



**Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at Madginford Hall,  
Egremont Road on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm**

Present:	Cllr Richard Ash MBE	Cllr Kapil Kaushik
	Cllr Pat Catt	Cllr Martha Monday
	Cllr Clive English	Cllr Carolyn Smith
	Cllr Frank Jagger	Cllr Sean Turner

Also, in attendance were the Clerk Joanne Upton, the Deputy Clerk Amy Bush, County Cllr Sir Paul Carter and two members of the public.

**Reports from members of the public**

One member of the public reported that there are no road markings at the junction at the new Roundwell development and Cross Keys and there have been several near misses, as cars pull out. The road markings are unlikely to be installed until the development has been completed. Can the Parish Council request that the developer puts up signs.

Cllr Richard Ash nominated himself to chair the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved with all in favour.

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

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

**2. Apologies and absences.**

Apologies were received and duly noted for Cllr's David Hall, Val Springett, Denis Spooner, Chris Waters, Jodie Pottage, Neil Francis and James Day. James Day has decided to step down as a Councillor with immediate effect due to personal reasons. Cllr Ash thanked James for his hard work on the Traffic Committee.

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

Cllr Ash stated he had been predetermined on the Community Warden issue but since further information has been received, he is no longer predetermined.

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

Cllr Turner asked for clarity on item 6c CIL funds. It was agreed that Cllr's will send suggestions for a wish list to the Clerk prior to the Planning meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> January. This will then be considered and presented to Full Council in February.

**ACTION: All Cllr's**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

**5. Reports:**

a) Borough Councillors: There were no comments on the reports received from Cllr Springett and Cllr Oliver.

b) Police: No report received.

c) Clerk: The Clerk reported that two Section 59 Police Reform Act warnings were issued in response to CCTV footage of anti-social behaviour at the Church Lane car park.

The Clerk asked for a volunteer to meet the CPS team on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> who will be working at Holy Cross Church again. Cllr Smith agreed to meet at 8.30am.

**ACTION: Cllr Smith**

The Clerk invited Cllr English and Sir Paul Carter to provide an update to the Council on the Governments Devolution White Paper. Cllr English advised under the proposal there would likely be 3 Unitary Councils in Kent. The idea is to devolve powers and additional funds to

local authorities, this may include Policing, Healthcare and Transport. There is a possibility of delegation of functions to Parish Councils under devolution.

Sir Paul Carter stated that two tier government has not been effective in Kent.

KALC are in support of this if the right powers are delegated to Parish Councils.

Cllr Turner stated he was opposed to the new system due to a lack of public consultation and is opposed to the County Council vote favouring postponement of the May 2025 County Elections and believes the proposed Metro Mayor Devolved system will prove unpopular like current other devolved areas.

The Council agreed that once decisions have been made if Kent will be fast tracked on the 9<sup>th</sup> February and discussed at the February Full Council meeting, BPC will make a statement to residents.

- d) Chairman: There was no report from the Chairman.

## 6. Committee Meeting and Working Group Reports

### a) Communication Committee:

Fireworks: Cllr Ash reported that this year's Fireworks event will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

The Market: The Market Manager is considering running the Market from March to October only due to wet weather causing damage to the Green but the Committee will look into options for a December/Christmas Market.

Playscheme: The Chairman has sent the risk assessment to our Insurer and further details have been requested from the Playleader.

Bearsted Football Group are arranging a Fun Run around Bearsted for the 8<sup>th</sup> June and BPC will sponsor Cllr Turner £100 to enter. This is in support of Kent Air Ambulance.

Cllr Ash requested all Cllr's take video clips around the village to showcase all aspects of BPC's work or involvement in the Community these will be sent to Cllr Francis to put together a short video.

The Committee decided to wait until 2027 when load testing for the Christmas motifs is due again, to load test additional posts and consider more motifs.

Cllr Ash proposed to accept the quote for £2255.82 from Green Barnes to supply a new noticeboard at the Green Shops, this was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with all in favour.

Cllr Ash proposed to accept the cost of £382 from LRH Property Maintenance to repair the noticeboard on the Green. This was seconded by Cllr Jagger and resolved with all in favour.

