

BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held
at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted on
Tuesday 1st October, 2019 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Michael Bollom (Chair)
Cllr Fabienne Hughes (Vice Chair)
Cllr Richard Ash MBE
Cllr Graeme Hannington
Cllr Jon Hughes
Cllr Frank Jagger
Cllr Pat Marshall MBE
Cllr Denis Spooner
Cllr Jo Tribley

Also in attendance were the Assistant Clerk Erin Sugden(AC), Downsmail Correspondents Doug Kempster and Jade Schopman along with KM Correspondent Rosemary Pearce and one member of the public

Reports from members of the Public

A member of the public highlighted instances of damage to their property caused by balls being hit by cricket teams playing on The Green and explained the frustrations they face working with Bearsted Cricket Club to rectify damage. The member of the public expressed the need for safety precautions to prevent further damage to properties surrounding The Green while cricket was being played.

1. **Declarations of intention to record.**
There were no declarations made to record the meeting.
2. **Apologies and absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Suzanne Camp and Cllr Helena Goodwin.
3. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**
Cllr Pat Marshall declared an interest in item 12 as a member of the Madginford Hall Committee which had been previously recorded.
4. **To resolve to go into closed session and to exclude the press and the public at item 19 (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in accordance with standing order10 (xi) for consideration of HR matters and legal matters.**
5. **Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting**
The minutes for the meeting of the Full Council on the 3rd September 2019 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.
6. **Matters arising from the last minutes and action points.**
There were no matters arising.
7. **Reports:**

Borough Councillors: A report was received from Cllr Denis Spooner who detailed the planning meetings and training he had attended. An update on the Local Plan

Review was given and an explanation about frustrations Borough Councillors have with MBLP Policy SP17.

Cllr F Hughes questioned the colour of the fence which has been erected along Bearsted Road as the colour is not in keeping. Cllr Spooner reported back that he had already questioned this with MBC.

Cllr Val Springett reported that she has requested MBC to reconsider the planned route of the Popes Field sewage pipe to join Cygnet Hospital rather than it being installed to join with Weaving Heaths'. As this will cause restrictions to the Heath and damage during the installation. Other planning related meetings have been attended and a meeting due with Head of Planning Rob Jarman will give an opportunity to highlight many concerns. Cllr Springett is currently a member of the Licensing Committee and will be considering The Gallery nightclub license at an upcoming hearing after the fatal stabbing.

Cllr Cumming reported on the meetings and events he has attended since July.

PCSO: None received due to annual leave

Community Warden: None received due to annual leave.

Chairman of the council: Cllr Bollom reported on a meeting he had with MBC with regards to employment matters, he attended a meeting with Cllr Paul Carter with reference to the Madginford Hall lease and is pleased to report back that Madginford School have 10 car parking spaces allocated to them allowing the rest of the car park to be used by the hall.

As the Chair of the Communications Committee Cllr Bollom reported a number of areas the committee have taken over from the Environment Committee and plans for upcoming events are going well and within budget. There will be a need to change website providers in 2020 as EIS will no longer provide a free platform but this should tie in nicely with the need for the Parish website to be made Digitally Accessible. The Chairman then asked for volunteers for next week's Old Time Music Hall.

Assistant Clerk: The AC reported back on the Clerks Conference that she attended and highlighted some of the areas which the council could improve health and wellbeing, accessibility to the Parish website and applying for funding. It was also reported that as the office is short staffed at the present time there is a need for temporary assistance and an understanding from Councillors that requests are put in email.

8. Committee Meeting and Working Group Reports. (20 mins)

Reports from all Committees to include:

Finance and General Policy Committee: The AC has been asked to look at additional savings accounts due to the large amounts-in reserves that the Parish Council currently has. The AC was given permission to appoint suppliers for the Fireworks event. A report was given about the findings of the external audit. It was agreed that Cllr Tribley could attend the next Dynamic Councillor training and for the AC to attend Health and Wellbeing training.

Planning Committee The committee met in August to consider the Local Plan and the council's views have been submitted. There are a number of planning applications for considerations for October, some with a number of objections.

Cllr Hannington will be writing a supporting statement for Boxley against the proposal for a care home on Bearsted Road the objections will be due to traffic, lack of parking and loss of natural habitat.

Environment Committee Railtrack are tree felling in Meadow Bank at the present time. The AC is to speak to the Wildwood Trust to put together a plan of livestock that could graze on Meadow Bank. Since the meeting a quote had been received from PSR Lighting in reference to the cost of replacing lights along the alleyway between Ragstone Road and Madginford School. The quote included 3 new LED lights installed for £1131.72. It was felt as the evenings are getting darker the

alleyway needs to be lit up for safety reason and so this cost was proposed and unanimously agreed.

ACTION: ASSISTANT CLERK

The Chairman also highlighted to the Council that there is a need for a substitute member to sit on the Communications Committee when needed. Cllr J Hughes volunteered and will be called upon should he be needed.

Reports from Working Groups

Market on the Green: Cllr Ash questioned how the Market Manager was to be paid and was informed this was discussed in a meeting by the HR Working Group and agreed by the Comms Committee in September (Min 402: 10b). The Market Manager will charge stall holders a monthly fee and this will pay towards the time it takes to organise the monthly market. The contract between the Market Manager and BPC is still to be agreed. 5 new stalls signed up for October.

Fireworks: Suppliers for toilets, AV and first aid have been appointed. The AC is still in discussion with food vendors. Cllr F Hughes has volunteered to act as the Fire and Safety Officer at the Event. Tickets are on sale and advertising has commenced.

