



Minutes of the Communications Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at King George V Memorial Hall, Manor Rise on Tuesday 19th December 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr David Hall Chairman
Cllr Denis Spooner Vice Chairman
Cllr James Day
Cllr Pat Catt
Cllr Clive English
Cllr Sean Turner

Also present was the Deputy Clerk Amy Bush, one member of the public and visiting members Cllr Richard Ash, Cllr Val Springett and Cllr Frank Jagger.

Reports from members of the public

A representative from the Cricket Club addressed the Council at item 10.

1. Declarations of intention to record

The Deputy Clerk declared she would be recording the meeting for minuting purposes.

2. Apologies for absences

Apologies received and noted from Cllr Martha Monday.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

None were declared.

4. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Communications Committee meeting on the Tuesday 17th October 2023 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

5. Office report

The Deputy Clerk advised that a resident had informed the office a petition had been circulating relating to speeding on the A20. This will be referred to the Traffic and Transport committee.

6. Correspondence from resident

Item not required.

Cllr Hall proposed to move item 10 as the next agenda item. This was agreed with all in favour.

10. Cricket Club 275 Year Celebration

A representative from the Cricket Club updated the committee on the celebration plans. Several matches will be scheduled to mark the anniversary. These dates will be communicated to the BPC office. The book is due to be published in the New Year. The Hazlett Theatre will include the celebrations in their summer performance and volunteers will support Playscheme offering local children an introduction to cricket. BPC will help to showcase the latest drone pictures and promote the upcoming events.

7. Events (LGA 1972 s145 (1)(a))

The Chairman recapped on the report he circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the BPC's mission statement would be redrafted with events in mind. Councilors agreed that events needed to be reviewed and refreshed regularly carefully considering the cost and time verses the benefit to the community. Councilors discussed the requirements for the APM venue. They considered that the number of guests could exceed 100 and ample parking would be required. It was agreed with all in favour to host the event at Bearsted Golf Club. The cycle of the Mynn Awards was discussed and it was agreed that the presentation should be included at the APM. As the Mynn Awards for 2023 took place in November it was agreed that the next awards would take place at the 2025 APM.

Cllr Spooner joined the meeting at 19.47.

1. Fireworks: It was agreed with all in favour that in principle the event should continue. Due to the risk posed by weather the ticket cancellation policy and insurances would be reviewed. Outsourcing the event management will also be considered in the future.
2. Market on the Green: No update.
3. Playscheme: It was agreed with all in favour that in principle the event should continue. BPC to review location and staffing budgets in the new year.
4. Old Time Music: It was agreed with all in favour to rest the event in 2024 and look at other options to include a wider demographic possibly collaborating with other similar local events and supporting the U3A.
5. Other Event suggestions:
The Christmas market was discussed and it was agreed with all in favour that subject to the event being externally managed it would run again in 2024. As the weather poses such a risk to the ground addition matting or event flooring would be investigated. The light switch on would be reviewed as a possible separate event if the market takes a different format in the future.
6. Externally organised events:
 - a) Bearsted Fayre: Scheduled for Saturday 29th June 2024.
 - b) Classic Cars on the Green: Scheduled for Sunday 21st July 2024.

8. KALC Community Award Scheme

The award scheme was discussed. All councilors agreed that Bearsted did not need to adopt the scheme as the Mynn Awards currently run by BPC was a well-established and recognised format.

9. Media, printed and internal communication (LGA 1972 s142)

- a) Newsletters items: Cllrs agreed the following items should be included in the next newsletter: APM date and venue, upcoming election, future events, community engagement and an update from the Traffic and Transport committee.
- b) Website: The Deputy Clerk reported that the project was ongoing and the Clerk would update Councillors at the next meeting of the Full Council.
- c) Social media: The committee discussed the need for a standard response to comments and it was decided at this stage nothing was required.
- d) Noticeboard request: The Committee discussed a request from the Masonic Lodge to add posters to the noticeboards. It was agreed that at present BPC would not be able to accommodate the posters and a review into what advertisements if any would be supported on BPC media outlets in the future. Item to be added to Full Council in January.

11. Christmas Lights

The committee agreed that investigation was needed around the replacement or repair of the existing motifs and the office would also look at options for installation and hire of decorations.

12. Noticeboard

It was proposed to replace the noticeboard on the Ashford Road. This was agreed with all in favour to except a quote from Greenbarnes to install a noticeboard to match the other newer style noticeboards within the Parish.

13. Rob Turner art project

Cllr Sean Turner proposed that the Parish could benefit from an art installation which would engage residents and visitors showcasing local history. It was agreed that Cllr Turner would arrange to view a recent installation by the artist in the New Year so Councilors could make an informed decision.

14. Future Agenda Items

Standing items – Events and Media.

Art project update

Cricket 275 Celebrations

Christmas lights

15. Date for next meeting

20th February 2024.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.34hr

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