



Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held remotely on Tuesday 21st April 2021 at 7.30pm

Present:

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

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Erin Sugden 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

None.

4. To resolve to go into closed session and to exclude the press and public at item 17(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 23rd March 2021 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

6. Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that the pond maintenance was resolved in the Full Council meeting, a meeting was being arranged with the Wildwood Trust and the Memorial Bench Policy was agreed by the Full Council.

19.34: Cllr Peters joined the meeting

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

a) Correspondence

- i. Car Park Activity: Antisocial behaviour had been reported and the resident advised they should contact the Police.
- ii. Care of Lavender plants: It was proposed by Cllr F.Hughes for Warings to maintain the Lavender which was resolved with all in favour.
ACTION: CLERK
- iii. Girl Guide hut hire: The Girl Guides asked if they were permitted to sublet their hut to other children's organisations. The Clerk will investigate if hire charges are being suggested and if not will then ensure there are no legal obstacles within the lease for hosting children's organisations at the Girl Guide hut.
ACTION: CLERK

- b) CCTV to cover car park: It was requested for the Clerk to gain quotations for two 4G CCTV cameras to cover the vehicle entry point and the car park at Church Lane.

ACTION:CLERK

- c) Surface of footpath: The condition of the footpath was considered, and it was proposed by Cllr J Hughes to defer the subject until after the Tennis Club have completed any building works. Which was resolved with all in favour.

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

- a) To identify/ratify essential maintenance issues: None.
- b) Parish sign - The Green: Cllr Camp gave a report of the condition of the sign and proposed that it should be taken down (with the assistance of Lee Harrison) and inspected further. This was resolved with all in favour.
- c) Finger post sign- The Green: The finger post requires adjustment to realign it. Cllr J.Hughes proposed for Lee Harrison to rectify the issue. This was resolved with all in favour. It was also requested that the Clerk contact KCC Highways and request for the post to be renovated due to its deteriorating state.

ACTION: CLERK

- d) Community Payback: The team will be requested to assist the Holy Cross Church, paint the gate on the Church Landway and litter pick from Manor Rise down footpath KM 75 along the Church Landway. The Clerk will distribute a list of dates for Councillors to meet with the CPT.

ACTION: CLERK

- e) Queen Victoria Memorial refurbishment: It was proposed by Cllr Jenkins for the Clerk to contact English Heritage for advice which was resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: CLERK

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

- a) Correspondence:
- i. Ducks at the Pond: Ducks have been seen in the pond and a request from a resident was made to install a duck house. Cllr F.Hughes proposed not to install a duck house as the ducks are wild and may not stay. This was resolved with all in favour.
- b) To review the finding of reports carried out about the surface of The Green play area: Deferred to the next meeting.
- c) To consider new trees: Cllr Broughton circulated an initial report but is waiting to meet with a local Arboriculturalist.
- d) To consider costs for a safety sign at the pond: A sign to inform users of The Green not to stand on the new filtration system for the pond was discussed. Cllr J.Hughes proposed that that once the new hedge is in place access will be restricted but a temporary fencing could be installed for the time being. This was resolved with all in favour.
- e) To consider posts for The Green: A car was recently seen parking on top of the pipe work leading to the pond's filtration system on The Green which could have caused damage. It was proposed by Cllr F.Hughes for quotations to be sought for low height posts to prevent access. It was resolved with all in favour.

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:
- i. Cllr Jenkins reported on a correspondence received explaining about Heal Rewilding who are a charity that fund nature recovery projects. He suggested that if BPC require funding for Meadowbank they may be able to assist. Further investigation will be carried out.

CLLR: JENKINS/BROUGHTON

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

- a) Correspondence: None
- b) To ratify cost for litter picker hi-vis jackets: Cllr J.Hughes proposed to ratify £59.50 for 10 hi-viz jackets for volunteer litter pickers which was resolved with all in favour.

13. Terms of Reference

The TOR were considered, and it was proposed by Cllr Broughton to remove reference to traffic and transport matters and insert delegation to the Clerk for urgent matters outside of committee meeting. This was resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: CLERK

14. General Correspondence

- a) Great British Clean: It was proposed by Cllr J.Hughes for BPC to host a 'Great British Clean' on the weekend of the 5th June which was resolved with all in favour.
- b) Letter regarding trees by St Faiths Lane: A letter had been received regarding concern about trees located next to the St Faith Lane footpath over hanging on to resident's property. The matter had been discussed previously with the resident. When the Tree Preservation Officer of MBC visit the site on 8th October 2020 he advised that the trees were safe and required no maintenance. If residents wished to prune branches 3-4m away from their properties, they would need to seek permission from MBC and BPC. The Clerk will respond to the resident.
- c) Waste at Bearsted Golf Club: It was requested if BPC could put a message on their website informing people not to drop litter while walking through the golf course. It was suggested that a direct message about the golf course could not be published but a general message about littering could be uploaded.

ACTION: CLERK

15. Future Agenda Items

Surface of The Green play area
Heal Rewilding
Tree Maintenance
Future of land next to St Faith Lane footpath
CCTV Church Lane car park
Posts for The Green
Queen Victoria Memorial refurbishment
Parish sign - The Green

16. Date of next Meeting, To be confirmed

There being no further business to transact, the meeting moved to the closed session at 21.19 hrs

17. Closed Session

Project A- Legal Matters: There were no matters to discuss.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.20 hrs

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