

BEARSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting of Bearsted Parish Council held at King George V Hall, Egremont Rd, Bearsted on Tuesday 6th February, 2018 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Geoff Bennett (Chair)
Cllr Jon Hughes (Vice Chair)
Cllr Richard Ash
Cllr Jonathan Askin
Cllr Suzanne Camp
Cllr Fabienne Hughes
Cllr Pat Marshall MBE

Also in attendance was the Clerk Sarah Lewis, and 4 members of the public.

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Comments were taken from a member of the public regarding the advertising sandwich board opposite The Rose on the Ashford Road being unsightly and causing a hazard to pedestrians.

The height of benches located around the Parish was queried as being too tall. The benches are of a standard size and cannot be altered.

1. Declarations of intention to record

There were no such declarations.

2. Apologies and absence

There were no absences.

3. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying.

There were no such declarations.

4. Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the Full Council meeting of Monday 27th November, 2018 were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

5. Matters arising from the last minutes and action points.

Action points had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

6. Expenditure against Budget report.

This report was not available for the meeting.

7. Church Landway/Church Car Park

a) Correspondence from resident regarding surface condition: This correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting and will be responded to accordingly by the Clerk.

b) Correspondence regarding Church Lane Car Park: A telephone call had been received by the Clerk regarding the poor surface of the car park. The caller was informed that works are being scheduled to address the situation.

c) Church Landway revised specification and re-tender invitations. An update was given regarding the revised specification and the Clerk confirmed that all previous interested contractors had been contacted to re-tender

however the Clerk will place the contract on the Government EU Contract Finder.

ACTION: CLERK

d) Maintenance of the playground equipment: Enquiries for quotations had been sent out to multiple contractors. One quote had been received back and several declined. A proposal for the acceptance of the quote for the repairs to the main entrance gate from Darren Rouse at a price of £384.00 was carried by unanimous vote.

e) Church Landway lighting: A report of a low level light out will be investigated by Cllrs Hughes.

ACTION: CLLR FABIENNE HUGHES

8. Highways & Footpaths.

a) Correspondence:

i) Parking restrictions outside Paydens on the Ashford Road:

Following correspondence from Ward Cllr Springett to support a motion to reduce the current 2 hour waiting time, a discussion ensued whereby the issues of enforcement was discussed. It was felt that residents using the services of some local businesses such as Estate Agents, Pharmacy and Funeral Directors would suffer should the waiting time be reduced. A proposal to maintain the current arrangement was carried by unanimous vote.

ii) Suggestion for yellow lines outside Bearsted and Thurnham School: Correspondence from the Community Warden was addressed regarding the issue of dangerous parking outside of the school. Following a recent on site meeting with KCC Highways regarding 'hot spots' in the parish, although the Committee are in favour of more considerate parking for school pick up, on the advice of KCC this is not a viable option in this location. A motion was carried to continue with the current situation.

b) To identify footpaths requiring maintenance: The steps leading from the Church Landway car park to the Church Landway were identified as being in need of repair. The Clerk will source relevant quotes for such works and report back.

ACTION: CLERK

c) Update on installations of waste bins: An update was received from Cllr F Hughes who advised the Committee that MBC have now taken delivery of the units and the installation is imminent.

d) General recycling for the office: After a discussion regarding costs of £20 per month for a recycling bin and monthly collection to the Parish Office, it was decided by unanimous vote not to proceed but to monitor the situation for future discussion.

e) Relocation of planters on A20 Ashford Road: A proposal was made for the relocation of the Parish wooden planter to beneath the noticeboard by the car park on the Ashford Road. This would enable the unit to be secured to the legs of the noticeboard for security. This motion was carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION: CLERK

g) Works for the handy man: It was suggested that the pathway from the A20 by the BP station to Button Lane needs some clearing, however it was agreed that this was a task more suited to the Grounds Maintenance contractor.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Ash suggested that the open area in Rosemary Road could do with some maintenance on a regular basis and will assess the area to estimate monthly hourly attendance.

ACTION: CLLR RICHARD ASH

The area by the end of the shed at the White Horse car park to the pathway was highlighted as looking very overgrown with ivy. The Clerk will advise the Rifle Club who attended to this area previously.

