

## BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

**PRESENT:** Cllr Gooch in Chair, Cllr Passmore, Cllr Manser and the Clerk.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Two members of the public were present.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Doe, Cllr Williams, Cllr Webb

1. **NOTIFICATION TO BE RECEIVED FOR INTENT TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS.**  
No intent to record any items.

3. **COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**

Cllr Manser declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.3 (Cheque and online payments)

Cllr Passmore declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 (Planning)

Cllr Gooch declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 5.8 (Barming Parish Council Handyman)

4. **MINUTES of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The minutes were **Agreed** as an accurate record by all members.

5. **RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

#### 5.1 Annual Meeting

The Clerk clarified that the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) is not a meeting of the council but a meeting of the community; parish councillors do not even need to attend. The attendance of parish councillors at an assembly of the parish meeting may demonstrate that the council is receptive to hearing the views of local residents. Unfortunately, the APM is governed by the same legislation as all parish council meetings including committee meetings.

The Clerk contacted KALC to find out if BPC could hold a hybrid/webinar set up for the annual meeting. KALC confirmed that any type of pre-recorded site visits, tree planting or information regarding events/clubs are not seen as suitable for the Annual Parish Meeting as those who are watching/listening are not interacting and are just therefore passive, which is not the purpose of the annual parish meeting.

With all of the information in mind, Cllr Gooch proposed the annual parish meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> April is held at the pavilion; this was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour. It was suggested that anyone attending brings a torch as it might be dark when people leave the pavilion. Cllr Manser voiced her concerns regarding vulnerable residents and the risk of Covid transmission. Members agreed that if anyone who is at risk decides not to attend, then that will be totally understandable. It was agreed that Cllr Williams would do a presentation on the speed watch campaign, as this is a topic of concern for a number of the residents and Cllr Gooch agreed to talk about her year as the Mayor of Maidstone. Cllr Passmore suggested that information is also given to attendees regarding the Local Boundary Consultation.

Light refreshments will be provided in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits.

#### 5.2 Premises/Hiring Terms & Conditions

Members agreed for the 'No bouncy castles' to be added to point 30 on the pavilion terms & conditions to save any future confusion. Cllr Manser was happy for point 16 to remain the same (The hirer shall not use or permit use of additional electrical appliances in the premises without the prior permission of the Booking Clerk) and members confirmed that any small electrical items (e.g. CD players) should be PAT tested or not allowed to be used.

#### 5.3 War Memorial

As previously agreed, Cllr Gooch has contacted the War Memorials Trust for advice; members agreed that BPC have a clear responsibility to ensure that the structure remains in place and is maintained. From the photographs viewed, it appears that the surrounding ragstone wall and steps require some attention and it was advised that BPC contact contractors for quotations. Cllr Gooch approached Gallagher's Masonry Manager to see if he could supply any details of

sub-contractors and a list was sent through. Members voted all in favour for Cllr Gooch to contact 3 companies to supply quotations for the work on the surrounding wall and steps. The quotations will then be discussed at the March meeting. Cllr Gooch will meet on site with contractors and also seek advice on the pitting on the lower plinth being Portland stone.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

#### **5.4 Quotations for Parish Field Boundary Work**

This item was deferred until a later date due to unforeseen circumstances.

#### **5.5 Visual Parish Owned Tree Checks**

This item was deferred until a later date due to unforeseen circumstances

#### **5.6 River Bank Land Title Number K888537: Village Green Application**

Cllr Passmore requested that this item was added to the agenda and that an application for Village Green status is submitted. Cllr Gooch has spoken to MBC who will contact the Biodiversity & Climate Change Officer and suggest that this land is used for tree planting. Cllr Passmore recommended proceeding with the Village Green application and proposed that the Clerk writes to MBC to ask them to consider registering the land as a village green. Cllr Gooch will send the relevant MBC contact details over to the Clerk and Cllr Passmore will send over the KCC contact details.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Cllr Passmore, Clerk**

#### **5.7 Barming Youth Football Club Hiring Fees**

Members agreed that the fees paid by the club were in need of a review as the field and pavilion usage has increased.

Members based the figures on 36 weeks of weekend usage at the regular hirer rate of £7.40 which equates to £1598.40. BPC understand that this is a significant increase therefore, it was suggested that the Clerk writes to the Chairman and Secretary of the football club to hear their thoughts on the matter. If needed, members of BPC are happy to meet with the club on site to discuss the increase in fees.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **5.8 Barming Parish Council Handyman**

Unfortunately, this item had to be deferred until the March meeting as BPC would not have been quorate to discuss the subject once Cllr Gooch had left the room.

#### **5.9 Action with Communities in Rural Kent**

Cllr Gooch proposed to continue with the annual subscription at a cost of £90.00. This was seconded by Cllr Manser with all members in favour.

#### **5.10 The Local Government Boundary Review**

BPC is mindful that there is no movement of parish boundaries as part of this review. However, BPC does think that the Borough Ward of Barming could be closely linked with Heath Ward and Fant Ward i.e., up to Hermitage Lane and Farleigh Lane.

Cllr Gooch will be attending various MBC workshops during February and will report back to members. Cllr Passmore will contact the Local Boundary Commission to clarify whether Ward boundaries will be considered first and then any Parish boundary changes.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Cllr Passmore**

#### **5.11 Barrier for the Parish Hall Car Park**

As parking is very limited and local residents are regularly leaving vehicles parked for numerous days, BPC are considering installing some form of barrier system. Cllr Manser will investigate what options are available and cost, which will be reported back at the next meeting. Cllr Gooch will contact Gallaghers for a quotation as they also provide ground work services.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Cllr Manser**

#### **5.12 KALC Community Awards Adoption and Nomination**

In accordance with Standing Order 7a, four Members had given written notice to the Clerk for this item to be reconsidered. As most of the Members were not present, Barming Parish Council decided not to proceed any further with this item.

