennett and were accepted.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

Cllrs Ash and Marshall declared an interest in item 8 as members of Madginford Hall Management Committee. Cllr Ash also declared an interest in item 11 as a close neighbour to the area.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting on Tuesday 22nd January, 2019 were signed as a true record with one amendment which was altered by hand and initialled.

5. Matters arising from the last minutes and action points.

There were no such matters

6. Church Landway/Church Car Park

- a) Correspondence: There was no such correspondence.
- b) Evaluation of the newly laid surface: This item was deferred pending a site meeting with a surfacing specialist.
- c) Resurfacing of the car park: This item was deferred as above.

7. Highways & Footpaths

- a) Correspondence had been received from Ward Councillor Val Springett regarding the installation of double yellow lines to the Yeoman Lane end of Manor Rise. The Clerk will work with Cllr Springett to write to neighbouring residents informing them of a KCC consultation ahead of a decision and Cllr Jon Hughes has volunteered to deliver the letters.

ACTION: CLERK/CLLR J HUGHES

Correspondence had been received regarding untidy branches and cuttings at the pathway at Mallings Lane (KM82) following some clearance work by the

Community Payback Scheme. It was felt that the branches had been left for the benefit of wildlife and insect habitat and the Clerk was asked to write to the resident to inform of ongoing works to the area for future planting of a suitable hedge.

ACTION: CLERK

Following the Parish Council's endorsement of residents' concerns regarding the poor condition of Sandy Lane, a response had been received from KCC. The Clerk will advise the residents to deal with KCC directly and the Committee agreed to further endorse residents' requests for roadway improvements and works to the banks.

Following reports from drivers of pedestrians walking to and from the station in the darkness without appropriate reflective clothing, the Committee agreed to purchase neon armbands for distribution to commuters in the Autumn. Cllr Bollom will obtain appropriate quotes.

ACTION: CLLR BOLLUM

- b) Areas requiring maintenance by the Community Payback Scheme were identified as the painting of the railings to the Elizabeth Harvie field and the Holy Cross Church and to tidy the Church Lane car park and remove sharp rocks.
- c) Mobile parking signs: Some quotations had been received however the matter remains ongoing whilst further quotations are obtained. Cllr Bollom will approach District Cllr Paul Carter for possible funding.

ACTION: CLLR BOLLUM

- d) Festive lights 2019. The Clerk is awaiting confirmation from KCC that the columns which failed the structural testing previously, are attended to in time for the 2019 lights to be installed.

8. Madginford Hall Car Park

- a) It has been identified that the Parish Council parking spaces are being used without permission making parking provision for Councillors, staff and visitors difficult. The Clerk will write to the Madginford Hall Management Committee to insist all 4 marked Parish Council parking bays are made available strictly for BPC only and that should the situation not improve, the Council would be in favour of lockable bollards on these bays. The Clerk was asked to write to the Camera Club who meet on Tuesday evenings to remind them to refrain from using the BPC parking bays.

ACTION: CLERK

- b) An update from Madginford Hall Committee regarding general parking problems in the car park was not available as matters are ongoing.
- c) The relocation of the hall salt bin was discussed and it was suggested that the bin should be emptied and located to a more suitable position once the reconfiguration of the car park had been implemented.

9. General Maintenance

- a) A quote had been received from Help at Hand for the maintenance of the parish notice boards and to replace the rubber seals and cork. The quotation was accepted for labour of 10 hours at £20 per hour by a unanimous vote and the Council will purchase the necessary materials.

ACTION: CLERK

- b) The Clerk reported that there had been 3 responses to the Council's appeal for a handyperson for general maintenance tasks ranging from £20 - £25 per hour. It was agreed to recommend at Full Council for the use of these contractors and delegation be awarded to the Clerk for instructing them.

10. Bearsted Green

- a) Correspondence:
- A request for a space for the location of a storage container was received from the Music on the Green Committee. The Clerk will respond with apologies however following recent similar requests there are no areas available for such facilities.
ACTION: CLERK
 - Following correspondence from Bearsted Cricket Club regarding the nets which are stored behind the Pavilion on the Green, it was acknowledged that the nets are not easily collapsible and therefore suggestion was made for the club to be asked to dismantle them at the end of the season and store them whilst they are not in use.
 - Refuse wheelie bins and household rubbish continues to be a problem to the area of the Green behind Smarts Cottages and the Amazon hairdressers. The Clerk will obtain legal advice regarding the Council's position in removing these bins.
ACTION: CLERK
- b) An update was received on the upcoming Market on the Green from Cllr Bollom. 23 confirmed stalls are signed up for the launch. Cllr Bollom reported that there will be some expenditure for set up costs such as cash collection buckets and sundries which were noted. A quote for Bearsted Market on the Green printed hessian shopping bags had been received with costs of 62p each (500 for £399). It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the order of the bags which will be sold at the market with profits to be distributed amongst supported charities every 6 months.
- c) A draft Memorial Bench Policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors were asked to consider the wording and submit their feedback to the Clerk ahead of the next Full Council meeting.
- d) An appeal for volunteers to help with the management of the pond is to feature in the next edition of the Downs Mail. The Clerk is in touch with the Warden at Vinters Valley Nature Reserve for names of contacts who could assist in the set up of a working group. It was also mentioned that Len Valley Conservation may help to run a working group.

11. Open Spaces

- a) Meadow Bank: Cllr Ash had circulated information from Mary Tate who had previously surveyed the area. It was agreed for Cllr Ash to meet with Mary to discuss options for guidance in returning the area to a managed nature reserve. Cllr Hughes will speak with the neighbouring farmer for the possibility of temporarily grazing sheep to assist in clearing the vegetation.
ACTION: CLLR ASH/CLLR J HUGHES
- Quotes will be obtained for the 'die back' Ash Trees to be attended to.
- b) Rosemary Road open space: The Clerk is in touch with MBC to renew the lease that had expired.
- c) Correspondence regarding the Great British Spring Clean had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. It was considered that BPC already actively litter pick and the invitation was therefore declined.

12. Noticeboards and Street Furniture

- a) The request for KCC to adopt the lamp post in Egremont Road remains ongoing.
- b) A discussion was held regarding the installation of the defibrillator in Madginford. The Clerk reported that the Co-op have given their permission for electric works to be carried out by a contractor of the Council's choice. Relevant quotations have been requested.

13. Re-siting of Summer Play Scheme Equipment

It was agreed to invite quotes for the collection and relocation of the contents of the current shed at Madginford Hall to the new shed at Roseacre School. Suggestion was made for the new shed to be properly racked out by a carpenter whilst the playscheme is in operation when there will be a better understanding of how the equipment fits and what racking is required.

14. Bearsted in Bloom Competition update.

Cllr Bollom updated the Committee with the plans for the competition. Applications are scheduled to be invited in April and May with judging to take place in June. Confirmation of sponsorship from Notcutts is yet to be received. This year will see the additional category of Best Allotment.

15. Christmas Trees 2019

Quotations have been requested for the installation and take down of the lights and decorations to both Christmas trees. This matter is ongoing.

16. Future Agenda Items

Finance – Profit and Loss report (top line) for the Committee
Re-surfacing of the footpath between Sandy Mount and the White Horse as the linear route to the railway station.

18. Date of the next meeting: 19th March, 2019.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 20:55.

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