



## Bearsted Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Manor Rise on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Martin Broughton (Chair)  
Cllr Suzanne Camp  
Cllr Mike Harris  
Cllr Mark Peters  
Cllr Adam Powell

Also, in attendance were Clerk Erin Sugden, Cllr Denis Spooner, and one member of the public.

Before the meeting convened:

Cllr Spooner raised a point of order concerning the agenda. He stated that the first item on the agenda should refer to the election of a Chairman of the committee for the forthcoming municipal year and that the meeting could not proceed until a Chairman had been duly elected. He stated that it would be unlawful for the meeting to proceed without an elected Chairman but, as there was no item on the agenda to elect a Chairman, it could not be added now. Therefore, he considered that the meeting would have to be abandoned and reconvened at a later date with a revised agenda including, as its first item, the election of a Chairman.

After debate and receiving advice from the Clerk, the committee decided to proceed with the meeting. Cllr Spooner then stated that he did not wish to continue attending a potentially unlawful meeting, so he withdrew from the meeting; sat in the public gallery; and took no further part in the meeting.

### **Reports from members of the public**

A member of the public raised concerns about water on the highway south of The Green where it meets Church Lane. He reported foul water had been witnessed. Concern was also raised about 3 kerbstones being removed at the Church Lane car park by a contractor that did not specialise in drainage.

#### **1. Declarations of intention to record**

The Clerk declared that the meeting was to be recorded for minuting purposes.

#### **2. Apologies and absences.**

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr J Hughes, Cllr F Hughes, and Cllr T Jenkins.

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

None.

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

The minutes from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

#### **5. Clerk's report**

The clerk gave an update on the actions from last month, many were due for discussion within the meeting.

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

**(10mins)**

##### a) Correspondence:

- i. Drainage email KCC: KCC had sent an email requesting information regarding the discharge of water from the Acro drain at the Church Lane car park. The clerk will respond.

**ACTION: CLERK**

- ii. Email from a resident: An email had been received from a resident who raised concern about 3 kerbstones being removed at the Church Lane car park by a contractor that did not specialise in drainage. It was explained that this is a short-term trial until evidence can be proven that there are any water-related issues with the car park.
- b) To review quotations for expert drainage advice: 3 quotations were considered by members with Cllr Peters proposing to appoint Evans and Langford at a cost of £200+VAT. This would be for a site inspection and then a written report about surface water drainage with potential recommendations about drainage. This resolution was resolved unanimously.

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

- a) To identify/ratify essential maintenance issues: Cllr Peters is to remove the graffiti on the play areas at both the Green and Bearsted Woodland Trust play area.
- b) Community Payback: Cllr Peters reported that the CPS has not been able to provide a team for the past few weeks but will make contact to continue the initiative.

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

- a) Correspondence:
  - i. Drainage on highway South of The Green: A resident had highlighted that water was present on an area of the highway that had previously been reported to KCC. KCC had reported all issues were resolved but this does not seem to be the case. The Clerk will re-report the issue to KCC and ask for them to meet with BPC.

**ACTION: CLERK**

- b) To receive an update on the maintenance schedule of The Green: Cllr Broughton reported that he had met with the Chairman of Bearsted Cricket Club to discuss the need for a maintenance schedule for the Green and for the club to pay for any treatments specific to their needs. Cllr Broughton will arrange to meet with Bearsted Football Club to discuss the same matters. Warnings will also be invited to the meeting. Cllr Broughton will report back at the next meeting.

**ACTION: CLLR BROUGHTON**

- c) To receive an update on the location of the cricket club practice cage: Cllr Broughton confirmed that the new cage will be stored during the off-season under a cover, folded together in the same position as the old cage.
- d) To receive an update about the Parish sign: Cllrs Camp and Peters explained that the contractor had changed the way the post was to be installed. Cllr Peters will contact the contractor before the installation on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May. It was reported that there were potentially additional costs that will be reported to the Full Council.

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

- a) Correspondence: None.
- b) To review the costs of a skip for Church Lane allotment: The committee discussed the request from the CLAA for a skip. Members wanted to know what they required to be removed. It was proposed by Cllr Peters that Greenbox (£235+VAT) should be hired providing the CLAA can confirm that the waste is not from general allotment activity but one-off deposits of items. This was unanimously agreed. The Clerk will contact the CLAA

**ACTION: CLERK**

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

- a) Correspondence: None.
- b) To receive an update on the management plan: Cllr Broughton had emailed Wildwood Trust but had not received a response. A follow-up correspondence will be sent.

**ACTION: CLLR BROUGHTON**

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

- a) Correspondence:
  - i. Request for new water pipe- St Faiths Lane: Consideration was made to a suggestion of installing a new water mains to a new dwelling planned at St.Faiths Lane via footpath KM73. Members felt more information was required and Cllr Powell proposed he would contact the resident to ask for more detail. This was unanimously agreed.

**ACTION: CLLR POWELL**

**12. Bearsted Woodland Play area**

Members considered the initial project plan for the suggested new equipment at the Bearsted Woodland play area. It was proposed by Cllr Peters that the process was appropriate which was resolved unanimously. The Clerk will start to arrange site visits with suppliers recommended by Cllr Harris.

**13. General Correspondence**

None

**14. Future Agenda Items**

Bearsted Woodland Play Area  
Budget review  
Play area safety signs

**15. Date of next Meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Madginford Hall.**

**There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 9:16pm**

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