Traffic working group: The informal consultation on Ware Street has concluded and the feedback received is very mixed from residents. Cllr Jagger will be forwarding the findings once evaluated.

The Highways Improvement Plan has been updated with 7 new areas for consideration which are mainly parking issues. There has been tentative agreement from KCC where a number of parking restrictions could be applied for in one request.

Speed monitoring in Yeoman-Lane and Roseacre Lane has concluded with the findings still outstanding.

Cllr Jagger reported that the result from the proposed A249- Bearsted Road improvement have been requested three times from KCC but no response has been received.

Reports from members of the Council for outside bodies – Cllr Ash reported on the KALC meeting on 23rd September. KALC have asked for planning permission extensions. There is a new event and road closure app for applying for events. ‘Call for Sites’ will be 4th October this will be confidential until the public announcement on the 4th November.

9. Finance

a) Resolution to Authorise Payments

A vote was taken to authorise payments on expenditure transaction sheet with the understanding that when the bank details are received from Holy Cross Church payment will be made. 6 in favour and 3 abstentions.

Dynamic Fireworks	Fireworks Provider	£1200.00
KALC	Clerks Conference	£72.00
Came and Co	Insurance	£2385.69
A. Quarman	Litter Picking	131.36
E. Watts	Garden Bin	£40.00
Compute4U	Laptops and Support	£72.00
Madginford Hall	Hall Hire- August	£11.49
KGV Hall	Hall Hire- Various	£165.98
J. Hughes	Electrical and Paint Equip	190.74
Playdale	Repair to BWT Equipment	443.70
Downsmail	Full Page - Sept	338.40
Payroo	Payrol Service	36.00
Opus Energy	Street Lighting	11.98
Opus Energy	Street Lighting	34.00
KCS	Copy Paper	55.08

PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	480.00
Opus Energy	Tractor Barn	38.93
Opus Energy	The Green	55.02
BT	Sept Bill	206.71
MBC	Road Closure	75.00
N.Brittain	Finance/Payroll/admin	356.65
Roseacre School	Hire of hall-Playscheme	1000.00
E.Sugden	Millage/Expenses	21.75
A. Quarman	Litter picking	164.20
Holy Cross Church	Donation- Flag	600.00
Dynamic Fireworks	Fireworks provider	3600.00

- b) Finance Reports: These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed.
- c) Balances of accounts: These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed.
- d) Grants and Donations requests: Holy Cross requested £600 for a new Flag of St George and this was recommended by the Finance Committee and proposed with 7 favour and 2 abstentions.

10. **Joint Parish Group**

Cllr Jagger felt BPC should join the Joint Parish Group to keep informed of situations other Parishes encounter. There could be benefits to sharing knowledge and information within the group and when necessary sharing the workload of some projects. Cllr Jagger and Cllr Hannington will attend the next meeting and feedback to BPC at the next Full Council meeting.

ACTION: CLLR HANNINGTON /CLLR JAGGER

11. **Church Lane Car Park**

Cllr F Hughes reported that Rev Corbyn still feels that there is a lot of debris coming off of the car park since the heavy downpour of rain and causing the drain to block. Cllr Bollom will speak to CV Surfacing.

ACTION:CLLR BOLLOM

Cllr Jagger spoke about some surplus soil and his concern about people parking on the mud. This was deferred to Environment Committee.

12. **Madginford Hall Lease**

Cllr Bollom attended a meeting with the Madginford Hall Committee legal representative and Cllr Paul Carter to discuss the new lease of the hall which has been offered by KCC. KCC want to cancel the old lease and have proposed a new lease in exchange for them having only 10 spaces. The new lease takes into consideration market rents which would put BPC rent to £4,000. BPC have looked at the upscale on rental increase and feel that £2000 is more suitable which has the support of Cllr Carter. This has not been agreed by the Hall Committee. It was also suggested that the Hall Committee may wish to take the lease over.

13. **Smarts Cottages**

Cllr Spooner spoke about the complex matter and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

14. **Notice Boards and Future Agendas**

The AC investigated the need to put up agendas for all committee meeting in each of the 10 noticeboards within the Parish. This is a lengthy task each week and has recently been carried out with the help of Cllr F Hughes. There is a legal duty to publish one agenda for each meeting. The proposal would be to post an agenda for each meeting in the noticeboards at Ashford Road, The Green and Madginford Shops.

The agenda would also be posted on the BPC website. This will be trialled for 6 months with 8 in favour and 1 abstention.

15. Pond

Cllr Hannington reported that there is no further update on the current situation but proposed that he would seek quotations from companies to supply a pond lined solution that would have a guaranteed life span of not less than 60 years with worked carried out in the Spring of 2020 this was voted for with 8 voting in favour and 1 abstention. Once quotations are received applications will be made for grants and donations to try and contribute to the cost of the work required.

ACTION/CLLR HANNINGTON

16. General Correspondence

i) A letter was received from the Clerk of Boxley Parish Council thanking the Traffic Working group for their hard work.

ii) A letter was received from an allotment holder who has to give up their plot due to ill health. The Council unanimously agree to refund the plot fee of £30.15 due to the circumstances.

iii) A quotation was received from Invicta Law for £180 + VAT to advise on a lease agreement. Councillors unanimously agreed to accept the quotation.

17. Future Agenda items

Joint Parishes Group
Smarts Cottage- Claimed Bridleway

18. Date of the next Meeting: Tuesday 5th November, 2019

At 20.49hrs the meeting moved to closed session and members of the public and press were asked to leave.

19. Closed session:

a) HR matters

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.14hrs

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