



## Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held remotely on Tuesday 19 May, 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Jon Hughes (Chair)  
Cllr Richard Ash MBE  
Cllr Suzanne Camp  
Cllr Fabienne Hughes  
Cllr Tom Jenkins

Also, in attendance was the Acting Clerk Erin Sugden (AC) and one member of the public.

### 1. **Declarations of intentions to record**

The AC declared that the meeting was to be recorded.

The Chairman proposed to bring forward 14a which was unanimously agreed.

### 2. **Apologies and absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Pat Marshall MBE and it was unanimously agreed to accept them.

### 3. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**

None

### 4. **Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes from Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

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

Cllr Ash explained that he had spoken to Councillor B Hinder of Boxley PC with regards to payment towards their highway improvements who confirmed that they were not required to contribute.

### 14. **Scout Compound**

Cllr J Hughes expressed concern about the current condition of the Scout compound. Information was presented explaining that several projects are underway to improve the grounds which had been delayed due to maintenance equipment being stolen. Cllr J Hughes offered the assistance of the Community Payback team to the Scout for projects when it is deemed safe enough for them to return.

### 6. **Church Landway/Church Car Park**

a) Correspondence: None

b) Ratify improvements to the steps at Church Lane Car Park: It was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from Harland at a cost of £600.

c) Ratify edging to Church Lane Car Park: It was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from Harland at a cost of £2000.

d) Planting the edges of Car Park: It was noted that there is a bush on the edge of the car park which is dying. The AC will seek grants to purchase a replacement. This item was deferred to next month.

**ACTION: ACTING CLERK**

- e) Tree maintenance to oak tree in Church Lane Car Park and fruit trees adjacent to allotments: The oak tree requires several branches cutting back to prevent damage to the outbuildings next to the Church Landway. It was unanimously agreed to obtain 3 quotations for this work. During the visual check's councillors had completed, they raised concerns relating to several trees. A recommendation was made to remove the Mirabelle trees to allow for the fruit trees adjacent to the allotment fence to flourish, remove the Elder and the little bush next to the steps to prevent this from over growing on to the new planned steps and also to take down the Rowan tree. The proposal put forward was to get 3 quotations for all the trees to be removed to their stumps which was unanimously agreed.

**ACTION: ACTING CLERK**

**7. Highways & Footpaths**

- a) Correspondence: None
- b) Joint Traffic Working Group: No report.
- c) Progress with Highway Improvement Plan: Cllr F Hughes reported that double yellow lines had been requested along Ware Street with a single white line in front of driveways and a concealed driveway sign. However, KCC have reported back that they no longer install single white lines and there is not an official concealed driveway sign. It was agreed that double yellow lines would be requested from Sandy Lane to the cottages including across residents' driveways (north side). This was unanimously agreed.
- d) St Faiths Lane footpath – A new gate had been fitted at the entrance to the KM73 footpath at Roseacre Lane. A resident complained that pedestrians were veering off the footpath on to his property as they walked around the gate. It was proposed to get costs for a smaller gate which was voted unanimously.

**ACTION: ACTING CLERK**

**8. General Maintenance**

- a) To identify/ratify essential maintenance issues: None
- b) Footpaths for clearance: KM83 (The Street to Trapfield Close) and Tower Lane will have vegetation cleared. The AC will request Waring's to do this as the Community Payback Team are not operating at this time.

**ACTION: ACTING CLERK**

**9. Bearsted Green**

- a) Correspondence: None
- b) Ratify the cost of tree maintenance: It was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from Tantons at a cost of £1650 due to their historical knowledge of the trees.
- c) Consider maintenance to the cherry tree: The AC will seek advice for the maintenance of the Cherry trees on the parcel of land next to the pond and also east of The Green.

**ACTION: ACTING CLERK**

**10. Allotments**

- a) Correspondence: None

**11. Meadow Bank**

- a) Correspondence: None

**12. Open Spaces**

- a) Correspondence: None
- b) Yeoman Lane Carpark – Path: The AC explained that the registered owner of the parcel of land had been contacted along with MBC but no response had been received after a number of months. As the area where pedestrians walk is extremely trodden down and creates a trip hazard it was proposed that paving slabs should be laid to prevent injuries. This was agreed with all in favour. The AC will ask the handyman to complete this job.

**ACTION: ACTING CLERK**

- c) Elizabeth Harvie Field Fence: It was highlighted through the councillor visual checks that the iron fence adjacent to the Churchyard is eroding. It was proposed for Cllr J Hughes to ask a local resident to look at what is required to fix the fence. The AC will write to Holy Cross Church.

**ACTION: Cllr J HUGHES/ ACTING CLERK**

- d) Tree survey: Cllr F Hughes spoke to the committee about recently completing the Councillor visual checks and advised it would be beneficial to ask a tree surgeon to inspect several trees within the Elizabeth Harvie Field due to them looking unhealthy. The AC will ask Arbour Tree Surgery if they would be willing to do this.

**ACTION: ACTING CLERK**

**13. Bus Shelter Grant**

The committee considered this grant but as BPC does not own any bus shelters it is not something it should apply for.

**15. Pump House Maintenance**

The handyman will be requested to weed and sweep within the pump house and reattach the Bearsted and Thurnham Society sign.

**ACTION: ACTING CLERK**

**16. General Correspondence**

- a) Letter from Mallings Drive: An email had been received from a resident highlighting reports to KCC that had not been actioned. The AC will contact KCC and request a reference number to pass on to the resident for them to seek a further update.

**ACTION: ACTING CLERK**

**17. Update of policies**

- a) Ratify Terms of Reference: It was unanimously agreed to accept the new TOR.

**18. Future Agenda Items**

Planting the edges of Car Park  
Electrical repairs to lighting  
Quotation to replace the fence around the play area  
Quotation for replacement fence around Church Lane allotments

**19. Date of next Meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020**

**There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.12 hrs**

**Signed**..... **Date**.....