



Minutes of the Communications Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council

Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted on Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7.15pm

Present:

Cllr Pat Catt (Vice)
Cllr Clive English
Cllr Marie Selby

Also, in attendance was the Deputy Clerk Amy Bush, 3 members of the public and the Market Manager.

Reports from members of the public

A member of the public gave some feedback following Music on The Green. She commented on the success and welcomed the return of the event but wanted to address some noise disturbance from generators positioned close to the rear of her property. Councillors discussed and agreed on suitable alternative locations. This will be shared with all event organisers that use the Green in the future. Two members of the public wanted to raise some points relating to item 9 on the agenda. They would like to understand options and possible Council support for youth living in the Parish and whether a youth club could be an option. The Market Manager raised concerns regarding the road works around the Green and possible access problems for the monthly market.

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 from Cllr Hall and duly noted.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

Cllr Selby declared an interest item 6fiii Music on the Green and 6fiv Halloween proposal.

4. Signing of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 9th June 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Vice Chair.

Item 9. Following resident comments, it was agreed with all in favour to raise Item 9 for discussion.

Councillors discussed the need to engage young people in Bearsted. Youth clubs were raised, Cllrs commented on schemes that ran in Downswood and Maidstone but were no longer in operation. Cllr English believed BPC would be able to support an initiative. The Deputy Clerk to explore what support a Parish Council could offer. Examples of outdoor sport equipment for older children were reviewed. The Deputy Clerk to look at costs and possible locations and will give feedback at the next meeting.

5. Reports

- a) Office: The Deputy Clerk shared an update from Cllr Hall about the additional rail services which introduce half hourly services into London. Once an official timetable is available this will be communicated to residents on the website and social media.
The office had received a letter from Bearsted Area Churches. Together requesting use of the Green for their annual Carols on the Green event. This was agreed by the office to take place on 16th December at 7pm.
- b) Chairman: None.

6. Events (LGA1972 s145 (1) (a))

- a) Fireworks: The Deputy Clerk advised the committee that the new ticket scanning app will be tested next week and improvements are expected. Additional lighting and use of satellite wifi will be explored to support better scanning. The theme is being drafted by the fireworks company and once confirmed advertising will start. A save the date will be shared tomorrow on social media.

- b) Market on the Green: Comments made by the market manager on access were discussed. Cllr Selby will liaise with the White Horse and share any updates.
- c) Christmas Tree light switch on: Sunday 22nd November for The Green switch on. The Madginford shops lights would be lit on Monday 23rd November. The Deputy Clerk to liaise with the Vicar on fund raising. Cllr Selby will explore additional activities for the Green to enhance the event.
- d) Summer book hunt: A successful collaboration with the Bearsted Woodland Trust Nature Trail. The activity was well attended, and all books were awarded to those taking part.
- e) Other event suggestions: None.
- f) Externally organised events:
 - i. Bearsted Fayre and Carnival: No update.
 - ii. Classic Cars on The Green: No update.
 - iii. Consort Events Music on The Green: An update was given by Marie Selby. She thanked the Cricket Club and Market Manager for their support. The event was a huge success and has received very positive feedback. Unfortunately fencing was still waiting to be collected from the Green. The contractor will not be used in the future. Local schools did not attend to raise funds but were given the opportunity. It was proposed by Cllr English to recommend approval for Music on the Green 2027 on Sunday 29th August. This was agreed with 2 votes and one no vote.
 - iv. Consort Events Halloween proposal: Marie Selby shared ideas for a Halloween event which would most likely take place in one of the Parish halls. If the Green becomes a venue possibility this will return to Full Council for approval.

7. Media, printed and internal communications (LGA 1972 s142)

- a) Newsletter items for summer addition: Paused pending new format ideas.
- b) Social media: No updates.
- c) Noticeboard: The Deputy Clerk reported that trees encroaching the noticeboard at the A20 / Bearsted Woodland Trust entrance had been cut back.
- d) Website: No updates.

8. CCTV Comms and Engagement

Further resident engagement and updates will be discussed following the September Full Council Meeting.

9. Supporting youth in the community

Item raised and discussed at the start of the meeting.

10. Litter picking event

It was agreed to offer additional support to the existing group of volunteers and look at advertising for more help in key areas.

11. External workshops proposals for the community

- a) NatWest Fraud and Scam workshop
It was agreed to pass this invitation to existing groups within the community including U3A and BFG.
- b) Community personal safety workshop
The proposal will not be taken forward as a free local alternative had been offered. Cllr Selby to explore and pass details the office.
- c) Kent Police Cyber Security workshop.
It was agreed to offer the cyber team a space to engage with residents at the Market on the Green.
- d) Recycling event proposal from Suez
The event would be explored further by the office. The committee voted to recommend a £100 budget for hall hire to support the event.

12. Christmas car request

The Deputy Clerk to respond to the request highlighting possible roadworks. The Committee agreed parking on the Green is not an option in December.

13. Future Agenda items

Standing items.
CCTV Comms.
Youth engagement.
Consort Events – Jazz on the Green

14. Date of next meeting, 3rd November 2026

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 20.40hrs.

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