



Bearsted Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at the King George V Memorial Hall, Manor Rise on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Carolyn Smith Vice Chair Cllr Pat Catt
 Cllr Richard Ash MBE

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Joanne Upton, and two 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 Mike Harris, Frank Jagger, & 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 29th February 2024 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

5. **Clerk report**

The Clerk advised that Warnings had been instructed to lay bark at the Cross Keys entrance to the Elizabeth Harvie field and the cost will be ratified at the next Full Council meeting as this had become a safety issue for residents.

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

a) 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 Catt reported that due to the rain the team started later but did a great job clearing the area around the Madginford shops, the school and the footpath to Ragstone Road. Cllr Catt will also meet the CPS team on their next visit in April.

ACTION: CLLR CATT

b) To consider the annual tree inspection surveys: Cllr Catt proposed to have all the works done as this is within next years budget. This was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour. The Clerk will seek 2 additional quotes for the works.

ACTION: CLERK

c) Signage at Madginford Hall: Cllr Springett had requested consideration of 'turn off engine' signs for the Hall car park. Cllr Ash suggested we write to the Hall Committee first.

ACTION: CLERK

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

Wooden posts: Cllr Ash proposed to accept the supply cost of £14.88 and fitting cost of £105 to install two posts. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved with all in favour. The Committee discussed the need for additional posts along the Southside of the Green but have concerns that this could be dangerous to cricket players. No decision was reached on this issue.

ACTION: OFFICE

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

a) Consider Church Lane Allotment Association wish list: An allotment holder raised the issue of the footpaths between plots being uneven and hazardous and makes accessibility difficult for some tenants. It was agreed that this will be looked into, and the Committee will reconsider the request for dipping troughs.

ACTION: OFFICE

b) Allotment rental costs: Cllr Ash proposed to raise the rent from April 2025 by 20%. This was seconded by Cllr Catt and resolved with all in favour. The additional income of approximately £400 will be used towards improvements to the allotments.

ACTION: OFFICE

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

a) Meadow Bank: The Clerk raised the issue after a resident advised that the vegetation on Meadow Bank had damaged her fence. The Committee suggested we get advice from Medway Valley Partnership on how to manage this once works starts there.

11. **General Correspondence**

Lighting request on steps between Hill Brow & Ware Street: The Clerk advised that KCC have been contacted twice to request the resident of 16 Hill Brow cuts back the tree blocking the streetlight and still waiting information on repainting the white lines. The Committee agreed that these actions should be taken first and further information is needed on ownership of the footpath.

ACTION: OFFICE

12. **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
Budget review

13. **Date of next Meeting, 21st May 2024**

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 20:19pm

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