

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council

Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted on Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 7.15pm

Present:

Cllr Carolyn Smith (Chair)
Cllr Jodie Pottage (Vice Chair)
Cllr Richard Ash
Cllr Frank Jagger
Cllr Denis Spooner

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Joanne Upton.

Reports from members of the public

There were no reports from members of the public.

1. Declarations of intention to record

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

2. Apologies and Absences

Apologies were received and duly noted for Cllr Huseyin.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

There were none declared.

4. Signing of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 4th November 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. Clerks Report

The Committee agreed for the CPS to continue work at Meadow Bank in January.

The Clerk met Warings on the Green to review the retaining wall, and it was agreed to investigate further when the weather is drier as the wooden posts were swollen so could not identify how many posts were loose. It was agreed to have warning tape put across the wall as a temporary measure.

The Committee reviewed the budget.

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

- a) The Clerk advised that the contract will be signed with Steadline in the next couple of weeks. Groups and clubs have been advised that work will start on site on the 2nd March for 4 weeks affecting use of the car park. More details will be publicised after the meeting.
- b) Cllr Ash proposed to accept the quote for £798.00 from Oakleaf to repair the streetlight on the Church Landway and replace the timer unit. This was seconded by Cllr Pottage and resolved with all in favour.

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

- a) BWT play area gate: Cllr Jagger noted that the central post may be the problem, rather than the gate itself. It was agreed to lock the gate as a temporary safety measure. The Clerk will speak to Safeplay for details on the work included in the quote. Cllr Pottage proposed that provided this work does not include detaching the post then to proceed with the quote for £414.00 exc. VAT with Safeplay. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved with all in favour.
- b) BWT play area: Cllr Pottage proposed to accept the Playdale quote for £709.29 exc. VAT to supply and deliver a replacement top pole for the monkey bars and ask Everyday Play to price for installation. This was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.

- c) Cllr Jagger reported that Broadleaf have confirmed they are able to cut back the hedge between Tennis Club and allotments away from the fence and have provided a quote for the works. They have also identified the newer conifers which have been planted in the last few years have been planted too close to the fence and the roots will damage the fence. There is also a self-seeded sycamore damaging the fence. The Lease states the tenant is responsible for maintaining trees and hedges, which are causing damage to the fence which BPC are responsible for replacing. The Tennis Club need to take action to have the work done prior to the nesting season. It was agreed that the Clerk will draft a letter to the Tennis Club for the Committee to agree.

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

The Committee reviewed the proposed plans for the new pavilion and raised no concerns. The Club had asked about the area behind the current pavilion and the Committee saw no issue with the club storing the nets there if the new pavilion is built. Cllr Jagger stated the nets are still there and it was previously agreed these should be removed at the end of the season.

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

There was nothing to report. It was agreed that the Committee will review the costs for the allotments after year end, to consider if the rental fees are appropriate.

10. Open Spaces (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9-10_

Dead trees on Meadow Bank: Cllr Pottage proposed to give delegated authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair to appoint a contractor once all quotes have been received up to a maximum of £900.00 exc. VAT. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and resolved with all in favour.

11. Future Agenda Items

- Meadow Bank
- Tennis Club hedge
- Drainage at the Green

12. Date of next meeting, 3th March 2026

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 20:13 hrs.

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