



Minutes of the Full Council meeting of Bearsted Parish Council

Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.15pm

Present:

Cllr David Hall (Chair), Cllr Val Springett (Vice Chair), Cllr Richard Ash MBE, Cllr Pat Catt, Cllr Clive English, Cllr Max Huseyin, Cllr Frank Jagger, Cllr Martha Monday, Cllr Jodie Pottage, Cllr Carolyn Smith, Cllr Denis Spooner and Cllr Sean Turner.

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Joanne Upton, the Deputy Clerk Amy Bush, KCC Cllr Spencer Dixon and two members of the public.

Reports from members of the public

There were no reports from the public.

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 Kapil Kaushik, Marie Selby and Christopher Waters.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

Cllr Sean Turner advised he had been lobbied on item 6a.

4. Signing of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 13th January 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Reports

- a) Borough Councillors: The reports were noted. Cllr Ash recommended BPC appoint a representative to work with Southeastern and other groups regarding train and station initiatives and issues, Cllr Hall proposed Cllr Spooner to be the representative, this was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with 10 in favour, 1 no vote and 1 abstention.
- b) KCC Councillor: Cllr Dixon, confirmed a 3.99% Council Tax increase, whilst this is more than they hoped it is a smaller increase than previous years, whilst increasing funds to front line services, including education, adult services, roads and healthcare. KCC are currently dealing with approx. 11,000 pothole reports compared to 2,000 this time last year. Cllr English pointed out the variance in the quality of road repairs, Cllr Dixon confirmed they are in the process of signing with a new contractor, which will give KCC more favourable terms, control and more accountability from the contractor. KCC will also be providing a dedicated email address solely for Parish Councils to be able to report back to KCC.
- c) Community Warden: the Council noted the report.
- d) Police: No report received, but PC Phillips will be attending the March Full Council meeting. It was agreed to add an agenda item for the next meeting to discuss reporting crimes.
- e) Clerk: The Clerk advised that due to staffing issues the CPS have not attended since November and will advise when they are next able to attend. Cllr Springett has reported the footpath along the Ashford Road to the MBC Street Cleaning Team for clearing. The Church Lane car park project will start on site on the 2nd March and further details of when it will be entirely closed will be provided after the prestart meeting on Friday 13th. The Clerk requested all Cllrs to confirm attendance of the APM on the 31st March. Cllr Jagger recommended a Cllr is available on the door to direct attendees. Cllrs Huseyin, English and Jagger will manage this. The Clerk and Chairman attended a meeting with KCC and the Community Warden, to discuss sharing days with a local Parish Council. Further details will be provided, once decided.

The Clerk advised a Freedom of Information request had been received from the Kent & Medway Resident Forum, requesting information on traffic and transport issues and requested Cllr's forward any email to KCC or MBC to the office to be included in the response.

- f) Chairman: The Chairman advised that Southeastern have now added 4 additional trains during off peak times, 2 going to London Victoria and 2 going to Ashford. The Council thanked Cllr Hall for his extensive work to achieve this.
Cllr Hall thanked those that attended the volunteer day at the station yard in January.

6. Committee Meeting and Working Group Reports

- a) Traffic Committee: Cllr Ash advised that Local Authorities will soon have the power to enforce pavement parking.
The zigzags and double yellow lines will be going in opposite Roseacre School and at Manor Close once the weather improves. The dropped kerb and additional parking at Sandy Mount has now been agreed by KCC and will be implemented soon as well as making the parking bays opposite the station B1 permit parking for residents.
The traffic island near Tesco on the A20 is likely to cost between £5-8k to change to a pedestrian refuge.
Speed Reduction on Roundwell from 40mph to 30mph will be included on the next Highways Improvement Plan.
BPC have sent out an informal community engagement, under the instruction of KCC, to residents around the Bearsted Green shops, regarding parking issues.
The SID will be installed on the A20 soon and Cllr's Ash and Springett met with KCC to discuss solutions for safety concerns on the Ashford Road.
The HIP will be approved at the Traffic Committee meeting in March, to be ratified at Full Council.
- b) Communications Committee: Cllr Hall proposed to approve the 21st August for the Hazlitt performance on the Green, subject to a review of our Premises Licence, being undertaken by the office. This was seconded by Cllr Catt and resolved with all in favour.
Cllr Hall proposed to approve the 6th November for the Fireworks event, which has been approved by the Bearsted Woodland Trust. This was seconded by Cllr Catt and resolved with all in favour.
The February Market was cancelled due to the wet weather.
Cllr Hall proposed to approve an open cinema event on the Green late summer/autumn, subject to the licence review and event application. This was seconded by Cllr Catt and resolved with all in favour.
The Committee rejected an application to permit a private wedding on the Green. The Committee also voted to stay with the existing premises licence rather than applying for a Full Licence.
The Committee considered a Community Resilience Plan but agreed that the office staff would liaise with emergency services and other authorities in an emergency.
The Committee have agreed 6 nominations for a Mynn Award and suggested that the Council nominate the Market Manager and team. This was resolved with all in favour.
- c) Finance Working Group: The Clerk and Chairman met with the Chartered Surveyor who will provide a valuation on the land at Madginford Hall and rental value. The report should be received in two weeks.
The government limit for s137 funding has increased to £11.60 per electorate for 2026-27. This year BPC's grants budget will be £5800, which is 4% of the precept, if accepted at £145,000.
- d) Reports from member of the Council for outside bodies: Cllr Ash reported that KALC have advised Parish Councils to start considering local assets that may be considered for transfer if Local Government Reorganisation goes ahead. The Parish Service Scheme, which currently provides funds from MBC to PC's for managing assets, will cease should LGA go ahead. BPC currently received approx. £11,000 per annum.

7. Finance (Account and Audit Regulation 2011/817)

- a) Resolution to approve/ratify quotations or payments: There were none to approve.
- b) Grants and Donations: Heart of Kent Hospice applied for £1000 towards the cost of £563,825 salary costs for the Community Clinical Team, which are currently supporting 74 family in Bearsted. Cllr Hall proposed to approve the £1000 donation, this was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with 11 in favour and 1 against.

- c) Authorise February Payments: Cllr Hall proposed to approve the payments, this was seconded by Cllr Ash and resolved with all in favour.
- d) Finance Reports: Cllr Hall proposed to approve the reports, this was seconded by Cllr Jagger and resolved with all in favour.
- e) Balance of Bank Accounts: Cllr Hall proposed to approve the balances, this was seconded by Cllr Jagger and resolved with all in favour.

8. Policies

- a) Mission Statement: Cllr Hall proposed to adopt the policy, with two amendments, this was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with all in favour.
- b) Councillor Co-option Policy: Cllr Hall proposed to adopt the policy, this was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with all in favour.
- c) Accessibility Statement: Cllr Hall proposed to adopt the statement, this was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with all in favour.

9. Future Agenda Items

Office lease and rent, crime reporting, policies and standing items.

10. Date of next meeting, 10th March 2026

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 20:57 hrs.

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