

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th JANUARY 2022 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

PRESENT: Cllr Gooch in Chair, Cllr Passmore, Cllr Vizzard, Cllr Manser, Cllr Doe, Cllr Williams and the Clerk.

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO Goodwin, 2 members of the public and 2 representatives from BYFC.

PUBLIC SESSION:

The members of the public who were present brought to BPC's attention that there were two faulty street lights by the pelican crossing. They also mentioned the new bins that had been placed in the Barnjet Lay-by seemed to be a bit obtrusive. The Clerk will report the faulty lights and also contact Maidstone Borough Council to find out why there have been lorry bins installed and not ordinary bins.

ACTION: Clerk

PCSO Goodwin informed members that he would unfortunately be leaving the position in February and was not sure who would be covering the Barming area in the future as no new PCSO's are being trained at present. Cllr Gooch will email Matthew Scott for further information.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Webb

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

No intent to record any items.

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

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

4. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 10th November 2021

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

Cllr Gooch suspended the public meeting at 7.45pm for a closed session.

Cllr Gooch re-opened the public meeting at 8.15pm.

5. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

5.1 Finalise Budget

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated the draft budget figures along with explanation notes. At the November meeting members had discussed each individual budget line and the figures had been adjusted accordingly. Members thanked the Clerk for all of the hard work that she had completed on the budget. Cllr Gooch proposed to accept the finalised budget lines and precept figure of £32,157.00 which equates to a £1.96 increase per household (a 5.1% increase against the previous year) This was seconded by Cllr Vizzard with 5 members in favour and 1 abstention. The Clerk will now submit the relevant paperwork.

ACTION: Clerk

5.2 KALC Community Awards Adoption and Nomination

Members agreed not to adopt the scheme this year.

5.3 Annual Parish Meeting

Members agreed that due to the uncertain times regarding Covid, a Zoom Webinar would be the most appropriate course of action for the annual meeting. Cllr Williams volunteered to host the meeting and will pre-record interviews hopefully with the Barming Youth Football Club, the Reverend Wil North and the Mayor to find out what they have been up to this last year. We will also have a 'get to know your local Councillor' section to promote the parish council. Cllr Gooch will advertise the meeting in the Barming News. The chosen date for the webinar is Wednesday 20th April 2022, all other details to be agreed at the next meeting.

5.4 Parish Field Gate Repair Quotations

The Clerk had contacted four companies for quotations and had received prices from only two of them. The details of the quotations were given to members. Contractor A £431.76 and Contractor B £294.56. Cllr Gooch proposed to proceed with Contractor B, this was seconded by Cllr Manser with all members in favour. The Clerk will arrange for the work to be carried out as soon as possible.

ACTION: Clerk

5.5 Review of Premises Terms & Conditions: Bouncy Castles

Unfortunately, the Clerk had received a complaint from a lady who cancelled her hall hire due to not being allowed a bouncy castle. The lady felt that the terms and conditions were not clear enough and that BPC needed to amend them accordingly (It was highlighted to the lady that under clause 16 of the terms and conditions it is stated that the hirer shall not use or permit use of additional electrical appliances without prior permission from the booking clerk) As she felt that the terms and conditions needed to be more specific, the Clerk agreed to bring the matter to BPC's attention for consideration. Members were all in agreement that the specific 'Bouncy Castle' condition could be added, but as there were conflicting opinions regarding 'specific electrical appliances', the item needed to be added to the February agenda for further discussion.

ACTION: Clerk

5.6 Funding Request: Heart of Kent Hospice

Cllr Gooch proposed a donation of £50.00, this was seconded by Cllr Doe with 5 members in favour and 1 abstention. The cheque was then completed ready for the Clerk to post off.

ACTION: Clerk

5.7 Funding Request: Kent Community Railway Partnership

Cllr Gooch proposed a donation of £75.00, this was seconded by Cllr Passmore with 5 members in favour and 1 abstention. The payment will put on to the Unity Trust account by the Clerk ready to be authorised by two Councillors.

ACTION: Clerk

5.8 Annual Subscription Renewal: Campaign to Protect Rural England

Cllr Manser proposed to renew the subscription at a cost of £36.00, this was seconded by Cllr Gooch with all members in favour. The payment will put on to the Unity Trust account by the Clerk ready to be authorised by two Councillors.

ACTION: Clerk

5.9 Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review 2013-2030

Members declined to comment on this consultation.

