



**Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at Madginford Hall,
Egremont Road on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7.30pm**

Present:	Cllr David Hall (Chairman)	Cllr Clive English
	Cllr Denis Spooner (Vice)	Cllr Frank Jagger
	Cllr Richard Ash	Cllr Sean Turner
	Cllr Pat Catt	Cllr Chris Waters
	Cllr James Day	

Also, in attendance were the Clerk Joanne Upton and 2 Police Officers and 1 member of the public.

Cllr Hall introduced PC Philips and PC Greenfield. PC Philips spoke about the area he covers and some of the initiatives they are working on. Cllr Turner asked if anything can be done in light of the withdrawal of Childrens Services by KCC. PC Philips explained they are running a fishing initiative which is working really well.

Reports from members of the public

There were no reports from the public.

1. Declarations of intention to record.

The Clerk declared the meeting would be recorded for minuting purposes.

2. Apologies and absences.

Apologies were received and noted for Cllr Mike Harris, Cllr Martha Monday, Cllr Alan Rowe, Cllr Carolyn Smith and Cllr Val Springett.

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

None declared.

4. To resolve to go into closed session and to exclude the press and public at item 13 (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in accordance with standing order 10 (xi) HR Matters.

Cllr Hall proposed to go into closed session at item 13, which was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.

5. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting.

- a) The minutes of the Full Council meeting 12th March 2024 were signed as a true record.
- b) The minutes of the Planning meeting 27th February 2024 were signed as a true record.
- c) The minutes of the HR meeting 20th October 2024 were signed as a true record.
- d) The minutes of the APM meeting 2nd April 2024 were not signed under advice from Cllr English, as it was not a meeting of the Council but a Parish meeting. Cllr Chris Waters name to be added to the minutes.

6. Reports:

- a) Borough Councillors: Cllr Spooner acknowledged the issues residents have faced with the new waste collection contract but is in the process of being resolved. Cllr English advised residents need to report to their Borough Councillors as the MBC reporting and communication systems are not working.
Cllr English reported that the period for challenging the Local Plan review is coming to an end so will be finalised soon.

- b) Community Warden: No report received.
- c) Police: Reported at the start of the meeting.
- d) Clerk: The Clerk had nothing to report.
- e) Chairman: The Chairman confirmed 12 Councillors have been re-elected uncontested. He thanked Cllr's Harris and Rowe for their contribution as they did not stand this year. Cllr Hall thanked the Council for their support at the APM, which had received great feedback. Cllr Jagger asked how the Council will recruit for the remaining vacancies, this will be referred to the Communications Committee.

ACTION: COMMS COMMITTEE

7. Committee Meeting and Working Group Reports

- a) Finance Working Group: The Bearsted & Thurnham Fayre committee requested a grant of £400 to separate rubbish after the event. Cllr Turner queried if the contractor Suez already separates the waste. Cllr Hall proposed to approve the grant subject to confirming if Suez already offer this, this was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with 8 in favour and one against.

ACTION: OFFICE / CLLR SPRINGETT

The working group recommend closing the Skipton bank account and opening a Nationwide one year fixed rate account, mainly due to the access and admin issues with Skipton. Cllr Waters suggested looking at longer fixed term accounts. The Council agreed we need to quickly take action to resolve the Skipton issues. The Cambridge and NatWest accounts need reviewing and these funds can be invested into longer fixed term accounts. Cllr Hall proposed to close the Skipton account, open the Nationwide one year fixed rate savings account, the Clerk will be the Administrator, the signatories will be Cllr's Hall, Jagger, Ash & Smith. This was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with all in favour.

Cllr Hall advised that Whitehead Monckton have provided draft Heads of Terms and a draft lease, once the working group members have read and commented a meeting will be made with the Tennis Club. The Council need to establish how Trustees of the Tennis Club are appointed.

ACTION: LEASES WORKING GROUP

- b) Environment Committee: In the absence of the Chair & Vice Chair of the Committee the Clerk read the recommendations to Full Council. The Committee voted to instruct one contractor to undertake all the highlighted tree work from the annual inspection. This will go back to Environment once two further quotes are received. The Committee voted to accept the Premier Timber quote and fitting cost by Lee Harrison. The Council agreed to defer as the cost for the metal spikes was missing from papers. Cllr Waters asked for confirmation if the timber is C16 or C24 treated.

