



Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at the Holy Cross Church, Church Lane on Tuesday 22nd June 2021 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Martin Broughton (Chair)  
Cllr Suzanne Camp  
Cllr Jon Hughes

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Erin Sugden, Cllr Ash 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

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr T Jenkins, F Hughes and P Marshall MBE.

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

None.

#### 4. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes from Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

#### 5. Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that all actions were completed from the last meeting and where appropriate added to the agenda to be discussed.

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

##### a) Correspondence:

- i. Drain blockage: A message was received informing the committee that the drain was blocked at the Church Lane Car Park. The maintenance contractor will be requested to clear the drain.

**ACTION: CLERK**

- b) CCTV to cover car park: Three quotations were considered but the committee felt it would be appropriate to pass the research to the Project A working group so that CCTV could be considered within the scope of the Project and once feedback has been received from members of the public.

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

- a) To identify/ratify essential maintenance issues: The hexagonal bench on the Green remains unfixed so the maintenance contractor will be requested to address this.

- b) Parish sign - The Green: Cllr Camp reported that the coloured paint was no longer available (photos will be sent to the committee) but a supplier has been found that could colour match. Costs are still to be received.

The post does require specialist care which will be investigated by Cllr J Hughes.

**ACTION: CLLRS CAMP/HUGHES/CLERK**

- c) Finger post sign- The Green: The maintenance contractor is in the process of sourcing the correct fittings for the post and will reinstate it once they have been acquired.
- d) Community Payback: Cllr Peters has taken on the management of this scheme and will liaise directly with the Justice Department.  
**ACTION: CLLR PETERS**
- e) Queen Victoria Memorial refurbishment: The Clerk will contact a specialist carpenter to advice on the refurbishment.  
**ACTION: CLERK**
- f) To consider maintenance works to play areas: A number of issues/recommendations have been raised by MBC. The Clerk will seek quotations for the recommendations to be remedied.  
**ACTION: CLERK**
- g) To secure the Bearsted Woodland play area entrance sign: The Clerk will ask the maintenance contractor to fix the sign back in to place.  
**ACTION: CLERK**

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

- a) Correspondence: None.
- b) To review the finding of reports carried out about the surface of The Green play area: At the present time after the dry weather the surface is not slippery. This issue will be monitored.
- c) To consider new trees: Cllr Broughton advised the committee he was to meet with a local arboriculturist and will report back next month.  
**ACTION: CLLR BROUGHTON**
- d) To consider quotations for posts for The Green: Five contractors had been requested to quote to install posts on the edge of the land where to pond is located. Only two companies provided costs. It was proposed by Cllr J.Hughes to accept the quotation from Andrew French for £1895.00+VAT which was resolved with all in favour.
- e) To consider painting post on The Green: The committee considered painting all wooden bollards on The Green but it was proposed that as the posts were oak this was not suitable. It was resolved not to paint the bollards with all in favour.

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

- a) Correspondence: Correspondence have been received regarding Project A which the Working Group will be responding to.

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

- a) Correspondence: None.
- b) To consider removal of materials used to make a camp: Cllrs Broughton and Hughes volunteered to collect the items left at a camp located on Meadowbank. Warnings will be requested to dispose of the waste at a cost to BPC.  
**ACTION: CLLR BROUGHTON/HUGHES**
- c) Heal Rewilding and The Wildwood Trust: Cllr Broughton will arrange a remote meeting with both parties to discuss their suggested ideas and report back at the next meeting.  
**ACTION: CLLR BROUGHTON**

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

- a) Correspondence: None.
- b) To consider construction of tiered plant bases opposite the train station: To safeguard the plants that have been approved for this area it was suggested that

a tiered bank could be constructed to retain water and soil. Cllrs Hughes & Camp will check with KCC for permissions and investigate costs.

**ACTION: CLLR HUGHES/CAMP**

- c) Tree maintenance: The latest tree assessment was considered and the Lime trees on The Green will be inspected as it was reported there was a large amount of dead wood.

**ACTION: CLLR BROUGHTON**

- d) Nice to chat bench in Madginford: It was suggested that a 'Nice to Chat' bench is installed at the Madginford Shops. Permission will be sought from MBC with Cllr Hughes proposing to spend up to £30 on a plaque. It was resolved with all in favour.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**12. To consider the future of the land next to footpath KM73 (St Faiths Lane)**

(Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9-10)

It was suggested that BPC should consider offering residents that back on to the land aside of the footpath KM73 the chance to take possession of it. Members spoke of the on-going issues and costs that BPC have faced since being donated the land from the developer. It was proposed to recommend this to the Full Council which was resolved with all in favour.

**13. General Correspondence**

None.

**14. Future Agenda Items**

- Finger post sign
- Parish sign - The Green
- Plant a Tree for the Jubilee

**15. Date of next Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

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