

# BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at **King George V Memorial Hall, Manor Rise, Bearsted on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Mr Dyke (Vice Chairman), Messrs Ash, Cuming, Ethridge, Hughes, Smith, Street and Young, Mesdames Cuming and Stevens, along with Mrs Rimmer, Clerk to the Council, PC Tallon, PCSO Stevens, Community Warden Mrs Riach-Brown, Lorraine Hemphrey Mid Kent and Maidstone NHW and 5 members of the public.

The meeting was preceded by a talk from Lorraine Hemphrey, Watch Liaison Officer on the creation of Cold Calling Zones. At present there are six zones in the area. The aim of the zone is to educate people to deal with cold callers, to ensure that they do not feel pressurised to buy on the doorstep. Whilst Cold Calling is not against the law those carrying out the calls are expected to act to a certain protocol. If the Parish Council decided to introduce zones within the parish the parish would need to be split into areas as the whole of the parish could not be one zone. Initial research would be carried out to identify areas where the most vulnerable lived. With the whole of the parish not included in the NHW scheme this could be the opportunity to promote both schemes together.

**Action:** *Councillors to discuss at October meeting*

## REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

**This is a for information session only and no action can be taken upon those items raised**

1. Bearsted and Thurnham Club – representation from residents regarding the application for extended licensing hours at the club. Over recent months the noise, language and litter from the club has increased considerably. If the license was extended then the club would hold more music nights and there would be no differentiation between the club and the local public houses.

**Comment:** *The residents were advised that under the new Licensing laws the Parish Council was not a statutory consultee with regards to license extensions. However, the Parish Council had approached the licensing department regarding their concerns re noise and litter and also written to the manager of the club asking that all rules of the club are enforced both inside and outside.*

2. Bearsted Woodland Trust – complaint regarding anti-social behaviour at site. A log of events is being kept for the Environmental Health team, although a copy of this was not available for the Parish Council to view and comment on. The resident has been in contact with the police, community warden and planning department although no action appears to have been undertaken.

**Comment:** *The Play area is on the agenda and will be discussed later in the meeting. Mr Wilson representing the Woodland Trust commented that when polled 89% of members were in favour of allowing the Parish Council to place the equipment on the land. Of those members with reservations against the proposals, all now welcome the facility. No additional complaints have been received by the Trust*

1 Apologies for Absence: Messrs Harris, Licence, Stark, and Walton, Mrs Marshall MBE

2 Declarations of Interest

All Councillors were warned of the necessity to disclose any interest they may have in any items to be discussed. Mr Ash declared that he would not participate in any discussion concerning planning matters as he was a member of the Borough Council Planning Committee.

Mrs Cuming, Mr Ethridge and Mr Smith stated that they were members of the Woodland Trust and would not participate in any discussions concerning this organisation.

Messrs Ash and Ethridge stated that they were members of the Madginford Hall Management Committee and would not participate in any discussions concerning the Pre-School lease

Mr Hughes stated that he was a member of the Bearsted and Thurnham Club and would not participate in any discussions concerning the extended license at the Club.

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009 were signed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4 Action Points from Previous Minutes:

4.1 Parish Plan – update

Meeting scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> September with the hope to move the plan on and to develop the key issues identified. Due to a number of factors the original Steering Group has diminished in size resulting in the project taking longer to complete.

4.2 KCC - Proposed licence to sublet land to pre-school

Following Mr Walton's meeting with KCC Mr Carter it would appear that there is no land available at Madginford Infants School for the building.

Maidstone Borough Council Planning Department have approved the application therefore the only outstanding matter is the Parish Council's agreement to sub-let of the land. It was proposed that the lease remain as is with no land being sublet to the pre-school – those for the proposal 6, against 1, abstention 2.

**Action: KCC to be advised that no amendment to the lease is agreed.**

4.3 Sewer Pipe – Church Landway

Email from resident advising that following further investigation it has been decided to pump household waste into the Manor Rise sewer system as opposed to joining the Church Landway system.

5 Matters Arising

5.1 Bearsted Woodland Trust

a) Clerk reported that she had received a number of emails congratulating the Parish Council on the facility that has now been provided.

b) Following the complaints from the resident already mentioned the Clerk and Community Warden met with members of the Crime Prevention department at Maidstone Borough Council to discuss the use of CCTV in the area. This would be monitored 24/7 by MBC.

