

BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted on Tuesday 6th February, 2019 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Fabienne Hughes (Vice Chair)
Cllr Richard Ash MBE
Cllr Geoff Bennett
Cllr Vivien Bowles
Cllr Suzanne Camp
Cllr Frank Jagger
Cllr Pat Marshall MBE
Cllr Jo Tribley
Cllr Josie Smith

Also in attendance was the Clerk Sarah Lewis, Admin Assistant Emma Hull, Borough Councillors Cumin and Spooner, and Deputy Editor Doug Kempster from the Downs Mail and KM Correspondent Rosemary Pearce.

Vice-Chair Cllr Fabienne Hughes took the meeting in the absence of the Chair.

Reports from members of the Public

There were no such reports.

1. Declarations of intention to record.

The Clerk declared that the meeting was to be recorded for minuting purposes.

2. Apologies and absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Michael Bollom, Helena Goodwin, Graeme Hannington and Tony Ryan. Apologies had also been received from Borough Cllr Val Springett.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

A number of Councillors are members of the Bearsted Woodland Trust as residents having paid a £5 annual fee. It was not felt that this was worthy of declaration, however was noted. Cllr Ash and Cllr Marshall declared an interest in item 8d ii as trustee and former trustee of Involve Kent which has previously been entered to the register.

4. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Full Council on 8th January 2019 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

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

An update was given by the Clerk regarding the faulty street light BPC001 on Egremont Road. KCC have been approached to adopt the streetlight and will be attending to survey the light within the next few weeks at which time they will respond to the request.

6. Reports:

Reports had been received from Borough Councillors Springett, Cuming and Spooner prior to the meeting and were noted. The Parish Council thanked

Borough Councillors for their work in attending such a large volume of meetings on behalf of Bearsted.

The PCSO Zoe Turner gave a verbal report regarding crime in the village. There have been burglaries in Yeoman Way and Ragstone Road and a moped stolen from the Green. The recent police surgery at the library was not attended by any members of the public.

Community Officer Sally Williams had submitted a brief report prior to the meeting which had been circulated. Her work has been predominantly community welfare concerns and to support the PCSO. Reports of a vehicle that has been frequently parking on double yellow lines in Church Lane has been referred to Maidstone Borough Council parking enforcement team who are monitoring the situation.

Chairman's Report: The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was read out in Cllr Bollom's absence. A meeting has taken place with a KCC representative to discuss acquisition proposals for the goods yard at Bearsted railway station. Further talks will be held within KCC and another meeting with BPC, KCC, Network Rail, Southeastern Railways and the Railway Heritage Trust will be scheduled. Any proposals will be discussed at Full Council in advance of such a meeting.

Clerk's Report: A report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

7. Committee and Working Group Reports.

Finance Committee: Cllr Ash gave a report on behalf of the Finance Committee.

Planning Committee: Cllr F Hughes gave a report on behalf of the Planning Committee.

Environment Committee: Cllr Bennett gave a report on behalf of the Environment Committee which included an update on the Community Payback Scheme projects. The need for an additional comingle bin at the entrance to Cross Keys was discussed and it was agreed by a unanimous vote to purchase the same to the value of £250.

Following a discussion regarding the integrity of the surfacing at the Church Landway and the need for maintenance quotes so soon after the installation, some concern was raised over the material used being fit for purpose. It was pointed out that drainage is still to be installed and that recent adverse weather conditions have stirred the surface up, however this should settle with better conditions and some further rolling. The issue will be placed on the next Environment Meeting agenda for further discussion.

There were no reports from members of the Council for outside bodies.

Market on the Green: Councillors were asked to respond to the Clerk in writing with their availability to man the BPC stall at the upcoming Sunday markets.

Mynn Awards: Nominations for the awards close on the 1st March and so far there has been minimal response. The KM correspondent was asked to feature the invitation for nominations in her column and the admin team will continue to advertise on the Parish Council website and social media platforms.

8. Finance

- a) Resolution to authorise payments. Payments over the Christmas and New Year period had previously been agreed to be authorised via email consent. These payments have been checked by the Chair of the Finance Committee and were put forward for ratification. Payments for December and January were agreed by a unanimous vote.

