

BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2026

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT BY CLLR DENIS SPOONER

There is little to report on the key issues affecting MBC at the present time. We await further announcements from Central Government about Local Government Reform. We await the outcome of public consultation on the Heathlands and Lidsing Supplementary Planning Documents; on the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document; and on the potential creation of a town council or several community councils for the unparished areas of Maidstone Borough. There is little progress so far on the review of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan.

The submission of a retrospective application for the felling of trees at Hill House within the Bearsted Conservation Area is still awaited.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

18 December: I attended a meeting of the MBC Planning Committee. There were no applications on the agenda that were within or which affected Bearsted.

6 January: As a Borough Councillor, I attended a full meeting of Downswood Parish Council.

7 January: I attended a meeting of the MBC Planning and Healthier and Stronger Communities Policy Advisory Committee. The agenda included the MBC budget for 2026/27 which proposes to increase the MBC share of council tax by 3% which is the maximum allowed by Government without a referendum being held. I voted against the budget as it includes some items that I think are unnecessary and which are a waste of money.

MBC receives less than 14% of the council tax paid by households. Some 70% of it goes to KCC and the rest to Kent Police, the Fire and Rescue Services and Parish Councils. KCC has yet to set its budget for 2026/27 but, it is expected that it will raise its share of council tax by 5%, the maximum increase that it can make without holding a referendum.

Borough Councillor Denis Spooner
Bearsted and Downswood Ward

7 January 2026

Community Warden Report: January 2026 - Bearsted

Days worked since last Parish Meeting - 6 Days

| Working Days: | Number of occasions | Comment |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| Social welfare visits | 7 | Ongoing welfare visits to residents, to residents who are and who had spent Xmas and NY without company. New referrals recd from members of public – GP Surgery – Social Services and most are existing residents needing support and advice. ongoing Follow up visits Checking the vulnerable due to adverse weather conditions. |
| Antisocial Issues | 0 | |
| Neighbour Disputes | 0 | |
| Community Groups | | |

Any Other Comments:

Lots of Visible Presence in Bearsted.

A lot of welfare visits completed – referrals recd from public and Adult Social care and Bearsted Medical Practice.

Tuesday 6th January 2026 –Informed that Bearsted Library closed due to a gas leak – no heating etc. Just to let you know that I am working from home on my Bearsted Days – at the start of my shift – undertaking admin duties. Then out and about as normal. They said that they would let me know when the library re-opens.

Warden:Sally Williams..... Date ...7th January 2026

Bearsted Parish Council

Expenditure transactions - payments approval list Start of year 01/04/25

| No | Payment Reference | Gross | To pay | Heading | Invoice date | Invoice no. | Details | Payment Reference Total |
|------|-------------------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|-----------------|---|-------------------------|
| 5676 | | £158.29 | £158.29 | | 04/12/25 | 04.01 Jan year | Lloyds Card - Chris Knott Insurance - Allotment ins 04.01.26 year | |
| | 1 | £79.15 | | 235/1/4 | | | 04.01.26 year insurance | |
| | 2 | £79.14 | | 235/2/5 | | | 04.01.26 year insurance | |
| 5666 | | £60.00 | £60.00 | 115/4 | 19/12/25 | 239575 | Managed Technology - Mono and colour ink usage | |
| 5667 | | £96.73 | £96.73 | 115/2 | 19/12/25 | M142 QC | British Telecom - BT charges December | |
| 5664 | | £84.00 | £84.00 | 130/5 | 21/12/25 | S3343A 2026 | NALC - Membership fees 18.01 - 17.01.27 | |
| 5662 | | -£130.17 | -£130.17 | 400/1 | 22/12/25 | 01608301 credit | Valda Energy - Unmetered street lighting 24.11-23.12 | |
| 5663 | | £79.46 | £79.46 | 400/1 | 22/12/25 | 01641716 | Valda Energy - Unmetered street lighting 24.11-18.12.25 | |
| 5661 | | £220.39 | £220.39 | 100/8 | 23/12/25 | 107 | ██████████ - Finance support Dec | |
| 5665 | | £42.00 | £42.00 | 115/12 | 29/12/25 | Inv 24 | ██████████ - Cleaning of office | |
| 5670 | | £172.23 | £172.23 | | 31/12/25 | Dec exps | Joanne Upton - Expenses | |
| | 1 | £1.20 | | 115/8 | | | Milk | |
| | 2 | £14.00 | | 155/5 | | | Title deed search | |
| | 3 | £112.80 | | 911 | | | Thomson Reuters - minor works contract (car park) | |
| | 4 | £24.26 | | 115/4 | | | Adobe charges | |
| | 5 | £19.97 | | 115/4 | | | Adobe charges | |

