



Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held remotely on Tuesday 23rd June, 2020 at 7.30pm

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

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Erin Sugden.

Reports from members of the public

None.

1. **Declarations of intentions to record**

The Clerk declared that the meeting was to be recorded.

2. **Apologies and absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Pat Marshall MBE and Suzanne Camp. 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 19th May 2020 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

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

None.

The Chairman proposed to bring forward item 15 which was agreed.

15. **Update of policies**

a) Terms of Reference

The Chairman spoke about his disapproval having the TOR disputed at the Full Council meeting by Cllr Ash after a unanimous vote at the previous months' meeting. As a result, the TOR were returned back to the Environment Committee. The Clerk made one amendment to item 4. Public Rights of Way. A proposal was made to accept the amendment which was voted with 3 in favour and 1 against. Cllr Ash was reminded that due diligence should be taken when composing such documents to prevent any further embarrassment for the committee in the future.

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

a) Correspondence:

i) Letter from resident regarding water drainage within car park.

The Clerk was asked to respond to the resident to explain the reasons behind works and drainage at the car park.

ACTION: CLERK

- b) Quotation for tree works to Oak Tree:
A proposal was made to defer this work until a full specification of works to trees within the Parish is completed.
- c) Ratify cost of fixing fence at Ashford Road end.
It was proposed and unanimously agreed to pay Lee Harrison £105 for the work to fix the fence and re-stake a tree at the Ashford Road end of the Church Landway.
- d) Ratify cost for fixing gate padlock
It was proposed and unanimously agreed to pay £68.00 for the padlock on the gate to the Ashford Road end of the Church Landway to be fixed.
- e) Electrical repairs to lighting on Church Landway.
Two quotations for the suggested works had been received but councillors felt the costs were too high. It was proposed that Cllr F Hughes would work with the Clerk to put together a new specification which was unanimously agreed.

ACTION: CLLR F HUGHES/CLERK

- f) Removal of dead bush on northern side of car park and application for grant for replacement.
It was unanimously agreed for Waring's to be asked to remove the bush on the large mound at the car park. It was agreed to look at a replacement later in the year.

ACTION: CLERK

7. Highways & Footpaths

- a) Correspondence: None.
- b) Joint Traffic Working Group: further updates
Letters have been sent to residents in Ware Street affected by the double yellow line proposal.
- c) Progress with Highway Improvement Plan
No further update.
- d) Quotation for St Faiths Lane footpath - Gate
Cllr J Hughes informed the committee that a replacement gate can be bought for £100. It was unanimously agreed to purchase a replacement.

ACTION: CLLR J HUGHES

8. General Maintenance

- a) To identify/ratify essential maintenance issues: None.
- b) Footpaths for clearance: None.

9. Bearsted Green

- a) Correspondence: None
- b) Temporary signage for The Green
The Clerk suggested temporary signage to help with communication to users of The Green. It was agreed to purchase 4 at a cost of £160 plus postage.

ACTION: CLERK

- c) Update of waste management
The Clerk informed the committee that a large temporary bin had been ordered for 22nd July but recommended this be brought forward to coincide with the re-opening of the public houses. This was unanimously agreed.

ACTION: CLERK

10. Allotments

- a) Correspondence: None.
- b) Update on outstanding payments
The Clerk reported that all payments had been received.

11. Meadow Bank

- a) Correspondence: None.
- b) Quotations for clearing fly-tipped waste:
Four quotations had been received for the removal of fly-tipped waste at Meadowbank. It was proposed and unanimously agreed to appoint Wynsdales at a cost of £1200 (+ VAT) with an additional contingency of £300 in case further items are found. The Clerk will arrange for Invicta Law to send letters to houses backing on to Meadowbank with the instruction that had previously been agreed regarding no further access being permitted. Once these have been posted the waste removal will take place.

ACTION: CLERK

12. Open Spaces

- a) Correspondence: None.
- b) Tree survey update:
Cllr F Hughes and the Clerk will circulate the survey and recommendation made at the Full Council Meeting.

13. Community Payback

It is hoped that the Community Payback will continue soon but it is expected that they will be nationalised in June 2021 and therefore its continuation is unknown. Cllr J Hughes explained that he will not continue to organise this scheme and so there will be a request for volunteers to be time-tabled in to assist. This will be taken to the Full Council meeting.

14. General Correspondence

- 14a)- Playground reports from MBC:
MBC supplied its monthly inspection for the Playground equipment, and it is apparent that a balance beam is in need of replacement. The Clerk will ask for a quotation from MBC to replace this. Lee Harrison will be requested to complete all other general work maintenance.

ACTION: CLERK

- 14b) Speeding traffic – Ashford Road
A letter had been received from The Bearsted and Thurnham Society with reference to speeding traffic on the Ashford Road. This issue is recorded in the Highways Improvement Plan and the Traffic Working Group continues to work with KCC Highways to address issues.
It is understood that Hollingbourne Parish Council might not have been invited to join the Joint Traffic Working Group, but they would be welcome if they requested to join. The Clerk will respond.

ACTION: CLERK

- 14c) Letter received from Allotment from Church Lane Committee
An email was received from the Secretary of the Church Lane Allotment Committee with regards to the Hose Pipe Ban at the allotments and the need for some barbed wire to be removed. The Clerk will ask Lee Harrison to remove the barbed wire and will respond to the Secretary. An offer will be made for the Allotment Committee to meet with Cllr J Hughes and the Clerk to be shown the location of the water meter.

ACTION: CLERK

16. Future Agenda Items

Fences for Play areas

17. Date of next Meeting, 21st July 2020

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.07 hrs

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