The following subsequent payments for the tail end of January were agreed for authorisation:

* Bearsted Woodland Trust	Donation	£	1,976.00
Harland Fencing	Repairs to damaged retainer wall on the Green	£	80
Harland Fencing	Installation of stock fencing to Meadow Bank/Bell Lane	£	1,300.00
Contractor	Finance and payroll support	£	265.07
Hallmark Signs	Chairman's board	£	72.00
Warings	Grounds maintenance contract	£	2,746.50
BJW Computers	Printer ink	£	42.00
Mail Publications	Downs Mail January advertising page	£	338.40
<i>Bearsted Parish Council do not disclose personal salary information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, s11 (Appointment and Management of Staff)</i>			

* Subject to approval at item 8d(i)

- b) **Finance Reports**
Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.
- c) **Balances of accounts**
The balances of bank accounts and associated statements had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.
- d) **Grants and Donations requests:**
- i) A request had been received from Bearsted Woodland Trust for a donation of £1,976 towards the costs involved in the installation of a 'Trim Trail' within the Trust site. The request was endorsed by the Finance Committee at the previous Finance Committee meeting and was agreed by a unanimous vote.
 - ii) A request had been received from Involve Kent for a donation of £500 towards the costs of peer support groups that many Bearsted residents attend. After discussions it was agreed to support this request with a vote of 7 in favour and 2 abstentions.
- e) **Winter maintenance for the Green.** A quote had been received from Warings for £5,865. The Clerk reported that despite inviting 4 other companies to quote, no further quotes had been obtained. It was therefore agreed to continue with the services of Warings in this respect with a vote of 8 in favour and 1 abstention.
- f) **Precept 2019/20.** A precept of £118,212.86 for the next financial year was proposed which will involve no increase to the tax payer and was agreed by a unanimous vote.
- g) A quote for the replacement of the eastern fence at the Elizabeth Harvie Field with like for like had been received from Andrew French at a sum of £1,250 and was accepted by a unanimous vote. The Clerk will ensure that the price is to include the removal of the old fencing.
- 9. Planning Committee issues, applications and associated correspondence**
- a) **Ongoing matters re 18/506167/REM: Land at Barty Farm**
Question was made to the outstanding application for the layout of the proposed development and the depth of the buffer strips which should be 5m. It was further noted that the maintenance footpaths do not appear to be included in the plans and there is no apparent area designated for a sub-station that has been mentioned.
KCC have passed the access to the site as adequate and MBC Planning have passed this part of the application, as such this is not for part of discussions. Cllr F Hughes will circulate point identified and Councillors were asked to give the matter some consideration and let the office know of any comments before the deadline of 12th February 2019. b) **Ongoing matters re amended planning application for schools at Popes Wood and associated relocation of Nature Reserve 18/506609/OUT.** An application is yet to be submitted for the main

entrance to the proposed school complex via the KIMS site. Following discussion, it was felt that even with a pedestrian only access on the Bearsted Road, many cars would stop to drop children at this point and congestion would result. It was generally considered that the selected site is not located in an appropriate area, however until the application has been submitted, Councillors are unable to make comment. The Clerk will keep the Council informed when such an application is available for scrutiny.

- c) Rosemary Road lease. A former lease agreement between BPC and MBC for the open space in Rosemary Road has been located however it appears to have expired in 2014. Cllr Spooner was asked if he could make enquiries and the Clerk will enquire separately to see if the lease can be renewed.

ACTION: CLERK

- d) Evaluation of current Committee procedures. A discussion took place regarding the effectiveness of the current procedure for the planning committee. It was suggested that we should differentiate between routine applications and those that could have a significant effect to the neighbourhood. After a brief discussion the item was deferred to the next Full Council meeting to be addressed further by the Chair.

10. Newsletter update

The Clerk reported that the newsletter was currently being put together and that she would be meeting with Cllr Jagger to finalise the content in the next few days.

11. Rejuvenation of Meadow Bank

A discussion took place regarding plans for the future use of Meadow Bank as a nature reserve/recreation area for the community. Suggestion was made for expert input for the rejuvenation of the area and Councillors were invited to survey the site themselves and formulate their thoughts and suggestions to be directed via the Clerk to the Environment Committee. It was suggested that the Community Payback Scheme could assist with clearance works and confirmation was given that these works do fall within their remit following a site meeting. A former report details ash trees that need branches dropping and clearing, general clearance of rubbish on the site, and bi-annual controlled woodland maintenance.

12. Correspondence

Correspondence had been received from KCC Highways regarding parking on Ware Street preventing gritter lorries from being able to get through easily. Cllr Hughes reported that he has measured the area of road in question and does not consider space to be an issue for this type of vehicle. The Clerk was asked to respond to KCC with these findings and comments.

ACTION: CLERK

13. Future Agenda items

Budget for 2019/20

- 14. Downs Mail**
Cllr Bollom and the Clerk will make contact with Doug Kempster with the copy ahead of the deadline to include the statement on the planning applications at Popes Wood.

ACTION: CLERK

- 15. Date of the next Meeting: Tuesday 5th March, 2019**

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21:04hrs.

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