



## Bearsted Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at the King George V Memorial Hall, Manor Rise on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Mike Harris Chairman      Cllr Pat Catt  
Cllr Richard Ash MBE

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Joanne Upton, there were no members of the public.

### Reports from members of the public

There were none.

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

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

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

Apologies and reasons were duly noted for Cllr's Frank Jagger, Carolyn Smith & Denis Spooner.

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

There were none declared.

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

The minutes from 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

#### 5. **Clerk report**

The Clerk advised the Committee that the office will delay getting quotes for the pond repairs until later in the year. The Grounds Maintenance schedule of works and rates is being worked on in conjunction with Warings and that Cllr Hall was speaking to KCC regarding the grids to cover the road drains, to prevent debris entering and blocking the drainage system around the Green. All issues will be reported back in future meetings.

**ACTION: OFFICE**

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

a) Car park barrier: Cllr Harris shared his experience and knowledge of barrier systems being used in other public car parks and proposed to reject installing a barrier, this was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.

b) Removal of old steps at car park: Cllr Harris proposed to accept the quote of £228 to remove the old broken steps and add an additional handrail next to the new steps. This was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.

**ACTION: OFFICE**

c) Planning Application for the Tennis Club: Cllr Ash explained this has also been reviewing by the Planning Committee. The Committee agreed the following issues need to be addressed:-

Applicant to detail where and how large vehicles will turn around to exit the site.

Applicant to provide a condition survey of the Church Landway surface confirming that repairs will be undertaken during works if necessary and to reinstate the surface at completion.

Further details are required to show the planned mitigation for loss of biodiversity. No work to be undertaken at weekends.

- d) Car Park Drainage: The Clerk advised the report has still not been received from Evans & Langford, this item has been deferred.

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

- a) Community Payback Scheme: Cllr Ash reported on the work undertaken by the CPS, Cllr Catt has agreed to meet the CPS team on their next visit in March.

**ACTION: CLLR CATT**

- b) Cinder Path and Church Landway Maintenance: The Clerk report this work has not been undertaken for many years and there is a large amount of vegetation to clear and cut back. On going yearly works will be included in the schedule of works. Cllr Harris proposed to accept Warings quote for £1200.00, this was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.

**ACTION: OFFICE**

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

- a) Wooden posts: The Committee rejected the quotes as hardwood is not required, wood should be treated. The Committee is still unsure whether additional posts should be installed at the South side of the Green as this may interfere with cricket play. It was agreed to reinvestigate the quotes.

**ACTION: OFFICE**

- b) Cricket Covers: The Committee reviewed the information received from the Cricket Club. Cllr Harris proposed to approve continued use of the covers providing their insurance company can write to BPC to confirm they are satisfied with the measures put in place.

**ACTION: CLLR OFFICE**

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

- a) Removal of conifer tree: Cllr Ash proposed to accept the quote of £120 to remove the tree. This was seconded by Cllr Harris and resolved with all in favour.

**ACTION: CLLR OFFICE**

- b) Fencing along car park side: The Committee agreed that the proposal to board up the mound of earth and then replace the fencing above the concrete boards was more cost effective than removing the large mound of earth. It was agreed the office will source quotes later in the year and propose to include in the budget for the next financial year.

**ACTION: OFFICE**

- c) Allotment Plot Deposit: Cllr Harris proposed to raise the plot deposit to £80, all residents already on the waiting list will only be charged the current rate of £30. This was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.

**ACTION: OFFICE**

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

- a) Fees for Green Space Use: The Committee agreed to add Not for Profit organisations to being exempt from fees. Smaller ticketed events could be charged less than the standard fee, this would be assessed on a case by case basis. The Committee decided that further thought be given to the charge for activity classes.

**ACTION: CLERK / CLLR HARRIS**

- b) Medway Valley Countryside Partnership: Cllr Harris proposed to accept the increased prices for the workdays for the pond and Meadow Bank, this was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.

**ACTION: OFFICE**

- c) Footpath on the Elizabeth Harvie Field: The Committee agreed to defer this item and assess when the weather improves and consider reinstatement work rather than a footpath.
- d) Location for wild meadow: Consideration was given to several locations, but the Committee decided to defer this item and consider bulb planting around the village for the next agenda.

**11. Biodiversity Duty Statement**

Cllr Harris proposed to adopt the statement, this was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**12. Environment Round Table Meeting**

Cllr Ash updated the Committee on the meeting. Helen Whately suggested community orchards. Cllr Ash updated the meeting on initiatives in Bearsted, including the work of Bearsted CAN.

**13. General Correspondence**

Rental Request: The Committee requested the resident provides more details on their coffee stall set up, including size and how transported. May be able to consider set up in the car park. Defer until in receipt of more details.

**ACTION: OFFICE**

**14. Future Agenda Items**

- Maintaining 2 large planters
- Allotments
- Bulb planting
- Wooden bollards at the Green
- Pond repairs
- Community Pay Back Scheme
- Church Lane car park drainage
- Ground maintenance contract
- Road drain gullies

**15. Date of next Meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 21:29pm**

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