

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th JULY 2023 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

PRESENT: Cllr Vizzard in Chair, Cllr Pepper, Cllr Passmore, Cllr Ilsley, Cllr Doe, Cllr Kennedy and Clerk Mrs N Attwood.

Cllr Passmore proposed for Cllr Vizzard to Chair the meeting due to the apologies from Cllr Gooch and the lack of a Vice Chairman; all members were in favour of this proposal.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Holmes (Heath Ward)

Public Session

Cllr Holmes informed members that he will be attending future meetings of Barming Parish Council due to the proposed boundary changes. This way he can keep the Heath Ward residents informed on all topics that are being discussed at the meetings and also share their views.

Regarding the current boundary review consultation Cllr Holmes voiced the residents' concerns. It was communicated that people who live in an area that is unparished at present are obviously concerned with the potential financial increases, especially during the cost-of-living crisis. Most of the residents do not think it is a good idea and it is extremely bad timing; the overall perspective is negative. In an almost urban area, which has been unparished for the last 5 years, what would residents actually get for the money they would have to pay? It is felt that the urban side would have the cost and no benefit. Cllr Holmes confirmed that you can clearly see what the Parish Councils do for areas like Barming and Teston, but there are concerns for the urban side. Both Cllr Holmes and Cllr Kimmance have received feedback regarding this consultation which they will forward to Cllr Gooch and if there are boundary changes then the right things need to happen to the facilities that are currently looked after by MBC such as the play area at Barming Heath as it is a well-used facility.

Cllr Holmes added that the flyer that was circulated regarding the consultation from MBC was rather small and could have possibly been missed by a number of residents.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Gooch

2. NOTIFICATION TO BE RECEIVED FOR INTENT TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS.

No intent to record any items.

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

None

4. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 21st June 2023

The minutes were **Agreed** as an accurate record with all members in favour.

5. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

5.1 Community Governance Consultation: Parish Boundary Review

Cllr Passmore clarified the consultation and gave background information on the previous Ward Boundary Consultation for the new members of the council and explained that it is now time for the Parish Boundaries Consultation. Cllr Kennedy asked whether these changes were due to the increase in population. This was confirmed by Cllr Vizzard who explained that the Borough Council was looking for more continuity on electorate figures per ward. Cllr Passmore then went on to explain the precept payments and gave examples from the MBC website. Members agreed that the benefits of a parish council need to be communicated to residents and these would be added to the parish council's response to the consultation. The main benefits discussed were the need for local representation, greater protection for the area, a say on planning applications, responsibility of local services/amenities and grass roots democracy. Cllr Ilsley added that having a parish council gives the residents more of a local voice and ensures community engagement, which in turn makes a difference to the local community. Cllr Passmore will devise a response based upon the previous comments that BPC submitted at the first stage of the consultation with the added benefits of the parish council. Cllr Passmore will circulate the response to all members in time for submission. The consultation link has already been advertised by the

Clerk on the Facebook page, but will also be added to the website. All Councillors will add the link to their own social media platforms to drive participation.

ACTION: ALL

5.2 Kent Minerals Sites Plan Review: Potential Site South West of Hermitage Quarry

Cllr Passmore gave an informative report on the review and confirmed that the response was due by 25th July 2023. He explained that although KCC are going through the process correctly, the whole process is rather confusing with a large number of documents to read through. Cllr Vizzard asked members to vote whether they were in favour or not of the potential site. Two members did not object to the potential site, but four members were against. Cllr Kennedy felt that KCC had not been inclusive of public engagement for the consultation. The Clerk confirmed that she had posted the link to the consultation on the Facebook page and will also add it to the website. It was suggested by Cllr Vizzard for members to send their objections to the Chairman for them to be collated and a response to be submitted by the cut-off date.

Members felt that as both consultations in item 5.1 and 5.2 were of such importance, they should be advertised in as many places as possible including the Barming News and on the noticeboards. The Clerk assured members that Cllr Gooch keeps residents well informed of all items discussed at the meetings, but will check regarding the noticeboards.

ACTION: ALL

5.3 Parish Field: Signage for Dogs

Cllr Ilsley, Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Pepper confirmed that they had visited the parish field to view the signage. Cllr Ilsley had looked for some appropriate nudge signage for dogs and owners to take responsibility of their dog's behaviour, but had not been able to find anything suitable. Cllr Ilsley suggested that as the signage we currently have at the field does seem adequate and there has just been one incident, it should be kept on the radar and monitored. All members were in favour of this suggestion.