Cllr Ash proposed to accept the cost of £700 from Aford Awards for 40 new Mynn Awards.

This was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved with all in favour.

- b) Planning Committee: Cllr Ash reported there was no meeting in December, but they voted via the Out of Committee system to support four applications.

- c) Finance Working Group: In the absence of the Cllr Hall who chaired the Finance meeting, the Clerk advised that the working group recommend approval for the payments, reports and balance of accounts.

The Clerk reported that the Government Valuation department had reviewed our Council Tax charges for the car park and confirmed that we are paying the correct amount.

Cllr Hall is applying for a grant to extend the shopper bus service for two years, proposing to apply for an additional £10,000, as the bus service providers costs have increased to £8500 per annum. The final application amount is still to be confirmed.

Cllr English declared an interest as Chairman of Detling Parish Council, so will not be voting on this item. Cllr Jagger proposed to permit the Chairman to apply for the grant, this was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with 7 in favour.

Cllr Ash proposed to permit the Chairman to apply for a further £95,000 grant for a new bus, this was seconded by Cllr Jagger and resolved with 7 in favour.

**ACTION: Cllr Hall**

The Clerk met with KCC Head of Community Protection to discuss the option of employing our previous Community Warden on a part time basis. The Council discussed various benefits and disadvantages of how many days and the cost implications. Due to 8 Councillors being absent and the financial commitment, Cllr Ash proposed to defer this and take the vote by email to allow all Councillors an opportunity to vote. This was seconded by Cllr Jagger and resolved with all in favour.

**ACTION: Cllr Hall / Clerk**

- d) Reports from members of the Council for outside bodies: Cllr Ash advised there is a Joint Transport Board meeting tomorrow. Bearsted CAN have purchased a thermal camera, which can indicate where properties lose heat. They are looking to allow residents to hire the camera to make homes more energy efficient. BPC will support by advertising this. The Council requested the cost be included in any advertising.

**ACTION: Office**

**7. Finance** (Accounts and Audit Regulation 2011/817)

a) Resolution to approve/ratify quotations or payments:

Microsoft Office 365: Cllr Ash proposed to ratify the cost of £102.15 +VAT and the additional £27.15 per month cost for 3 licenses. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved with all in favour.

b) Grants and Donations: There were none.

c) Authorise January payments: Cllr Ash proposed to accept the payments, this was seconded by Cllr Jagger and resolved with all in favour.

d) Finance reports: Cllr Ash proposed to accept the reports this was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved with all in favour.

e) Balance of accounts: Cllr Ash proposed to accept the balance of accounts, this was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved with all in favour.

**8. Policies**

a) Mission Statement: Cllr Ash proposed to accept the Mission Statement, this was seconded by Cllr Kapil and resolved with all in favour.

b) Code of Conduct: Cllr Ash proposed to adopt the policy, this was seconded by Cllr Catt and resolved with all in favour.

c) Complaints Policy: Cllr Ash proposed to adopt the policy, this was seconded by Cllr Monday and resolved with all in favour.

**9. Precept**

Cllr Ash advised the Finance Working Group had suggested a 5% increase. BPC have and continue to incur additional costs, including play area inspections, Community Warden and additional maintenance works at the Holy Cross Church. Cllr Ash proposed to actually increase the precept to £140,000 to assist with the additional costs. This will increase the Band D payment from £36.36 to £38.57. This was seconded by Cllr Monday and resolved with all in favour.

**10. Leases**

Tennis Club Lease: Cllr Jagger stated that the lease should not be signed until the Tennis Club have stipulated the mechanism that allows residents to book 6 free taster sessions, which they have not yet done. Cllr English proposed a footnote is added to the lease to refer to a separate document which details this and a date when this will be agreed by the Council. This document could be the Constitution. The Council will not give authority for the lease to be signed until this is resolved. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved with all in favour.

**ACTION: Leases Working Group**

**11. Future Agenda Items**

Policies

Church Lane car park

CIL wish list

Devolution update

**12. Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**There being no further business to transact, the meeting closed at 21.09 hrs**

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