



**Minutes of the Communications Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at King George V Memorial Hall, Manor Rise on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr David Hall Chairman  
Cllr James Day  
Cllr Clive English  
Cllr Sean Turner  
Cllr Martha Monday

**Also present was the Deputy Clerk Amy Bush and visiting member Cllr Richard Ash.**

**Reports from members of the public**

None.

**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 Pat Catt and Cllr Denis Spooner.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

**5. Office report**

The Deputy Clerk shared the late paper received from Cllr English which included a draft Publicity Policy. Councillors discussed the draft and referred this to the Finance and General Policy Committee.

**6. Correspondence from residents**

The Deputy Clerk advised the committee that residents had contacted the office regarding Playscheme dates. The queries will be discussed at item 7c.

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

- a) Fireworks: The Chairman shared that he has been researching other Parish run events and will report back with a full update in April. The ticket cost and insurance were discussed. Options for ticket holders will be investigated should the event be cancelled due to bad weather in the future.
- b) Market on the Green: A successful start to the year. No requests from the Market Manager at present.
- c) Playscheme: It was agreed with all in favour that if no alternative was available the Playscheme would run with the availability of the venue and organiser for 8 days starting on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July. Due to increased staffing costs ticket prices will be reviewed.
- d) Old Time Music: Alternative options were discussed including an event collaborating with the u3a or other amateur dramatic groups. Visiting member Cllr Ash agreed to make contact with the u3a to suggest some ideas. The office to look into other entertainment.
- e) Christmas Market on the Green: Councillors discussed alternative options to mark the light switch on if the Christmas Market takes a different format.
- f) Other Event suggestions:  
Cllr Monday suggested that as the Hazlett had successfully used the Green for children's theatre productions that other theatre groups could make use of the space. Cllr Monday agreed to look into local companies that may offer performances aimed at adults.
- g) Externally organised events:
  - i. Bearsted Fayre: The Committee agreed with all in favour that the event could go ahead on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024 subject to formal application completion.
  - ii. Classic Cars on the Green: The Committee agreed with all in favour that the event could go ahead on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024 subject to formal application completion.

**ACTION:** Office, Cllr Monday, Cllr Ash and Cllr Hall

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

- a) Newsletters items: Cllrs reviewed the draft February newsletter and made some amendments to the wording. The office will publish on the noticeboards, all media outlets and send to those on the mailing list.
- 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: No updates.
- d) Noticeboards: The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the replacement noticeboard for the Ashford Road is due to be delivered this week. The Committee voted with all in favour to accept the quote for installation.

**9. Cricket Club 275 Year celebrations**

The Deputy Clerk informed the Committee that information about the celebrations had been shared on all of our media outlets. More updates will go out as events continue. Use of the Green noticeboard will be offered for history pictures and posters in the spring / summer.

**10. Christmas lights**

The Deputy Clerk advised the Committee that it may be possible to repair damaged motifs rather than replace and that contact had been made with KCC regarding the application. Further research into contractors and additional decorations will continue.

**ACTION:** Office

**11. Rob Turner art project**

Cllr Turner confirmed that himself, Cllr Catt and Cllr Springett will meet with the artist and view his work. Options and ideas for an installation in Bearsted will be discussed and reported back. Cllr Turner queried if a grant could be obtained from MBC. Cllr English to share the Arts and Culture officers contact details so this can be investigated.

**ACTION:** Cllr Turner and Cllr English

**12. Ashford Road Post Office**

It was agreed that the Post Office email address would be shared so residents could seek updates. Helen Whately has made enquiries but unfortunately the response she received had no further information.

**13. Future Agenda Items**

Standing items – Events and Media.  
Art project update  
Cricket 275 Celebrations  
Christmas lights  
Ashford Road Post Office

**14. Date for next meeting**

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024.

**There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.06hr**

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