

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2020 at 7.30pm
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Cllr Manser in Chair, Cllr Muthana, Cllr Doe, Cllr Vizzard and Clerk Mrs N Attwood.

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public present for agenda item 5.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Gooch
2. **NOTIFICATION TO BE RECEIVED FOR INTENT TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS.**
The Clerk recorded the meeting through the Zoom application for security purposes.
3. **COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**
The Clerk asked each member in turn and no declarations were recorded.
4. **MINUTES of the Meeting held on 14th October 2020**
The minutes were **Agreed** as an accurate record.
5. **CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR**
Alice Williams
Ms Williams introduced herself to the council and gave a summary of her employment history and interests. Members were given the opportunity to ask relevant questions. Cllr Doe proposed to proceed with the co-option, this was seconded by Cllr Muthana with all members in favour. The Clerk will liaise with Ms Williams and arrange the necessary paperwork to be completed.
6. **RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**
 - 6.1 **Continued Delegated Powers for the Clerk**
Due to the current pandemic it was recommended that delegated powers continue for the Clerk. Cllr Vizzard proposed to continue with the current arrangement which was seconded by Cllr Muthana with all members in favour.
 - 6.2 **Covid-19 Decision and Payment Log**
The Clerk has kept a log of all payments and decisions that have been made during the pandemic. Members have been updated on other news as well. This was purely done for peace of mind and so that there is an audit trail for future reference. It also has given the Clerk the opportunity to ensure everyone is fully aware of everything that is being done whilst we cope with this challenging time. Members formally noted the receipt of log number 009. The Clerk will continue to produce the log until physical meetings resume. **ACTION:** Clerk
 - 6.3 **Parish Hall and Pavilion Maintenance: Windows, Decorating & Flooring**
The flooring in the parish hall has now been installed and looks really good. The windows are due to be installed at the end of November and the decorator has booked us in for the first week in December. Members were reminded that due to the new Covid-19 regulations, there could possibly be some delays. Members will be kept up to date with all future arrangements and completed work.
 - 6.4 **Allotments Northern Boundary**
After the recent site meeting, Cllr Gooch has been in contact with various companies to discuss the options for the boundary. Unfortunately, another theft has been reported by one of the allotment holders. Given the huge size of all 10 of the conifers on the boundary, it seems that to do a proper job of cutting them back and fencing the area would be a huge and expensive task, so therefore boundary planting may be an effective and more affordable way to go. No quotations have been obtained yet and a meeting with the boundary owner will be arranged before any work takes place. Unfortunately, due to the new Covid-19 regulations there will be a slight delay in arranging meetings but the matter is in hand.

6.5 KCC Claimed Bridleways Consultation: The Pea Field, Barming

The Clerk circulated the details of the consultation prior to the meeting.

Members feel that if KCC decides in favour, the developer will need to adjust his site plan accordingly. Taylor Wimpey may have to change it anyway order to meet the requirements of the planning committee, for example increasing open space. The Clerk will submit the comments for BPC.

ACTION: Clerk

6.6 Maidstone Borough Local Plan Review

BPC notes the consultation on the Local Plan Review and will attend any pre-consultation discussions offered by MBC. Members will be kept up to date with any communication regarding the review.

6.7 Draft Budget

The Clerk circulated the draft budget and notes prior to the meeting. Cllr Manser and Cllr Gooch have responded and both agree with the proposed budget. Cllr Gooch wished to warmly thank the Clerk as Responsible Finance Officer for all the time and effort she has put into the draft budget and with the very helpful supporting notes. Nobody can say what next year will bring, apart from uncertainty, and that economic recovery from the pandemic will take years. On that basis alone, like Cllr Manser, Cllr Gooch supports Nicola's carefully considered draft. The percentage figures will be circulated as soon as the Maidstone Borough Council base rates are released and all other members were in agreement to the draft budget.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Budget Monitoring

The Clerk circulated the papers prior to the meeting.

7.2 Income received and any unpaid invoices

Natwest interest 0.56
BYFC Annual Hire 725.00
KCC Grant for Windows and Bull Orchard Tree 1,300.00
VAT Refund 2,883.05
Barming News Adverts 124.50
EDF Energy Refund 234.60

Confirmation of payments made

MBC Rates 264.00
Parish Hall WIFI 27.99
Parish Field Bin 19.50
Castle Water parish hall 8.63
Castle Water Allotments 28.45
Business Stream Pavilion Water 18.29
EDF Energy parish hall 78.00
EDF Energy pavilion 76.00

7.3 Cheques for signature

Payments were previously confirmed on the Covid-19 log sheets circulated by the Clerk.

8. PLANNING

8.1 Applications received prior to the meeting

None

9. MATTERS OF REPORT

9.1 County Councillor

Cllr Stockell was not present.

9.2 Borough Councillor/ Chairman

Cllr Gooch was not present at the meeting so therefore the Clerk informed members regarding the overnight lorry issue at the Barnjet layby and the local homeless gentleman who has been seen regularly at Bull Orchard.

The report for members from Cllr Gooch has been copied and pasted below for information purposes.

Overnight Lorry Parking at A26 Barnjet Lay-by – an ongoing problem for many years, and raised again when the Catering Van renewed its licence earlier this year. Kent Highways have advised that in theory lay-bys should be regularly inspected, but just isn't possible with diminishing resources, so it's low priority. Requests to fill in the huge potholes rarely get dealt with. It used to be part of the old A26 before it was improved, so it has lost its designation as part of the road. As it's therefore not possible to impose formal parking restrictions, it's not possible to prevent or enforce parking by lorries or other vehicles. It's tricky because drivers need a break for safety reasons. Overnight lorry bans have been agreed with other authorities such as

Ashford and Medway, but on certain formal lay-bys and with the support of the Dept for Transport. The only other alternative would be to take the lay-by out completely, which would be very unlikely. The issue of using the lay-by as a public convenience would come under MBC's Environmental Health. Although I'm not aware of evidence or complaints for them to investigate, I will make enquiries when I make a similar enquiry about where our local tramp relieves himself when he's at Bull Orchard.

Cllr Gooch also emailed the following report to the Clerk regarding the cancellation of the Remembrance Event:

A last-minute directive from National Youth Agency prevented Scouts and Guides from taking part in Remembrance Events. Five of our seven marshals are scout/guide leaders (also first aiders) and consequently withdrew from the event. It was not possible to find and train replacements at such short notice therefore the road closure could not proceed and the event had to be cancelled for safety reasons. The public was notified of the cancellation by notices on the parish notice boards, the parish website, and Facebook pages. The Rector of St Margaret's arranged with the Chairman of Barming Parish Council to hold a brief service at the war memorial which was live streamed to St Margaret's Facebook page and was attended by approx. 50 people.

The parish council will not be charged for the hire of the road closure equipment as it was not used. Two yellow advanced warning notices were taken from the A26 and will need to be replaced. The Rector will retain the contribution to printing service sheets as he had already printed them beforehand.

9.3 Individual Councillors Report

Nothing to report.

9.4 Clerk Report

Nothing to report. The Clerk did inform the relevant members that online bank details have been sent out though the post.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

LCR Magazine

Kent Voice Magazine

Both will be posted out to the Chairman.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

As agreed, all future meetings will be arranged depending on Government guidelines. The next meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 8.02pm.