PCSO Stevens commented that the police have been patrolling the area as much as they can but they cannot provide 24/7 coverage so the use of CCTV would be a deterrent. Further discussion took place and it was agreed that whilst the ages of those causing the problems reported had not been ascertained, with the end of the school holidays and the darker evenings the situation would be monitored and the use of CCTV discussed further in Spring 2010.

Community Warden Riach-Brown stated that the installation of CCTV would give evidence which the police could not supply, the first sign of the police and the culprits vanish.

c) Damage to Toddler Swings resulted in the swings being removed. Playdale have been advised and will replace, one with a junior swing, in due course. Meeting with Area Representative held to discuss the project as a whole. The Area Representative commented on how well the area was maintained and that as an onlooker she would not have envisaged that there was a problem at the area.

**Action: Youth Committee to monitor events at the Play Area**

d) Electricity to Barn – sometime ago it was agreed that the Parish Council would be responsible for the payment of bills in relation to the electricity supply at the Barn, although this was never minuted. Councillors confirmed their agreement to the proposal.

## 5.2 Bearsted Green Play Area

Repairs to the swings have been undertaken, along with repairs to the safety surface and the replacement of the fence and gate to comply with Health and Safety report from MBC.

## 5.3 John Lawson Circus

Confirmation that the circus will visit for four days in 2010.

## 5.4 Playscheme

The Clerk reported that this year's scheme had received very positive feedback from parents. A wide range of activities had been covered along with the annual talent show and end of scheme party.

A copy of the Income and Expenditure report (Appendix 1) was circulated to all Councillors showing the scheme to have run within the Parish Council budget.

**Action: Letter to be sent to Amanda Franklin and June Wilkins thanking them for running a successful scheme.**

## 6 Police Report

a) PCSO Stevens introduced PC Tallon to the Parish Council. PC Tallon has been in the position one month and is looking forward to working with the Council.

Crime Report for July and August showed 9 crimes in July and 7 crimes in August (Appendix 2)

b) Community Warden Riach-Brown reported that the Sports and Activity Day and Air Extreme events had been very well received with good feedback from parents. Thank you to Mrs Stevens and Mrs Rimmer for their help at these events and the support of Councillors in attendance. A large number of young people have come forward interested in joining the forum.

- Cinder Path to The Grove – the residents who look after the path are finding it increasingly difficult to find the time to look after the path. Tuck by Truck, an organisation who work with people with learning disabilities are looking for a placement for one of their members to carry out some gardening work. This would be paid at the minimum wage and would be for a few hours each week.

**Action: Open Spaces Committee to discuss**

- Parking – with the schools starting back there have already been a number of complaints regarding parking at Madginford Hall and the surrounding road. Incidents of parents tailgating pedestrians to get spaces on the pavement have been reported to the police.

**Action: Letter to be sent to schools requesting that parents park considerately and safely.**

## 7 Correspondence

1. Kent Fire and Rescue Service – Service Performance Plan 2009/2010 – now available at [www.kent.fire-uk.org](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org)

2. KALC Maidstone Area Committee – Complaints Procedure for Parish Councils. Details of a uniform procedure the area committee wish to see Parish Council’s adopt.
3. MBC – Sustainable Communities Act – details of how the Parish Council can have their say in the decision making process
4. KALC – Minutes of Area Committee AGM
5. Mid Kent Downs Steering Group –Agenda re meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Mr Street confirmed his interest in attending this meeting which includes discussion on the Quiet Lanes scheme.
6. CAB – Invitation to Annual Public Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> September – Mr Ash confirmed he is to attend.
7. MBC – Parish Independent Remuneration Panel – opportunity for parishes to make comment regarding the remuneration of Councillors. This indirectly affects Parish Councillors since the sums agreed have a bearing on Councillors expenses.
8. Fighting for Freedom – Campaign for free train travel for over 60s.

**Action: Information to be placed on website and online petition to be set up**

## 8 Planning

8.1 Minutes of Planning Committee 10<sup>th</sup> August (Appendix 3) and 3<sup>rd</sup> September (Appendix 4) – the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> August had been ratified under emergency powers whilst the minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> September were agreed as a true record of proceedings.

