



Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held remotely on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Erin Sugden, visiting member Cllr Denis Spooner, Steve Kirk (Wildwood Trust) and one member of the public.

**Reports from members of the public**

A member of the public reported they were disappointed that the Wild Cherry tree had been felled before a replacement was planted.

Cllr Spooner reported his disapproval of the plan for BPC to work with Wildwood Trust to create Wildlife Corridor for Meadowbank.

**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**

None.

**4. To resolve to go into closed session and to exclude the press and public at item 18(Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in accordance with standing order 10 (xi) for consideration of Project A.**

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

The minutes from Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

**6. Clerk's report**

No items to report.

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

a) Correspondence: None.

b) CCTV to cover car park: Further options are to be submitted to the Council for consideration at the next meeting. It was highlighted that the area is very dark and additional lights could be an advantage.

**ACTION: CLLR F HUGHES**

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

- c) To identify/ratify essential maintenance issues: It was suggested that the Parish sign on The Green could do with cleaning. Cllr Camp will investigate options.

**ACTION: CLLR CAMP**

- d) Community Payback: It was reported that the scheme will be returning but no date was confirmed.
- e) Queen Victoria Memorial refurbishment: A recommendation was made to contact with the Conservation Officer for guidance around the refurbishment of the memorial.

**ACTION: CLERK**

- f) Ground maintenance contract: It was proposed by Cllr Jenkins to accept the contract for Warings to continue with ground maintenance which was resolved by a unanimous vote.

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

- a) Correspondence: An email had been received thanking the committee for all the works taking place throughout the Parish.
- b) To review the finding of reports carried out about the surface of The Green play area: A basic care leaflet had been received from Matta which did not provide detailed information. The cleaning of the surface will take place within the next month and a review will be carried out afterwards.
- c) To consider new trees: A proposal was made for Cllr Broughton to investigate suitable replacements for the Wild Cherry tree, the Larch on the east side of The Green and the Purple Plum also located on the east side. A resolution was made with all in favour.
- d) Pond maintenance: Deferred to the next meeting for more information to be provided around what is included in the maintenance offering from the pond contractor.

**ACTION: CLERK**

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

- a) Correspondence: None.

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

- a) Correspondence: None.
- b) Meeting with Wildwood Trust: It was proposed for Cllr Broughton to be the point of contact for Wildwood Trust and a meeting to be arranged to discuss the management plan.

**ACTION: CLLR BROUGHTON/CLERK**

**12. Open Spaces (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9-10)**

- a) Correspondence: None.
- b) To consider a path from the Bearsted Woodland Trust via the Elizabeth Harvie Field to Crosskeys: Deferred for review in three months.
- c) To consider hiring temporary waste bins for areas within Bearsted: It was proposed by Cllr Broughton to hire one 1100lt bin for The Green to be in place before Easter and stay in place until at least the August bank holiday. It was resolved with 6 in favour and 1 abstention.

**13. Streetlights in Bearsted**

- a) To consider painting lamp posts that have replaced traditional green posts:  
The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to KCC and the Conservation officer of MBC regarding the replacement grey lamp posts within the Bearsted Conservation Area.

**14. Memorial Benches**

- a) To review the Memorial Bench Policy: The policy was reviewed and amendments were made to the locations of benches, any damages should be repaired by owners of benches and plaque size. The policy will be submitted to the Finance and General Policy Committee for review.

**ACTION: CLERK**

- b) To review the process for bench plinths: Cllr Broughton proposed allowing a concrete plinth no larger than the footprint of the bench and 100mm in depth to be install for a bench to affix on to. It was resolved with a unanimous vote.
- c) To consider new requests for memorial benches: A memorial bench for Michael Filmer was considered. With his significant association to Bearsted the committee resolved to approve the application with a unanimous vote. The location of the old Jubilee bench will be offered to the applicant.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**15. General Correspondence**

None received.

**16. Future Agenda Items**

- CCTV to cover car park
- Community Payback
- Queen Victoria Memorial refurbishment
- To review the finding of reports carried out about the surface of The Green play area
- To consider new trees
- Pond maintenance

**17. Date of next Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**18. Closed Session**

- Project A- Invoice process
- No show rounds of new allotment plots will be permitted due to COVID restrictions and therefore no new members can join for the time being.

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

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