



Minutes of the Full Council Extraordinary meeting of Bearsted Parish Council

Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted on Tuesday 11th August 2026 at 7.15pm

Present:

Cllr Jodie Pottage (Vice Chair), Cllr David Hall, Cllr Richard Ash MBE, Cllr Pat Catt, Cllr Clive English, Cllr Kapil Kaushik, Cllr Frank Jagger, Cllr Martha Monday, Cllr Denis Spooner, Cllr Val Springett.

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Joanne Upton, the Deputy Clerk Amy Busy and approximately 16 members of the public.

Cllr Pottage proposed that Cllr Hall chairs the meeting as the Chair of the Communication Committee, this was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with all in favour.

Cllr Hall took the Chair and explained to the members of the public the reasons why BPC are considering installing CCTV at various location around the Parish. There has been a significant rise in antisocial behaviour and vandalism especially at the Bearsted Woodland Trust. The Council have been working closely with the local Police Beat Officer and the Community Warden who both support the use of CCTV cameras.

Reports from members of the public

One member of the public requested BPC fund bystander training and asked if mobile cameras have been considered so they can be moved around the parish to hotspots.

The Deputy Chair from the BWT spoke about the increasing level of vandalism and antisocial behaviour, including damaged picnic tables, benches, memorial plaques, the bird hide, noticeboards, trees being sawn, fires started. The BWT support the installation of CCTV.

One resident stated they do not support CCTV except for the BWT. On a separate note, offered her land for installing lighting on Thurnham Lane near the railway bridge.

One resident runs a litter pick project and showed a bag full of marbles, nuts, bolts etc which he has found that have been used with catapults. He suggested a mobile police CCTV unit and recommended investing in positive community groups, forest and summer schools. MBC and Downswood Parish Council are setting up a Park Watch Scheme involving residents to report incidents and engage with young people.

Cllr Springett advised that the local Officer can't request extra resources like mobile CCTV without the data to support it, therefore it is imperative that all incidents are reported to the police.

A member of the Holy Cross Church spoke in favour of CCTV, explained the various incidents including damage to lead flashing, catapults and vandalism to windows. The CCTV at the car park has provided results and it is important to put accountability back into the community.

One resident asked for details on the proposed locations. The Clerk confirmed the following locations are being considered.

Madginford Shops, Ashford Road to cover the driveway between Taksim and Tesco Garage, 3 posts on the Church Landway to cover the entrance of the footpath that runs up to Tesco, the Church Landway and the picnic area and play area in the BTW. The entrance to Cross Keys and Roundwell facing Barty Farm, and 3 cameras to cover the Green, including the pond and play area.

A resident advised he has cameras around his property and will be reporting a catapulting incident to police and is able to provide video footage, is in full support of installing CCTV.

A member of the Girl Guides advised they are in full support of installing the CCTV and requested better lighting along the Church Landway. The Clerk advised the Tennis Club and Bowls club also support the project.

A Yeoman Lane resident spoke of several incidents involving large groups of older children, including drinking, e-bikes/scooters and general antisocial behaviour and confirmed incidents are on the rise.

A Cross Keys resident advised several residents there, are in favour of CCTV and requested we engage with Golding Homes.

A resident who regularly litters picks spoke of an incident where she was chased by two youths at Mallards, luckily, she was able to run to a local property that had CCTV and the evidence was provided to the police, she fully supports the implementation of CCTV.

Cllr English noted that systems that report live to the police have a bigger impact and are more effective than when footage is provide post event. CCTV also helps to reduce the fear of crime for residents; statistics shows that CCTV reduces incidents by 25-30%.

A member of Bearsted CAN asked about a Public Space Protection Orders for the BWT, Cllr's Springett and English explained that the authorities have better success using Community Protection Warnings but if the evidence proves incidents are ongoing then a Public Space Protection Order can be applied for.

One resident asked about extending Community Warden Hours to patrol as a deterrent. The Council explained that the Community Warden has no authority.

Cllr Monday questioned why 3 cameras were needed to cover the Green, as this could be very intrusive for those using the Green. Cllr Springett suggested it might be better to cover the White Horse pub and shops.

The Clerk explained that due to the size of the Green, 3 cameras were needed for coverage. The Council confirmed that the proposed sites for cameras are suggestions and this will be reviewed.

One resident asked if the local pubs have CCTV and BPC should liaise with them.

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 Selby, Smith, Turner and Waters. Cllr Huseyin was absent.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

There were none declared.

4. CCTV Cameras

The Clerk explained that 3 contractors have priced for a system, which would involve a hard drive in the Parish Office which the office staff would be responsible for monitoring, downloading footage of reported incidents and passing to the police. The 4th contractor offers a system of 24/7 monitoring and provide footage in real time to the police, which is the preferred option of the police. They also deal with all the KCC permits, compliance and reporting.

Cllr Hall advised that Cllr Turner has requested a full public consultation, which Cllr Monday supported. The Council discussed the drawbacks of a full consultation, including the enormous cost and time involved and the likely low response. Cllr Hall proposed to continue with the public engagement, via newsletters, posters on noticeboards and social media, this was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with 9 in favour and 1 against.

Cllr Hall proposed to use the reserve Community Project fund of £65,000 for this project, this was seconded by Cllr English and resolved with all in favour.

Cllr English proposed the preferred option would be a live reporting system, which was seconded by Cllr Spingett and resolved with all in favour.

Cllr Hall proposed the Clerk has delegated authority to work with the contractors to finalise all the quotes and report back to September FC for a decision. This was seconded by Cllr Spooner and resolved with all in favour. The Clerk will also investigate if other companies offer the same solution as Contractor 4, for comparison quotes.

5. Future Agenda Items

CCTV.

6. Date of next meeting, 15th September 2026

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 20:35 hrs.

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