### **6 FINANCES**

#### **6.1 To note Monitoring Report to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**

The Clerk circulated the finance documentation to all members prior to the meeting.

#### **6.2 To note income received and report any unpaid invoices**

One unpaid invoice was reported and the Clerk will now chase the payment.

**ACTION: Clerk**

##### **Income received**

The following payments received since the last meeting were noted:

Natwest Interest – 0.36  
Barming News Adverts – 48.00  
Pavilion Income – 562.70  
Parish Hall Income – 391.35

### **Confirmation of payments made**

The following payments were agreed

DD – BT WIFI 28.15  
DD – Waste Collection 19.50  
DD – EDF Hall 77.12  
DD – Castle Water 5.00  
DD – EDF pavilion 137.16  
DD – MBC NNDR (Rates) 264.00

### **6.3 Cheques and Online Payments**

Employer costs – 1559.31  
Online payments:  
A Doe 500.00  
Sustrans 75.00  
CPRE 36.00  
Apollo Windows 1197.52  
Pike & Chapman 329.78  
Commercial Services 669.36  
Dusters Cleaning 225.00  
S Manser expenses 13.02

## **7 PLANNING**

Any planning matters received prior to the meeting

### **22/500123/FULL 1-3 Tonbridge Road: Change of use to fish & chip restaurant (Resubmission of**

**21/504067)**– This application has no new information to alleviate BPC's previous objections and concerns so a copy of the original comments will be submitted.

**22/500141/FULL Scrases, Rectory Lane: Change of use to two separate dwellings** – Unfortunately this application could not be discussed at the meeting as BPC would not be quorate in Cllr Passmore's exclusion for this item. The Clerk will carry out an email exchange with members (excluding Cllr Passmore due to his interest) and gather comments to be ratified at the March meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

### **22/500337/FULL 54 Abingdon Road: Demolition of existing garage and erection of a single storey side**

**extension and first floor front extension** – Barming Parish Council raises no objection but wishes to have a condition imposed that requires a scheme for the enhancement of biodiversity on the site to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall consist of the enhancement of biodiversity through at least one integrated method into the design and appearance of the extension by means such as swift bricks, bat tubes or bee bricks, and through the provision within the site curtilage such as bird boxes, bat boxes, bug hotels, log piles, wildflower planting and hedgehog corridors. The development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to first use of the extension/s and all features shall be maintained thereafter.

Reason: To enhance the ecology and biodiversity on the site in the future

### **22/500463/FULL 15 Barned Court: Demolition of shed, garage and carport. Erection of two storey side**

**extension with side access and external alterations** – Barming Parish Council raises no objection but wishes to have a condition imposed that requires a scheme for the enhancement of biodiversity on the site to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall consist of the enhancement of biodiversity through at least one integrated method into the design and appearance of the extension by means such as swift bricks, bat tubes or bee bricks, and through the provision within the site curtilage such as bird boxes, bat boxes, bug hotels, log piles, wildflower planting and hedgehog corridors. The development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to first use of the extension/s and all features shall be maintained thereafter.

Reason: To enhance the ecology and biodiversity on the site in the future

## **8 MATTERS OF REPORT**

### **8.1 County Councillor's Report**

Not present at the meeting

### **8.2 Borough Councillors Report**

Cllr Gooch reported that according to the Climate Emergency UK campaign, MBC's Climate Action plan is ranked 25th place nationally out of the 325 UK councils who have declared a climate emergency, and we've received the top score among Kent councils.

Maidstone Museum re-opened 9<sup>th</sup> February after a winter break.

As Mayor, last week Cllr Gooch launched the 'clean up Maidstone' event in town. Cllr Gooch also took part in the ground breaking event to mark the start of the building of the new business park at Junction 8 and she attended Chinese New Year celebrations in Maidstone Town Centre last Saturday, organised by Maidstone Cultural Group.

#### **BPC Chairman**

Cllr Gooch highlighted that from all of her reports in tonight's meeting, members could see that she had also been very busy with parish council matters.

### **8.3 Individual Councillors Report**

Cllr Manser had attended the recent biological event and gave a brief summary of what was discussed. Cllr Manser also informed members that there had been vehicles advertised up for sale in the lay-by. Cllr Gooch said that although the matter is very frustrating, as it is such low priority for MBC, it probably would not be taken any further if reported as the vehicle would simply be moved a bit further along.

Cllr Passmore reported that KCC had tarmacked the KB34 footpath. This is the footpath from the Pea Field to Hermitage Lane (back of Oakapple) It is good to have more people active in the countryside and this will promote more walking and cycling. Cllr Passmore asked what could be done to improve the bridleway that runs up by the allotments in North Street up to the water tower. Cllr Gooch agreed that it is a good active travel route and the developers may pay for improvements under S106 provisions, so we will hold that thought for the moment. Cllr Passmore then informed members that his rubbish had not been collected for the past two week. Both the Chairman and the Clerk suggested that he reports it to MBC as they are very responsive to these kinds of issues.

### **8.4 Clerk's Reports**

The Clerk informed members of the Parish Service Scheme payment figure, as this had now been confirmed. The Clerk will be adding the maintenance of the defibrillator at The Bull Inn to the March agenda. Unfortunately, SECamb have been unsuccessful in contacting the original person who installed the equipment and as it has not been maintained, it is now due to be removed unless the parish council take on responsibility of the ongoing maintenance.

A resident has contacted the Clerk regarding some future building work which will access to the rear of the parish hall. Cllr Gooch volunteered to liaise with the resident and meet on site to discuss the work.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk**

## **9 CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Full Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road.

The meeting was closed at 21.33pm.