



Minutes of the Finance Working Group meeting of Bearsted Parish Council

Parish Office, Madginford Hall, Egremont Road, Bearsted on Thursday 8th October 2026 at 11am

Present:

Cllr Carolyn Smith (Chair)
Cllr Richard Ash MBE

Also, in attendance was the Clerk Joanne Upton and visiting members, Cllr David Hall, Cllr Val Springett and Cllr Christopher Waters.

1. To Elect a Chairperson

It was agreed that Cllr Smith would Chair this meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest, Dispensation or Lobbying

There were no declarations.

3. Apologies and absences

Apologies were received and duly noted for Cllr Jagger. Cllr Huseyin was absent.

4. Signing of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 10th September 2026 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. Finance (Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011/817)

- a. Resolution to ratify quotations or payments:
 - i. Ecclesiastical Insurance (Clear Councils): £1931.17 inc.VAT. It was agreed to recommend approval to FC.
 - ii. Coalition Cyber Insurance (Gallagher): £431.52 inc.VAT. It was agreed to recommend approval to FC.
- b. Grants and Donations:
 - i. Bearsted CAN: £500 for bulbs for planting on A20 verges. It was agreed to recommend approval to FC if more details provided on how many bulbs are being planted and the locations.
 - ii. Kent Air Ambulance: £500 towards annual running costs. It was agreed to recommend approval to FC.
- c. Review October Payments: It was agreed to recommend approval to Full Council.
- d. Review Finance Reports: It was agreed to recommend approval to Full Council.
- e. Review Balance of Accounts: It was agreed to recommend approval to Full Council.

6. Community Fund Reserve

The original Community Fund reserve was £65,000, approximately £28,000 is being used for the installation of CCTV cameras. It was agreed to recommend to FC that the remaining funds are kept in reserve for this CCTV project to pay for the annual running costs and potentially for additional cameras should this be required in the future.

7. Shopper Bus Update

Cllr Hall advised that Compaid lost the KCC Carrier contract and is therefore unable to continue offering this service. Cllr Hall has met with KCC and Nu-Venture to discuss a possible replacement service. Cllr Hall will be working with Detling Parish Council, KCC and Nu-Venture to bid for funding for this replacement service. Concerns have been raised by Detling Parish Council that school children are unable to access a bus service in the mornings as the bus that stops is already full so this may be

incorporated into the shopper bus service. The Working Group will recommend to FC that Cllr Hall & the Clerk are given delegated authority to bid for funding, which may require a financial contribution from both Parishes.

8. Date of next meeting, 5th November 2026

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 11:46 hrs.

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