



Bearsted Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Carolyn Smith (Chair) Cllr Frank Jagger
Cllr Pat Catt

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Joanne Upton, and five members of the public.

Reports from members of the public

One member of the public, an allotment holder, raised concerns about the noise coming from the Tennis Club whilst members are playing, also there is a great deal of bad language, he requested the Council ask the club to speak to members to keep the noise down as this interrupts the peace and quiet at the allotments.

A second member of the public, a member of the Cricket Club, raised concerns about the lack of maintenance on the Green.

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 Richard Ash, Denis Spooner and Clive English.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

There were none declared.

4. To elect a Chairperson

The Clerk advised that Cllr Ash wishes to nominate Cllr Smith, in his absence, Cllr Smith accepted the nomination and with no further nominations was voted as Chair with all in favour.

5. To elect a Vice Chair

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

6. Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes from 19th March 2024 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

7. Clerk report

The Clerk advised that the office will source quotes to maintain the two large planters and have repair works done.

Work on the Grounds Maintenance contract is still on going and the office has a new contact at KCC to discuss the crisscross drain covers for drains around the Green.

8. 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.

b) Overnight use of car park: The Committee agreed the best way forward is to employ a consultant to advise on possible physical solutions and the necessary legal requirements to prevent overnight parking and use of the car park. Cllr Jagger proposed to engage a consultant, this was seconded by Cllr Catt and resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: CLLR JAGGER

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

- a) Community Payback Scheme: Cllr Jagger reported that the CPS did a great job clearing the footpath behind the Memorial Hall and the footpath from Trapfield Close to the Street and tidying up around the car park. Cllr Jagger noted there needs to be a procedure for advising the CPS in advance of the type of work they are undertaking so they bring the necessary tools and a procedure for clearing away debris and cuttings.

ACTION: OFFICE

- b) To consider quotes for tree works: The Clerk, explained a couple of variances in the quotes that need to be clarified with the contractors. Cllr Smith proposed to accept the quote from Maidstone Tree Surgeons at £7730 plus VAT, once queries have been discussed. This was seconded by Cllr Catt and resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: CLERK

- c) Benches: Cllr Jagger proposed to complete maintenance works to 9 benches, at the costs agreed with Lee Harrison last year. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: CLERK

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

To consider the cost for two dipping troughs for the Church Lane allotment site. Cllr Jagger raised concerns that the allotment holders had not adhered to keeping items 1 metre from the fence and the Council should not fund further requests until this has been actioned. The Committee discussed the option of provided one trough. There were four allotment holders present at the meeting and they all advised they have no desire for a dipping trough and the consensus was a third tap installed in the middle of the allotments would be more useful. The Committee agreed to relook at this in conjunction with the allotment association.

ACTION: OFFICE

11. **Budget Review**

The Committee reviewed the income & expenditure for 2023-24 and budget for 2024-25, which was duly noted.

12. **General Correspondence**

- a) Flower Festival: Cllr Smith proposed that the Committee will not take part this year, this was seconded by Cllr Jagger and resolved with all in favour.
- b) Two Memorial Bench & one tree request: The Committee would prefer not to have any more memorial benches on the Green as there are already 26. Cllr Smith proposed to agree that the request for a bench for the resident of 90plus years to be approved, dependant on agreeing a location and the request for a bench & tree for a visitor to the village be refused on the Green but other areas of the village can be considered. This was seconded by Cllr Catt and resolved with all in favour. It was agreed that it should be advertised we are no longer accepting requests for memorial benches on the Green.
- c) Items b & c discussed together.
- d) Pond Vegetation: Item deferred awaiting quotes.

ACTION: OFFICE

13. **Future Agenda Items**

Maintaining 2 large planters
Allotments
Pond repairs
Community Pay Back Scheme

Church Lane car park drainage
Ground maintenance contract
Road drain gullies
Budget review

14. Date of next Meeting, 27th June 2024

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 20:40pm

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