



Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held remotely on Tuesday 21st July 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Jon Hughes (Chair)
Cllr Richard Ash MBE
Cllr Martin Broughton
Cllr Suzanne Camp
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 for minuting purposes.

2. **Apologies and absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Pat Marshall MBE. 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 23rd June 2020 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

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

Cllr F Hughes sent a specification to the Clerk for remedial works to the Church Landway lighting. The Clerk will seek quotations for the works required.

ACTION: CLERK

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

a) Correspondence: None.

7. **Highways & Footpaths**

a) Correspondence:

i) Trees St. Faiths Lane – It was agreed with all in favour that the Clerk should contact MBC Tree Officer, Nick Gallavin requesting a site meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

b) Joint Traffic Working Group: further updates: A request had been received requesting double yellow lines on the corner of Romney Close. This will be added to the HIP and the Clerk will update residents.

ACTION: CLERK

c) Progress with Highway Improvement Plan: No further update due to KCC Highways working on the Governments Covid-19 Travel Fund Schemes with no extra resources. Parish council's HIPs are currently not being looked at and are on hold until September/October.

8. General Maintenance

- a) To identify/ratify essential maintenance issues.
The bollards at the back of the cricket pavilion have had the locks removed. It was unanimously agreed that £277.40 +VAT needed to be spent with Laddingford Engineering to replace the locks with new keys cut.
The back of a bench on The Green has broken, showing that many of the joints are now rotten. It was unanimously agreed for the handyman to remove the bench due to it being unsafe. A letter will be sent to the resident that made the bench to inform them. No decision was taken to replace the bench at this time.
- b) Footpaths for clearance: The Community Payback team will be requested to clear the footpaths between the Church Lane car park and Memorial Hall, The Landway, Birling Avenue and Mynn Crescent and the Church Landway to the Petrol Station. Other areas for clearance include the perimeter fence line between the Elizabeth Harvie Field and the Churchyard and behind Smarts Cottage. The Clerk will also contact the Scouts to offer them the assistance of the Community Payback team to clear the grounds.
- ACTION: CLERK**
- c) Quotations for cleaning the War memorial: A quotation was received from Washability for £245 which was unanimously agreed.
- ACTION: CLERK**

9. Bearsted Green

- a) Correspondence:
i) Benches on The Green- A request was made by the Cricket Club to introduce benches outside the Pavilion. The Clerk will ask for further details and a plan.
- ACTION: CLERK**

10. Allotments

- a) Correspondence:
i) Hosepipe Ban: Cllr F Hughes brought to the committee's attention that a recommendation should be made to the Church Lane Allotment Committee that plot holders desist from using hosepipes as a preventative to save water. This would be in line with The Street Allotment.
It was ratified with 4 in favour and 2 abstentions that the recommendation was made and that it would be for the Allotment Committees to manage this going forward.
- b) Ratify plot 44w The Street: Plot 44w had been unattended and fallen into an unusable state. It was ratified with 4 in favour and 2 abstentions that the new plot holder would not be charged rent until April 2021 when they had restored the plot to a useable state.
- c) Quote for removal of barbed wire: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to spend £120 with Lee Harrison to remove barbed wire from the Church Lane allotments where it had fallen from the fence. No replacement will be installed.

11. Meadow Bank

- a) Correspondence:
i) Key to Bell Lane: A request for a key to the new bollard at Bell Lane had been received from a landowner who has access to their land over

Meadowbank. 5 Councillors voted against this request with 1 abstention then agreed that the landowner should make an appointment with the Clerk to gain access when required.

12. Open Spaces

- a) Correspondence: None
- b) Tree survey update: Councillors have met with an arboriculturist to explain in detail what works are required to trees on The Green. A report will be compiled before planning permission is submitted to MBC.

13. Finance

- a) Review budget: The budget was reviewed.
- b) Heritage Trust Network Membership: It was felt that this was not required at present with all in favour.

14. Tree Charter Day

It was felt that involvement in this initiative at this time is not relevant.

15. General Correspondence

None.

16. Future Agenda Items

New fencing for Church Lane allotments and the play area on The Green

17. Date of next Meeting, 22nd September 2020

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 20.50 hrs

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