



Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held remotely on Tuesday 22nd September 2020 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Martin Broughton (Chair)
Cllr Suzanne Camp
Cllr Fabienne Hughes
Cllr Jon Hughes
Cllr Tom Jenkins
Cllr Pat Marshall MBE

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Erin Sugden, Cllr Richard Ash, Cllr Val Springett and one member of the public.

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**

None.

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

Cllrs Jon Hughes and Fabienne Hughes declared an interest in item 7b.

4. **Appoint Chairman and Vice-chairman**

Cllr Jon Hughes informed the committee that he was standing down as Chairman. Cllr F. Hughes proposed that Cllr Broughton to be appointed Chairman and a resolution was made in favour with a unanimous vote.

Cllr Jenkins proposed for Cllr J. Hughes to be appointed Vice-Chairman and a resolution was made in favour with a unanimous vote.

5. **Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes from Tuesday 21st July 2020 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

6. **Clerk's report**

The Clerk reported that any outstanding matters would be addressed in the meeting.

7. **Church Landway/Church Car Park** (Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 s57(1)(a) and LGA 1972s126)

a) Correspondence: None

19.39: Cllrs J and F Hughes left the meeting

b) Quotations for lighting repairs of the Church Landway: A specification for the works required was sent to four contractors with a request for quotations to be received by 21st September. By this date only one had been received. It was proposed by Cllr Jenkins to accept the quotation from Advent Electrical (Kent) at a cost of £2110.00 due to need to resolve the electrical faults with the lights which currently poses a safety risk to pedestrians using the footpath in the darkness. The resolution was agreed with 3 in favour and 1 abstention.

19.53: Cllrs J and F Hughes re-joined the meeting

- c) Review Church Lane Car Park surface: The Clerk will follow up with the contractor.
ACTION:CLERK
- d) Request for the Scouts to install 3 storage containers: A request was received for containers to allow for more secure storage. Cllr J.Hughes proposed to permit the containers providing any relevant planning permission is sought and any unnecessary rubbish is cleared from the Scout site. The resolution was unanimously agreed.
- e) KCC Charging point: An initiative for the installation of an electrical charging point was considered but deemed not necessary at the present time. A resolution was made to revisit this in the future with a unanimous vote.

8. Highways & Footpaths (LGA 1972 s126, Highways Act 1980, s274A,)

- a) Correspondence:
 - i) Bell Lane access: The Clerk will write to the landowners with a right of way to Meadowbank informing them of the new office opening hours. An explanation will be given that the bollard can be removed within 24hours of a request being received.
ACTION:CLERK
 - b) Joint Traffic Working Group: Cllr F.Hughes spoke with the businesses on Cavendish Way and informed them that they can advise their customers to park in the Yeoman Lane car park.
 - c) Progress with Highway Improvement Plan: None

9. General Maintenance (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9-10 and Highways Act 1980 s96)

- a) To identify/ratify essential maintenance issues: Footpath KM83 requires clearance. The Clerk will inform KCC.
ACTION:CLERK
- b) Leaf clearance on pavements: The Clerk will enquire as to the MBC schedule for leaf clearance.
ACTION:CLERK

10. Bearsted Green (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9-10)

- a) Correspondence:
 - i) Re-turfing wicket: A proposal was made by Cllr. F.Hughes for old turf to be stored at the back of the Cricket Club. This resolution was unanimously agreed.
ACTION:CLERK

11. Allotments (Small Holding and Allotment Act 1908 ss23,25)

- a) Correspondence:
 - i) Request for bonfire: A proposal was made by Cllr F.Hughes for the Clerk to request the Allotment Association follows appropriate guideline around bonfires and that the Tennis Club and Church should also be consulted as to the most appropriate time to have the bonfire. This resolution was unanimously agreed.
 - b) Cost for pest control: The Clerk had sought advice from three pest control contractors who all advised due to the nature of the environment any treatment they could offer could not be guaranteed and very unlikely to be successful. A proposal was made by Cllr J.Hughes that BPC would not pay for pest control and that the Allotment Association should follow national guidelines around infestation. This resolution was unanimously agreed.

ACTION:CLERK

12. Meadow Bank (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9-10)

a) Correspondence:

- i) Advice from Invicta Law: The advice was duly noted.
- ii) Email from Cllr Spooner: As BPC had requested other neighbours of Meadowbank not to cultivate, store items or fly-tip the land no exception could be made for residents of Hampson Way. Cllr F.Hughes proposed that a further letter will be sent to residents giving them 14 days to remove items on Meadowbank before a contractor will be instructed to dispose of any items remaining. This resolution was agreed with 5 in favour and 1 abstention.

ACTION:CLERK

- b) Quotation for clearing remaining fly-tipped waste: The Clerk will seek a quotation for the removal of any items remaining on the land after the 14 days referred to in item 12aii.

13. Open Spaces (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9-10)

a) Correspondence:

- i) Benches at Cricket Club: Cllr Broughton will call the Cricket Club to discuss the base of the benches.

ACTION:BROUGHTON

- b) Tree survey update: No update
- c) Plants for station bank: Cllr F Hughes explained that the plants can not survive without regular watering. She proposed that a quotation be sought for this to happen along with suggestions for appropriate plants. The resolution was agreed with a unanimous vote.
- d) Costs to replace beam at Woodland Trust play area: Cllr J.Hughes proposed to allow for £300 to replace the beam with MBC. The resolution was agreed with a unanimous vote.
- e) Cost to replace rope climb at Woodland Trust play area. Cllr J.Hughes proposed to allow for £300 to replace the rope climb with MBC. The resolution was agreed with a unanimous vote.
- f) Planter upkeep: Cllr F.Hughes will coordinate this with Cllr Bollom and the Clerk will speak with volunteers.

ACTION:CLERK/ F.HUGHES

14. Finance (Accounts and Audit Regulation 2011/817)

- a) Review budget: The budget was duly noted.

15. General Correspondence: None

16. Future Agenda Items: None

17. Date of next Meeting, 20th October 2020

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.44 hrs

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