



Bearsted Parish Council

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at Madginford Hall, Egremont Road on Tuesday 25th June 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Carolyn Smith (Chair) Cllr Clive English
Cllr Denis Spooner (Vice Chair) Cllr Frank Jagger
Cllr Richard Ash MBE Cllr Jodie Pottage

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Joanne Upton.

Reports from members of the public

There were no members of the public.

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

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

2. **To elect a Vice Chair**

Cllr Denis Spooner proposed himself for the position of Vice Chair, with no other nominations, this was seconded by Cllr Jagger and resolved with all in favour.

3. **Apologies and absences**

Apologies and reasons were duly noted for Cllr Pat Catt.

4. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**

There were none declared.

5. **Signing of the Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes from 21st May 2024 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

6. **Clerk report**

The Clerk advised that the office are working on quotes for planters to be planted and maintained, quotes for cutting back or removing the vegetation around the pond and the pond repairs will be looked at in the next couple of months.

Bearsted CAN are suggesting installing a noticeboard on the bank opposite the train station to explain their aims for the site and information on the wildlife and wildflowers.

The Committee agreed to support this as interpretive boards give residents more information about the area. A request will be made for the large overhanging weeds to be cut back.

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

- a) Car Park Drainage: Cllr Jagger explained the proposed solution from Evans & Langford. As the soakaways can only be dug to a certain depth the project cannot be guaranteed to be 100% successful. The proposed drain gully over the entrance to car park, will need regular cleaning to remain effective. Cllr Pottage asked if the residents would need to be consulted on the proposal. Cllr Spooner suggested if approved then we write to the resident to advise what BPC propose to undertake. Cllr Jagger proposed to request a two-page summary from Evans & Langford for a cost of up to £300, to obtain a cost for Evans & Langford to project manage the project once a contractor has been appointed and to accept these specification documents to use for the tender process, this was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: CLLR JAGGER

- b) Overnight use of car park: Cllr Smith advised the website advertising our car park have now removed our car park details from their website. The Committee agreed

to continue looking for a consultant to advise on options for securing the car park from antisocial behaviour and overnight parking. Cllr English suggested various departments in MBC may be able to assist but we would need a detailed list of incidents and what they entailed.

ACTION: CLLR SMITH / CLERK

8. **General Maintenance** (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9-10 and Highways Act 1980 s96)
Community Payback Scheme: The Clerk advised that the CPS did not attend in June, the leader was involved in an accident. In July they will action the work agreed at the Church Lane allotments. Cllr Jagger raised a query that the CLAA agreed for the waste to be added to the compost heap area, the office will work with the CLAA to investigate other options.

ACTION: OFFICE

9. **Bearsted Green** (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9-10)
The Clerk advised that KCC raised a report to inspect the south east corner of the Green as it been mentioned that it was sodden and not drying out, the office have not received an update yet. Councillors mentioned this is now dry and unlikely to be an underground issue.
The Committee agreed to pursue KCC to agree to the crisscross style drain covers and BPC will arrange for regular clearing of the leaves.

ACTION: OFFICE

10. **Allotments** (Small Holding and Allotment Act 1908 ss23,25)
The Deputy Clerk provided a report explaining the work agreed by the CPS for the allotment site. The Clerk explained that the CLAA are reconsidering their need for dipping troughs and other items on their wish list.

11. **Benches**

- a) Several amendments to the policy were discussed and agreed, concerning locations and specifications. Cllr English proposed to adopt the revised policy, this was seconded by Cllr Spooner and resolved with all in favour.
- b) Cllr Smith proposed £500 per year for bench maintenance and repairs be added to next years budget. This was seconded by Cllr Jagger and resolved with all in favour.

12. **Budget Review**

The Committee reviewed the budget for 2024-25, which was duly noted.

13. **General Correspondence**

Safety of Lithium batteries bill: Cllr Ash proposed to support the bill, this was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved with all in favour.

ACTION: OFFICE

14. **Frequency of Meetings**

Cllr English proposed to move back to bi-monthly meetings, with the next meeting being in September, this was seconded by Cllr Spooner and resolved with all in favour.

15. **Future Agenda Items**

Planters
Allotments
Pond repairs
Community Pay Back Scheme
Church Lane car park
Ground maintenance contract

Road drain gullies
Budget review

16. Date of next Meeting, 26th September 2024

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 20:46pm

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