ACTION: CLERK

There has been garden waste noted to the rear boundary of residence in Hill Brow. The Clerk will write to residents asking them to desist.

ACTION: CLERK

9. Bearsted Green

a) Update for quotations to the repair to the corner of Yeoman Lane/The Green: This matter is in hand.

b) Update for double kerb installation to the west of the Green: This matter is ongoing.

c) Survey of the Green: Relevant quotations for varying degrees of surveys had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to deal only with the survey to the main area of the Green and not to the peripheral smaller sections and the rules for the Green should stipulate that there should be no penetration of the ground in these smaller sections. Quotes for the main area were considered and it was unanimously agreed to recommend the quotation from Sitech Surveying Services for the Electromagnetic & GPR underground services survey at a cost of £900 for ratification at Full Council.

d) Maintenance of the play area: This had been discussed at item 7d and the quote from Darren Rouse for £384.00 to attend to the repairs to the Daisy Roundabout was unanimously carried.

ACTION: CLERK

e) Water cabinet security: It was highlighted to the Committee that the lockable cover to the water cabinet was defective and in need of repair/replacement. The Clerk will seek quotations.

ACTION: CLERK

f) Removal of existing bench and fitting of base for replacement: A new donated bench from the Womens Institute is soon to be available for installation. The Clerk will instruct contractors to remove the existing bench and prepare the site for the installation of the new bench.

ACTION: CLERK

g) Request for relocation of one or more of the new bollards in the vicinity of the Pavilion and cricket club shed: Following a brief discussion it was agreed to ask the installation contractor to relocate the offending post before the start of the cricket season in April.

ACTION: CLERK

10. Open Spaces

a) Correspondence:

i) Resident permission for tree surgery: A request for necessary tree surgery to the rear of their property had been requested by a resident of Upper Chimes at their own cost and was approved.

ii) Correspondence regarding recent tree damage to a property in Hampson Way had been received. The Committee were commended by the resident for their prompt and helpful response following the recent storm damage.

iii) Any additional correspondence: There was none.

b) Required tree surgery for dangerous trees at Meadowbank: 3 quotes have been received and were considered for the removal of 3 ash trees in a dangerous condition. Following discussion and consideration it was proposed to recommend accepting the quotation from Tantons Tree

Surgeons at a cost of £3,400.00 for ratification at full council. The motion was carried with a vote of six in favour and one abstention.

- c) To consider access and temporary fencing at Meadowbank prior to the upcoming ecology survey: Following a discussion the Clerk will obtain quotations for the fencing of post and stock and gateway installation, and the upgrading of the pathway with type 1 surfacing.

ACTION: CLERK

- d) Fly tipping at Meadowbank: This issue was highlighted as continuing to be a problem. The area will be cleared with the regeneration when it is hoped that this will address the problem.

- e) Community Pay Back scheme from Probation Services: This initiative was greeted favourably and the Clerk will make the necessary enquiries.

ACTION: CLERK

- f) Update for works to the Elizabeth Harvie field fencing/hedge removal: The committee were advised that these works are imminent.

- g) Update on bench repairs at Sharsted Way: An update was given.

11. Allotments

- a) Correspondence: Complaint against BPC from Church Lane allotment holder: This item was discussed and will be further addressed by Cllr Bennett.

ACTION: CLLR BENNETT

- b) To consider suggested changes to Allotment tenancy contracts for both sites: There is a meeting with the Church Landway allotment committee representatives and the Clerk next week whereby documents will be assessed and compared. The Clerk also asked the allotment society to produce a thorough proposal and plan detailing their request for changing the footprint of the existing shed locations and those that were lost in the fire. Once the proposal is received, the specifics can be considered and addressed.

12. Matters for discussion

It was highlighted that the rear of the noticeboard at Cross Keys needs repair; the Clerk will organise this.

ACTION: CLERK

An update was received on a recent traffic calming meeting with KCC.

13. Future Agenda Items

Traffic calming

14. Downs Mail

The Committee would like the page to carry a request for volunteers for various projects including conservation works.

15. Details of next Meeting:

Tuesday 13th March, 2018 at King George V Memorial Hall, Manor Rise. 7:30pm

There being no further business to transact, the meeting ended at 9:30pm

Signed..... **Date**.....