5.4 Parish Field: BYFC Request to Install a Defibrillator

The Barming Youth Football Club had previously been in contact with Cllr Gooch to ask for permission to install a defibrillator at the pavilion and the email correspondence had been circulated to members. Barming Parish Council are in favour of a defibrillator being installed at the parish field in principle, but have a few stipulations. Firstly, all members had concerns over the equipment being attached to the pavilion building as we have experienced cladding being damaged in the past and do not want any more damage to occur. As an alternative, posts could be installed at BYFC's cost for the cabinet to be attached to. Members also wish to clarify who would be responsible for the continued maintenance of the equipment (purchasing replacement pads or any batteries etc), ownership and registering the monthly checks on the Circuit website to show that the equipment is in good working order and ready for use. Once all of these queries are answered, BPC would be happy for BYFC to apply for the grant for a defibrillator as this type of equipment is critical and it makes sense having one where people are regularly playing football and exercising. The Clerk will inform Cllr Gooch of the outcome so that she can continue to liaise with the representative of the football club regarding the matter.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk

6. FINANCE

6.1 Budget Monitoring

The Clerk circulated the budget monitoring and bank reconciliation prior to the meeting.

6.2 Income received

The following payments received since the last meeting were noted:

Unity Trust Account

Parish Hall Income £1034.88
Pavilion Income £740.50
Hiring deposits £250.00
Barming News Adverts £430.00
Allotment income £57.38
MBC PSS Grant £1649.86

Natwest Account

Parish Hall Income £63.75
Natwest Interest £30.23

Outstanding Invoices

Invoice: None

6.3 Cheques for signature & Online Payments

Confirmation of payments made

The following payments were agreed

Natwest Direct Debits

MBC NNDR Rates Pavilion £278.00

Unity Trust Direct Debits

Castle Water Parish Hall £16.89

Parish Hall WIFI £34.30

O2 Mobile Contract £44.80

MBC Waste Collection £21.45

Castle water Allotments £148.27

Business Stream Water Pavilion £76.13

EDF Parish Hall £60.24

EDF Pavilion £43.21

Unity Trust Service Charge £18.00

Employer costs

Total Staff Costs £2374.50

HMRC Employer Payment £1,683.55

Natwest Cheque 3452 £65.46 allotment locks

Online payments authorised

SLCC Subscription £222.00

Mr D Buckett Audit Fee £353.60

Dusters Cleaning £255.00

Mr P Gooch Handyman £1,038.58

Mrs N Attwood Expenses £61.69

J Dowle Allotment Fencing Deposit £3,222.00

Hiring deposit refunds £200.00

7 PLANNING

7.1 Any planning matters

No Planning applications to discuss.

8 MATTERS OF REPORT

8.1 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Webb was not present.

8.2 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr Gooch was not present

8.3 Chairman's Report

Cllr Gooch was not present

8.4 Individual Councillors Report

Cllr Pepper enquired as to what will happen to unmanned train station ticket office buildings, are they just locked up and left empty? Cllr Vizzard confirmed that unless they are taken over as a community café or something similar, they are left empty.

As Cllr Pepper is really keen to attend the new Councillor training the Clerk will continue to circulate the new dates of upcoming courses.

Cllr Passmore confirmed that the ashes of a former allotment plot holder will be scattered and details have been placed on the allotment notice board for plot holders' information.

Cllr Ilsley informed members that when he visited the parish field, he noticed that the June diaries were still showing on the notice board and the July ones had not been put up yet. The Clerk will check with Cllr Gooch, but is sure that the notice board would have been updated by now.

Cllr Ilsley brought to members attention that the Wayside Cross Memorial had been removed from its usual place at the top of North Street. The Clerk confirmed that it is all safe and currently being restored by the handyman and once completed will be put back in situ.

Cllr Holmes thanked BPC for the meeting and confirmed that he would continue to attend future meetings to keep up to date with items. Members thanked Cllr Holmes for his attendance.

8.5 Clerk's Reports

None

9 CORRESPONDENCE

None

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road for the regular Full Council Meeting.

The meeting was closed at 20.55pm

DRAFT