

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th March 2023 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

PRESENT: Cllr Gooch in Chair, Cllr Manser, Cllr Doe, Cllr Vizzard, Cllr Passmore and Clerk Mrs N Attwood joined virtually due to the snow.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Webb joined the meeting at 7.42pm

Public Session

No members of the public were present.

1. APOLOGIES

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

No intent to record any items.

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

Cllr Doe declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 5.3 (Quotation for tree work)

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

4. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 8th February 2023

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

5. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

5.1 Annual Procedural Documentation - Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Internal Controls, Risk Assessment, Complaints Procedure, Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedure 2023.

Cllr Vizzard proposed to adopt all of the annual documents, this was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour.

5.2 Quotation for boundary hedging at the parish field: car park and play area

Cllr Doe will submit both quotations to the Clerk for members to discuss at the next full council meeting in April.

Cllr Doe left the room for the next agenda item

5.3 Quotation for tree work, land at Cedar Drive

Cllr Gooch proposed to accept the quotation to reduce the beech tree on the corner of Cedar Drive by 40%. This was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour.

Cllr Doe return to the meeting and was instructed to proceed with the work.

5.4 Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Gooch and the Clerk had a meeting with the Community Engagement Officer (Gregory McNicoll) to discuss each suggested project and the outcome of this meeting was reported to all members. A copy of the updated HIP had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The projects will be sent to the planners first to ensure that they are feasible, and then a rough cost guide will be given. The next stage is the design which requires a fee of approximately £1,500. Members were asked to consider earmarking the design fee for the A26 northern Highway verge between Barming and South Lodge Bends, Teston. Cllr Webb added that, if possible, he would be happy to share half of the cost. Cllr Vizzard thanked Cllr Webb for his offer, but proposed to authorise BPC paying the full amount in the event that County Council funds are not available, this was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour.

Cllr Passmore added that the whole area, not just the footpath, looks a bit tatty as the hedging is in need of replanting and the addition of daffodils would make the area look a lot nicer. This could be a future suggested project to work with the Dawn Patrol Rotary Club. Cllr Gooch added that it may be possible on the Southern side but unfortunately, on the northern side there is not enough room on the verge. Cllr Gooch suggested that there could be possible funding for cycle paths/lanes from the Borough Council which could also be investigated.

The suggested yellow box or keep clear road markings that had been suggested to help with the egress from the Empress Riverside Park was then discussed. Cllr Webb thinks it is a very good idea, he has been asking for two years

to have road marking re-painted on that stretch of road along with the installation of 'slow' and 30MPH road markings from Little Fant Farm just before the road narrows.

The last project on the HIP is the cross roads at the Fountain Lane junction. BPC have requested that the road markings are set out like the cross roads at Linton.

Cllr Manser then asked Cllr Webb if the storm drains could be cleaned out by KCC at least once a year, especially by the crossing on the Tonbridge Road. Cllr Webb thinks that the request would have more of an impact coming directly from the parish council therefore, Cllr Gooch will add this to the HIP.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch

5.5 Allotment Windfall Suggestions

Members discussed all of the suggestions that had been submitted to BPC and the projects that will be under consideration once the boundary fencing work has been completed are: car park extension, removal of blackberry bushes, water butts, vines trimmed back and an open fronted shelter. The handyman will take a look at the location stay on the gate and also check that the padlock is in good working order.

The northern boundary owners do not wish for the trees to be removed, but BPC do have every right to trim the trees back to the boundary, this will however cause them to turn brown. Cllr Gooch suggested contacting a few fencing companies to discuss what can be done and also invite the boundary owners along to discuss all options. Cllr Passmore added that we need a plan in place with a target date of possibly October for the work to be carried out. This will then give the plot holders plenty of time to make sure that crops do not get ruined.

The Clerk suggested inviting the plot holders, who may be affected by the boundary work, along to the meeting as well so that there is total transparency and everyone can ask questions. Cllr Gooch agreed that this will be a good idea and members were also all in favour of discussing options regarding gated access from Redewood Road or the offer to purchase the ransom strip of land. Cllr Gooch will contact fencing companies and arrange the site meeting date.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch

5.6 MBC Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show People Consultation

Members of Barming Parish Council had no response to submit.

