

## BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 at 7.30pm

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

**PRESENT:** Cllr Gooch in Chair, Cllr Manser, Cllr Williams, Cllr Doe, Cllr Vizzard and Clerk Mrs N Attwood.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** One member of the public was present.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Muthana
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**  
No declarations were recorded.
4. **MINUTES of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021**  
The minutes were **Agreed** as an accurate record.
5. **RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**  
**All members were in favour to move item 5.8 to the end of the meeting so that Cllr Doe could then leave for members to discuss the quotations.**

#### **5.1 Continued Delegated Powers for the Clerk**

Due to the current pandemic, it was recommended that delegated powers continue for the Clerk. All members are in favour to continue with the current system as they feel that it is functioning extremely well.

#### **5.2 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 012. The Clerk will continue to produce the log until physical meetings resume.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **5.3 Parish Hall and Pavilion Maintenance: Windows, Decorating & Flooring**

The decorating has now been completed. Cllr Gooch and Cllr Manser have both been down to look at the halls and agree that they both look really nice and that the decorator has done a very good job. The Clerk confirmed that the cheque for the invoice has been arranged.

#### **5.4 Allotments Northern Boundary**

Unfortunately, the meeting between Cllr Gooch and Cllr Doe has had to be re-arranged. This item will be deferred until the March meeting.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Cllr Doe**

#### **5.5 BPC Speed Watch**

Cllr Gooch confirmed that the speed watch equipment is still all stored safe and dry at her property. As Cllr Muthana has previously shown an interest in this project, Cllr Gooch suggested that the item was deferred until the March meeting. In the meantime, Cllr Gooch will discuss the item with Cllr Muthana as training will probably need to be arranged with Kent Police as it has been quite some time since the parish council used the equipment. Cllr Williams volunteered to help and although she would not be able to run the project, she is happy to help with such an important matter. The Clerk will add the item to the March agenda.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk**

## 5.6 Grounds Maintenance Quotations

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated the quotations that had been received from the three companies she had contacted. Contractor A £2,621.32, Contractor B £2,246.00 and Contractor C opened the email numerous times but a quotation was never submitted. Cllr Gooch proposed to accept the quotation from contractor A and accept the three-year long-term agreement. This was seconded by Cllr Doe with all members in favour. The Clerk will contact all of the companies to inform them of the decision.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## 5.7 Wild Flowers Around the Parish

The Clerk had circulated to members a request that had been received to consider the planting of wild flowers within the parish and the request to leave the mowing of the grass verges for one whole year to try and attract more wild life. Cllr Gooch inform members that this was another item that Cllr Muthana was really interested in being involved with. Cllr Gooch suggested that BPC consider the area at the front of the parish hall and not to mow the piece of land between the parish hall and Cedar Drive, apart from visibility areas. Cllr Vizzard proposed to not mow that particular piece of land from now on; Cllr Manser seconded this proposal and all members were in favour. The Clerk will instruct the ground maintenance team of this decision. Cllr Williams suggested that the item is featured in the next Barming News to build local interest. Cllr Manser was a bit unsure if any wild flowers would take in the soil at the parish hall and suggested that the far side of the car park at the parish field is considered. Cllr Gooch will inform Cllr Muthana of the three areas that have been suggested and let Cllr Muthana take the lead on the project.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Cllr Muthana and Clerk**

## 5.8 Playing Field Car Park Hedge Cutting Quotations: Church Lane Boundary

**This item was moved and discussed after item 9 this was due to Cllr Doe having to leave the Zoom meeting so that members could discuss all quotations that had been received.**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated the quotations that had been received from the three companies she had contacted. Contractor A £600.00, Contractor B £2,160.00 and Contractor C who had promised to send a quotation to the Clerk, but unfortunately never submitted one. Cllr Manser proposed to accept the quotation from contractor A. This was seconded by Cllr Vizzard with all members in favour. The Clerk will inform the companies of the decision.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## 6. FINANCE

### 6.1 Budget Monitoring

The Clerk circulated the papers prior to the meeting.

Cllr Vizzard proposed that members accept the finances.

Cllr Gooch requested that the Clerk send Cllr Doe and Cllr Vizzard the details of Unity Bank so that they can complete their set up to authorise payments on the account.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### 6.2 Income received and any unpaid invoices

Natwest interest 0.46

Barming News Adverts 31.50

There are no outstanding invoices.

### Confirmation of payments made

MBC Rates 264.00

Parish Hall WIFI 27.99

Castle Water parish hall 8.63

Castle Water Allotments 28.45

EDF Energy parish hall 66.00

EDF Energy pavilion 38.00

### 6.3 Cheques for signature

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

## 7. PLANNING

### 7.1 Applications received prior to the meeting

None

## 8. MATTERS OF REPORT

### 8.1 County Councillor

Cllr Stockell was not present, but as one of the candidates for the Kent County Council Maidstone Rural West Division was present, Cllr Gooch gave Mr Webb the opportunity to tell members a bit about himself. Mr Webb has had an active professional career for 45 years within the education sector and has been an executive leader for five primary schools in Essex. As he is due to retire soon, he is keen to be active in the community and support vulnerable families and children. If he

is elected, he would attend as many parish council meetings as possible and would be prepared to rotate meeting attendance if needed.

## **8.2 Borough Councillor/ Chairman**

Cllr Gooch reported that despite the valiant efforts of Barming Parish Council, Local Borough Councillor Fay Gooch and Give Peas a Chance, the pea field application for 181 dwellings (reduced from 187 dwellings) has been approved by Maidstone Borough Council Planning Committee. Adjacent public rights of way will be upgraded and a 3m wide bridleway will be installed diagonally across the site along its boundary with Tonbridge & Malling, SW to NE.

To mitigate concerns of creating a rat run between Hermitage Lane and Tonbridge Road, Taylor Wimpey have agreed to apply to KCC for a Traffic Regulation Order for a 20 mph speed limit, and appropriate 20 mph signage, from Fullingpits Avenue to the site boundary at Broomshaw Road. Taylor Wimpey also contend that the development's residential streets are designed for safety i.e. for speeds of 20 mph and that therefore rat running would be deterred by design as it would take drivers too long to negotiate their way from Fullingpits to Broomshaw and beyond.

Cllr Gooch also reminded members that the County Council, Borough Council, Police and Crime Commissioner and Parish Council elections will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup>, and that includes Barming. Barming is entitled to 9 councillors and we are 3 councillors short. All councillors will have to get themselves nominated to stand for election and complete the necessary paperwork. There will need to be another four people nominated for an election to actually take place, otherwise no election will take place and members will all be elected by default.

## **8.3 Individual Councillors Report**

Cllr Manser reported that the litter along the Tonbridge Road was getting rather bad. Cllr Gooch asked the Clerk to request a litter pick from the Borough Council between Teston and Barming.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Vizzard wanted to make a further point regarding the Pea Fields development; double yellow lines at Fullingpits Avenue are also in the agreement, so that larger vehicles do not have issues getting through. Cllr Gooch informed members to keep this point in mind as Bovis still own the estate.

Cllr Williams offered to check that all of the waste had been collected from the parish field by the container and she will report back to members.

**ACTION: Cllr Williams**

## **8.4 Clerk Report**

As the Clerk has kept members up to date via the Covid logs, she had no further report to submit.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **10.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 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 8.20pm.