

# Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council

Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 at 7.15pm

## Present:

Cllr Jodie Pottage (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Richard Ash  
Cllr Max Huseyin  
Cllr Frank Jagger  
Cllr Denis Spooner

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 the meeting would be recorded for minuting purposes.

### 2. Apologies and Absences

Apologies were received and duly noted for Cllr Smith.

### 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 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Vice Chair.

### 5. Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that the Cricket Club have put on hold the plans for the extended Pavillion due to grant funding restraints and will be looking to make internal improvements at this stage.

Cllr Jagger offered to put up warning tape on the retaining wall at the Green.

The Clerk advised that the area next to the steps at Meadow Bank has now been cleared by MCVP to allow vehicle access.

The cost of £300.00 exc. VAT from Warings has been agreed (within Clerk's delegated authority) to install a small section of fencing on the boundary fence between Madginford Hall and the school, as this area was left open following the removal of 4 dead trees.

The cost of £325.00 exc. VAT from Warings has been agreed (within Clerks delegated authority) to supply and install 5 new fence posts to repair the fence at the Elizabeth Harvie Field. Cllr Jagger asked if the work has not yet been completed to ask Warings to install the posts with metal spikes.

The Clerk thanked Cllr Ash for the upkeep of the 5 planters, and it was agreed that costs would be considered for more plants.

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

a) Church Lane car park drainage: The Clerk advised that Steadline Ltd have now started on site and are due to complete by the 20<sup>th</sup> March.

b) Hedge at car park: Cllr Ash proposed to accept the cost of £474.00 exc. VAT from Warings to cut back hedge. This was seconded by Cllr Huseyin and resolved with all in favour.

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

a) Hedge between Tennis Club and allotments: The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Smith met with the Tennis Club following the letter previously sent and proposes that the Tennis Club remove the

self-seeded sycamore tree, keep the smaller conifers cut well back from the fence, keep the large conifer hedge trimmed to 2.4m high and on 2 workdays each year access the hedge from the allotment side and cut back any new growth. This will be monitored and documented every 6 months. If further damage occurs to the fence this issue will be revisited. Cllr Pottage proposed to proceed with this plan, this was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with 4 in favour and one against.

- b) Annual Tree Inspection: This year's quotes include a survey of Meadow Bank. Cllr Pottage proposed to accept the quote from Landscape Service for £1200.00 exc. VAT, this was seconded by Cllr Jagger and resolved with all in favour.
- c) Grounds Maintenance costs for 2026-27: Cllr Pottage proposed to accept the costs from Waring's which was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.

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

- a) Drainage at the Green: Cllr Jagger reported that KCC have cleared the drains around the Green and MBC have cleared the gutters. KCC have confirmed they will be installing a grid in the road on Yeoman Lane to allow more road water into the existing soakaways and will be installing double grids on the Southeast corner of the Green, which will allow more water into the drains. They will also be looking at diverting water into the village pond using an interceptor to remove any pollutants from road run off water, further investigation is needed to ensure this is suitable for the pond.
- b) Pond: Cllr Pottage proposed to accept the cost of £410 exc. VAT from Medway Valley Countryside Partnership to plant more hedging around the pond. This was seconded by Cllr Jagger and resolved with all in favour.

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

There was nothing to report.

#### **10. Open Spaces (Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9-10)**

Cllr Jagger proposed that the Clerk investigates costs and legal requirements of installing a walkway at the Elizabeth Harvie Field, this was seconded by Cllr Pottage and resolved with 3 in favour and 2 against.

#### **11. Community Energy Consultation**

MBC are consulting on potential Community Energy Initiatives. Cllr Pottage proposed to accept the response prepared by the Clerk, this was seconded by Cllr Huseyin and resolved with all in favour.

#### **12. Community Assets**

The Committee considered potential assets that BPC may wish to take on should devolution go ahead, these include the Rosemary Road open space, the grass area on Button Lane, Yeoman Lane car park and the open space at Madginford Close. It was agreed that the Clerk requests lists of potential assets from KCC and MBC.

#### **13. Future Agenda Items**

Meadow Bank  
Drainage at the Green

#### **14. Date of next meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 20:24 hrs.

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