Since the ratification of the minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> August the decision regarding Delamere, 109 The Landway had been overturned to one of refuse in view of a number of issues being overlooked at the time of consideration, mainly the existence of TPOs.

It was noted that having read a number of articles in the Downs Mail it would appear that Maidstone Borough Council’s Planning Committee may not be basing their decisions completely on material considerations, with casting votes being used to ensure that applications do not go to appeal with the associated cost implications.

### 8.2 Applications Received

MA/09/1387 The Bluff, Roundwell  
 MA/09/1435 Somerfield, 33 Egremont Road  
 MA/09/1319 Old Tiles, Roundwell  
 MA/09/1412 30 Royston Road  
 TA/0108/09 21 Church Lane  
 TA/0111/09 Bearsted Green

## 9 Matters of Report

### 9.1 Finance

- (i) List of Cheques to be signed (Appendix 5)
- (ii) Date of next meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009
- (iii) Bank reconciliation and budget monitoring (Appendix 6 & 7)
- (iv) Completion of Audit – Annual Audit report signed off by the Audit Commission.
- (v) Budget – Committee Chairman requested to start considering projects for 2010-2011 as the draft budget will be drawn up in November.

### 9.2 Open Spaces Report

Date of next meeting 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Quotations have been received for the re-surfacing of Church Landway. The contract for the works will be awarded at this meeting.

### 9.3 Youth Report

Youth Forum launch – a very successful day with between 80-90 young people taking part on Air Extreme. Good feedback has been received therefore it is hoped to hold the first meeting of the Forum in the coming weeks.

Mr Ash wished to thank Mrs Stevens for her work on the committee regarding the play area and the formation of the Youth Forum.

### 9.4 Communications Report

Insurance claim for damage to Egremont Road Notice board has been received and replacement notice board ordered.

### 9.5 Transportation/ Lighting Report

#### (i) Minutes of meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009 (Appendix 8)

- Speedwatch – presentation from PC Jarvis regarding the scheme. It was proposed that the Parish Council trial the scheme – 1 for, 6 against, 2 abstentions.
- The meeting also included a joint parish meeting with Downswood, Otham, Detling and Thurnham to tackle Rat-running. Further meetings are planned to take this matter forward.

Mr Walton had requested that Mr Street be congratulated on bringing the parishes together in an attempt to tackle this ongoing problem.

#### (ii) Report from meeting with KHS 3<sup>rd</sup> September (Appendix 9)

(iii) Bearsted Station – Mick Cherry to be requested to provide costings for the extension to the station car park along with the provision of a new footbridge so that these are in hand should the KIG development be granted thus resulting in S106 monies.

### 9.6 Entertainment Report

The report in the Downs Mail regarding the events of the evening were a little inaccurate, in that the appropriate paperwork had been lodged with Kent Police. Letter received from Kent Police detailing procedures for 2010. Mr Hughes reported that he has spoken with Special Constable Jennings who is to arrange a meeting between the Parish Council and police to discuss policing for 2010.

### 9.7 Quality Parish Council Application sub Committee

It was proposed that in order for the accompanying paperwork to be prepared for the application that the relief administrator is employed to collate the required information to allow the clerk to carry out the day to day running of the Council.

### 9.8 Chairman's Report

(i) Mynn Awards – it was proposed that Mrs Marshall MBE, Mr Hughes and Mr Clifford (Bearsted and Thurnham Society) form the adjudication panel for the 2009 awards.

9.9 Clerk's Report – nothing to report

9.10 KALC Report – nothing to report

9.11 Written Reports from County Councillor and Borough Councillors – no further information

9.12 Reports from Councillors who sit as representatives on local organisations

- Memorial Hall – new zoned central heating system installed over the summer holiday will ensure that the heating costs of the hall are kept to a minimum.

10 Matters for next Agenda

Pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business transacted.

11 Financial Management – it was proposed that the details set out be adopted. Agreed unanimously.

12 Date of Next meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at Madginford Hall

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

**Points of Action**

Cold Calling	Further Discussion	October Full Council
Pre-school	Letter to KCC	Clerk
Play Area	Monitor situation	Youth Committee
Playscheme	Letter to Leaders	Clerk
Cinder Path	Employment of Tuck by Truck member	Open Spaces Committee
Parking	Letter to schools	Clerk
Free Train Travel	Website and Online Petition	Clerk/PY