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Bearsted Parish Council

Expenditure transactions - payments approval list Start of year 01/04/25

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|------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|---------------|--|-------------------------|
| 5669 | | £15.00 | £15.00 | 115/12 | 01/01/26 | Dec clean | Ian's Window Cleaning - Dec clean of windows and cobwebs | |
| 5671 | | £34.38 | £34.38 | 115/4 | 01/01/26 | 21428 | Compute4U - Licences for laptops x 3 | |
| 5672 | | £72.00 | £72.00 | 115/4 | 01/01/26 | 21416 | Compute4U - Leased laptops x 3 | |
| 5675 | | £3.00 | £3.00 | 115/17 | 02/01/26 | Card chgs | Lloyds Bank - Dec card fee | |
| 5677 | | £5.95 | £5.95 | 115/7 | 03/01/26 | Lebara 03.01 | Lloyds Bank - Lebara - office mobile | |
| 5673 | | £82.47 | £82.47 | 410/2 | 05/01/26 | KI-CBA22A74-0 | EDF Energy - 01.12.25 - 31.12.25 elec WT | |
| 5678 | | ██████ | ██████ | 100/3 | 25/01/26 | Jan Pay | Joanne Upton - Jan payroll | |
| 5679 | | ██████ | ██████ | 100/3 | 25/01/26 | Jan Pay | Amy Bush - Jan pay | |
| 5680 | | £657.67 | £657.67 | | 25/01/26 | Jan Pay | HMRC - PAYE and NI Jan (office staff) | |
| | 1 | £319.20 | 100/1 | | | PAYE Jan | | |
| | 2 | £338.47 | 100/6 | | | NI Jan | | |
| 5681 | | £144.38 | £144.38 | 100/5 | 25/01/26 | Jan Pay | NEST Pension - Jan pension deductions | |

The following payments have already been made

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|-------------------------|---------|---------|--|----------|------|--|--|
| 5668 | 12172025 Secure tech | £456.00 | £456.00 | | 16/12/25 | 2299 | Secure Tech Systems Ltd - Church Lane CCTV | |
| | 1 | £240.00 | 255/3 | | | | Remove existing router and supply/install new one for CC | |
| | 2 | £216.00 | 255/3 | | | | 12 month CCTV service agreement | |

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Bearsted Parish Council

Expenditure transactions - payments approval list Start of year 01/04/25

| No | Payment Reference | Gross | To pay | Heading | Invoice date | Invoice no. | Details | Payment Reference Total |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------------|-------------|---------|-------------------------|
| Sub Total | | £4,447.52 | £4,447.52 | | | | | |
| Total | | £4,447.52 | £4,447.52 | | | | | |

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Quick Budget Comparison 2025-26

Financial reports verified and checked at Finance meeting on 8th January 2026

| Committee | Budgeted Income | Actual Spend (to date) | Variance to Budget |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Full Council | £89,345.00 | £92,201.16 | -£2,856.16 |
| Environment | £52,710.19 | £25,646.80 | £27,063.39 |
| Communications | £51,570.00 | £23,977.28 | £27,592.72 |
| Traffic | £20,000.00 | £10,009.00 | £9,991.00 |
| TOTAL | £213,625.19 | £151,834.24 | £61,790.95 |
| Special Projects £198,234.92 | 198,234.92 | £562.80 | £197,672.12 |

These figures have been extracted from the Financial Budget comparison report.

To enable Cllr's to easily see available funds and budgets, for each Committee without the need to manually check/calculate the figures. If you have any queries, please contact me.

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS - 30th Nov 25 As reviewed and agreed at the finance meeting on the 8th Jan 26

| Bank | Acc. Type | Term | Ends | Interest Paid | Interest Rate | Balance |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------|------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Unity | Current | n/a | n/a | | | £30,688.26 |
| Unity - Instant Access | Instant Access Saver | n/a | n/a | Quarterly | 2.10% | £98.70 |
| Unity - Fixed Rate | Fixed Rater Saver | 24 month | 02/07/2026 | Jul-26 | 5.00% | £85,000.00 |
| Cambridge & Counties | Fixed Rater Saver | 60 months | 31/10/2029 | Annually in Oct | 4.40% | £52,206.03 |
| Hampshire | Fixed Rater Saver | 12 months | 19/09/2026 | Annually in September | 4.22% | £83,630.04 |
| Redwood Bank | 95 day Notice Acc | n/a | n/a | Annually | 3.75% | £109,971.78 |
| Buckinghamshire BS | Instant Access Saver | n/a | 30/10/2026 | Annually in Dec | 2.55% | £101,741.85 |

TOTAL

£463,336.66