ACTION: OFFICE

The Committee recommend increasing the allotment rent by 20% to assist with costs for improvements and maintenance of the two allotment sites. Cllr English proposed to accept the cost, which was seconded by Cllr Jagger and resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: OFFICE

- c) Traffic Committee: Cllr Ash reported a recent speed survey had been undertaken on Lilik Hill on the Ashford Road, with averages speeds of 34 mph coming into Bearsted and 32 mph leaving the village. It was disappointing that only one resident attended the meeting for this agenda item. The Committee are looking at Speed Watch initiatives and investigating the possibility of average speed cameras. KCC are undertaking a further 8 speed surveys along the A20 from Bearsted to Lenham, and further meetings will be held once these have been completed.

The station crossing should be installed in the next few months.

The Copsewood Way/Cavendish Way double yellow lines are progressing as are the double yellow lines at the corner of Roseacre Lane & Ashford Road.

ACTION: OFFICE

- d) Reports from members of the Council for outside bodies: Cllr English advised there is a Network Rail meeting next week, which will be attended by a South Eastern Railway manager. Cllr Ash reported there were numerous complaints at the KALC meeting about the road closures and Highways leaving signage and sandbags. Salt bins need to be monitored by Parish Councils. The Model Code of Conduct & Parish Carter are still in the process of being

revised. KALC have asked Parish Councils to speak to village halls to identify the impact the of the 20% rate relief being withdrawn from the next financial year.

8. Finance (Accounts and Audit Regulation 2011/817)

- a) Resolution to approve quotations or payments.
 - i. Cllr Ash proposed to accept the cost of a radio for the office at £40, this was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with all in favour.
 - ii. Cllr Hall proposed to accept the invoice for £1765.00 for the renewal membership to KALC, this was seconded by Cllr Spooner and resolved with all in favour.
- b) Authorise March payments: Cllr Hall proposed to accept the payments, this was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with all in favour.
- c) Finance Reports: Cllr Hall proposed to accept the reports, this was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with all in favour.
- d) Balances of accounts: Cllr Hall proposed to accept the balances, this was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.

9. Policies

- a) Financial Regulations: Cllr Ash noted a wording amendment under point 4.6 and the documents needs formatting in line with our other policy documents. Cllr Hall proposed to adopt the policy with the agreed amendments, which was seconded by Cllr Spooner and resolved with 8 in favour and 1 abstention.
- b) Equality & Diversity Policy: Cllr English confirmed this policy has been replaced by the Civility & Respect Model.
- c) Term of Reference for Planning Working Group: Cllr English proposed to adopt the document with amendments to the wording under item 4 to 'Committee Clerk, in conjunction with working group members'. This was seconded by Cllr Waters and resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: CLERK

10. Meadow Bank Fencing

The Clerk advised that a resident whose property backs on to Meadow Bank had advised their fence is being pushed over by a secondary fence and vegetation on BPC land. The Clerk had met the residents with the Grounds Maintenance contractor who suggested the secondary fence be removed and some vegetation cut back. The Council queried why the residents could not fix, repair or replace their fence from their side and likely the fence is collapsing with the amount of ivy growing on it, but that is the resident's responsibility to remove the ivy. It was agreed that Cllr's Hall, Jagger, Spooner and English would attend a site meeting to investigate further.

ACTION: CLLR's HALL/ JAGGER/ SPOONER/ ENGLISH

11. Community Warden

Cllr Hall explained another parish had decided to employ their Community Warden directly. Queries were raised on who would provide direction and information to the employed Warden if not directed by KCC, possibility on sharing with other parishes, but who would employ. The Council agreed to wait until the outcome from KCC on Thursday and discuss the possibility further.

12. Planning Validation Consultation

Cllr Ash advised this does not relate to Parish Council so there is no need to provide comments.

13. Closed Session

Cllr Hall updated the Council on the resolution of a HR matter.

14. Future Agenda Items

Community Warden

Meadow Bank

Wooden Posts

15. Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 14th May 2024

There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.25 hrs

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