5.7 Coronation of King Charles III: Commemorative Mugs

Cllr Vizzard proposed ordering 13 boxes of mugs to ensure that there were enough for all of the children at Barming Primary School and to account for any breakages. This was seconded by Cllr Doe with all members in favour; Cllr Gooch will place the order.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch

Cllr Gooch then suggested purchasing 22 coronation street light disks at a cost of £110.00 to display from Glebe Lane to Barnjet on the A26. Mr Gooch will install them a week before the coronation and then remove a week after the event. Cllr Passmore seconded the proposal as he felt this would help promote the parish council; 4 members were in favour and 1 was against.

5.8 Coronation of King Charles III: Celebrations

It was suggested by the Dawn Patrol Rotary Club at the February meeting that BPC may wish to mark this occasion with an organised litter pick and picnic event. Cllr Vizzard said that the borough council will need to be contacted for provisions of litter picking devices and rubbish bags. Cllr Gooch confirmed that the borough council have set up their own initiative "One Bag Big Difference" so would be able to help. Cllr Manser suggested that ideally residents from each road on the parish could volunteer. Cllr Gooch and the Clerk will look into what is required to hold a community event and Cllr Passmore is happy to stand in at the pavilion as the allocated contact/risk assessor, if the courses that he has previously attended are sufficient.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk

Cllr Webb left the meeting at 21.03pm

6 FINANCE

6.1 Budget Monitoring

The Clerk will circulate the budget monitoring and bank reconciliation sheets to all members when the statements arrive.

6.2 Income received

The following payments received since the last meeting were noted:

Unity Trust Account

Parish Hall Income £339.15
Pavilion Income £758.85

Natwest Account

Pavilion Income £46.20
Parish Hall £288.77
Interest £22.79

Outstanding Invoices

Invoice: Two outstanding invoices were reported which the Clerk will chase.

ACTION: Clerk

6.3 Cheques for signature & Online Payments

Confirmation of payments made

The following payments were agreed

Natwest Direct Debits

None

Unity Trust Direct Debits

Parish Hall WIFI £29.99
O2 Mobile Contract £38.20
MBC Waste Collection £19.50
Castle water Allotments £50.83
EDF Parish Hall £77.24
EDF Pavilion £102.65

Employer costs

Total Staff Costs £1727.04

Online payments authorised

Dusters – Cleaning £180.00
Orchard Academy Trust (school hall hire) £75.00
S Manser expenses - £52.94
N Attwood expenses £112.47

7 PLANNING

7.1 Any planning matters

No planning applications to discuss

8 MATTERS OF REPORT

8.1 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Gooch commented that it had been nice that Cllr Webb was in attendance earlier.

8.2 Borough Councillor's Report/ Chairman's Report

Cllr Gooch has been in contact with the Kent Community Railway Partnership Community Officer regarding the Shelter for the Paddock Wood line at East Farleigh train station. Unfortunately, if it had been feasible, it would have been done; it seems that installation would be problematic. The waiting room there will not be made available for the public use as Network Rail lease it to Southeastern and they use it for staff facilities and storage. Lastly, Cllr Gooch is still waiting for permission to install the noticeboard by the station footbridge, but has not received a response yet.

8.3 Individual Councillors Report

Cllr Passmore informed members that he would be logging a complaint to Network Rail or South Eastern Trains as there is a 16" step up from the platform to the train and if you are not anticipating it, it could be rather unpleasant. It would be helpful if when the trains are arriving at the station, a tannoy announcement could inform passengers.

Cllr Manser asked if the hall could be hired out over the Easter weekend as we no longer need to close off the car park over this period now that bollards have been installed. All members were happy for hirers to use the hall over this weekend.

Cllr Manser has agreed to a hall hire on the same weekend that the church require the use of the tables and chairs for their cream tea event. Cllr Doe has offered to lend out three of his tables so that neither party is disrupted. Cllr Manser will discuss it with the relevant people and liaise with Cllr Doe.

ACTION: Cllr Manser, Cllr Doe

Cllr Doe has received some complaints regarding a husky type breed of dog being aggressive to other people's dogs. It has happened at the orchards and also at the playing field, it is kept on a lead but Cllr Doe thought the best action was to keep people informed of the situation.

8.4 Clerk's Reports

The Clerk has received MBC's letter dated 23rd February 2023 confirming that BPC's precept application of £36,929.00 for 2023/24 has been agreed i.e., £44.73 per band D household, being a 10.6% increase of £4.28 on the previous year.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

None

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Full Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 12th April 2023** at **7.30pm** in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road.

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm.

DRAFT