

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council

Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7.15pm

Present:

Cllr Carolyn Smith (Chair)
Cllr Jodie Pottage (Vice Chair)
Cllr Richard Ash MBE
Cllr Max Huseyin
Cllr Frank Jagger

Also, in attendance was the Deputy Clerk Amy Bush.

Reports from members of the public

There were no members of 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 Spooner.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

Cllr Pottage declared an interest in the Tennis Club after becoming a member.

4. Signing of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 3rd March 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. Clerks Report

The Deputy Clerk advised the committee that the options for a walkway at the Elizabeth Harvie Field were still being investigated. LRH Maintenance had removed two cricket warning signs and refitted one of the damaged posts at The Green at a cost of £95. LRH also completed work to the play area sign at the Bearsted Woodland Trust costing £64, both approved by the Clerk. Following the asset inspection LRH provided a quote of £466 for maintenance work to the benches. The Committee were shown a picture of further damage to a bench following the survey which would also be included in the cost. The committee voted all in favour to approve the quote.

Cllr Jagger proposed a review of the Memorial Bench Policy which will be actioned by the office team.

The Deputy Clerk advised members of damage to the Church Landway fence at the A20 entrance. A quote for £145.50 had been received from LRH to make the repairs. This was approved with all in favour.

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

a) Church Lane car park drainage:

- i. Report from the Clerk: Members noted the report detailing the satisfactory completion of the work.
- ii. Consider maintenance cost: Members approved the proposed quarterly maintenance cost of £60 to keep the gravel safely swept away from grates and gullies. It was requested that the office enquire if additional sweeping of the whole site is required. Cllr Jagger to discuss with Clerk.

b) Reports of anti-social behaviour: Members considered further prevention measures. It was proposed with all in favour to budget £300 for additional signage highlighting CCTV and crime reporting.

c) CCTV: Following the data compliance report it was agreed with all in favour to approve the quote for £217.50 from Secure Tech to upgrade the CCTV column lock.

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

- a) Hedge between Tennis Club and allotments: The Chair shared some feedback following a meeting between Cllr Hall and the Tennis Club. Some maintenance was completed however no further work would commence until Autumn due to nesting blackbirds. Cllr Jagger to discuss with Cllr Hall and requests further written correspondence with the Tennis Club if necessary.
- b) Bus stop maintenance: Members discussed options and agreed with all in favour that all 7 Parish bus stops should be cleaned with a budget of £500. During work an inspection of the glass/Perspex is also required.
- c) Annual Tree Inspection: Following the inspection it was agreed with all in favour to complete the recommended tree works with a budget of £480.

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

- a) Drainage: Item deferred until site meeting is complete. Cllr Jagger requested the office chase up options for a meeting date/time.
- b) Cricket warning signs: It was agreed with all in favour to keep 2 warning signs on the Green. The spare signs should be stored to replace any damage to the existing signs in the future.

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

The committee discussed the I&E report noting the loss at Church Lane. It was agreed costs were unlikely to be as high for 2026-27 and a rate review was not needed at this stage. Members to monitor I&E and review annually.

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

Meadow Bank: Medway Valley workdays were discussed. Members agreeing with all in favour to approve 3 days at a cost of £960. Cllr Ash to discuss some ideas with the Clerk ahead of the work starting.

11. Community Assets

Protecting public spaces including Rosemary Road, Spot Lane Nature Reserve and the area from St Peters Church along the Len Valley. Members requested an updated map to ensure they have all information needed to make a proposal.

12. Future Agenda Items

As above

13. Date of next meeting, 7th July 2026

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 20:19 hrs.

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