5.10 War Memorial Maintenance

Cllr Doe and Cllr Gooch have not been able to get any response regarding advice yet on the war memorial. Cllr Gooch has managed to find an online War Memorial site though and has signed up to it. So far, she has found our memorial which is listed as a free-standing Latin Cross. All members were in favour of Cllr Gooch proceeding with the online report system. The Clerk will add this item to the February agenda for any updates to be received.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk

5.11 Replacement Fire Door at Parish Hall

Cllr Doe reported that he had received a quotation for the fire door from the contractor that he had chased. Unfortunately, the contractor cannot source a push bar fire escape door; the quotation was £1,800.00 for supply and installation. Cllr Gooch proposed to accept the previous quotation that the Clerk had received for £1,999.86 (ex Vat) for an open out fire escape door with push/panic bar, this was seconded by Cllr Manser with all members in favour. The door needs replacing as soon as possible as insects are still entering the building. The Clerk will contact Apollo Windows and get the door ordered and the work booked in.

ACTION: Clerk

5.12 Tree Report and Tree Planting

Cllr Doe confirmed that the planting had been completed at the allotment northern boundary. Cllr Doe had not received much feedback regarding the tree report but confirmed that no work was needed to be carried out on any of the parish owned trees. He will continue to monitor the trees in the parish and report back at the February meeting.

Cllr Vizzard confirmed that the tree for the Queen's Jubilee will be planted on 22nd February; Cllr Williams volunteered to record the Mayor planting the tree to then show the event at the annual meeting.

Cllr Manser asked whether the Borough Council's call for sites for tree planting was open to members of the public. Cllr Gooch confirmed that the scheme is open for everyone and details can be found on the website, it would probably not include hedging.

Cllr Passmore believes that there is ½ an acre of land that is owned by BPC that could be suitable for tree planting, he will look at his house deeds and report back to members. Cllr Passmore added that he would be happy to investigate the possibility of village green status for this piece of land.

ACTION: Cllr Doe, Cllr Williams, Cllr Passmore

5.13 Boundary Maintenance at Parish Field

Cllr Doe confirmed that he will complete the work on the boundary as soon as the field is drier. He will also submit a quotation for the two areas (A & C on map provided to members by Cllr Gooch) now that the leaves have fallen. Cllr Doe then reported that he had visited the resident who had informed BPC of the over grown hedging at the top of the field. Cllr Doe confirmed that the far end by the play area desperately needs to be brought down in height and has quoted £300.00 for the work; this item will be added to the February agenda for members to discuss.

ACTION: Cllr Doe, Clerk

6 FINANCES

6.1 To note Monitoring Report to 31st December 2021

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

6.2 To note income received and report any unpaid invoices

No unpaid invoices were reported.

Income received

The following payments received since the last meeting were noted:

Natwest Interest - £0.36

HMRC VAT Refund – £697.92

Barming News Adverts – £157.50

Pavilion Income – £827.20

Parish Hall Income – £530.45

Confirmation of payments made

The following payments were agreed

DD – MBC Field Bin £ 19.50

DD – BT Wifi Monthly Payment £ 28.15

DD – MBC Rates £ 264.00

DD – Unity Trust £ 18.00

DD – Castle Water £ 5.00

DD – Business Stream Water £ 35.29

6.3 Cheques and Online Payments

Cheque

3443 Hadlum Printing £275.00

3444 Hire deposit refund £50.00

3445 Heart of Kent Donation £50.00 S Manser – Expenses £76.48

Online payments:

A Doe tree planting £500.00

Hall deposit refunds £454.50

Cleaning £360.00

S Manser expenses £7.92

N Attwood expenses £56.77

Employer costs £1636.65

7 PLANNING

Any planning matters received prior to the meeting

21/506232/LAW PRO Speedwell Platt North Pole Road – No objections to this planning application – Members ratified submitted comments.

21/506221/FULL 68 Beverley Road – No objections to this planning application – Members ratified

21/506549/FULL 13 Bull Orchard – No objections to this planning application – Members ratified submitted comments.

21/506221/FULL Broadlands North Pole Road – To ratify previously submitted comments of objection to this application. *BPC's view is that the amendments fail to mitigate earlier concerns in any way; if anything, the amendments increase the bulk of the proposed extensions; they still overwhelm the plot breadth, notwithstanding the plot's ample length, and still upset the balance of the street scene and its character* – Cllr Manser will speak on behalf of BPC at the Committee Meeting. Cllr Gooch will circulate some comments prior to the meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Cllr Manser

21/506874/FULL Land Off Oakapple Lane: Section 73 – Application for Minor Material Amendment to approve plans Condition 1 to allow widening of footpaths, introduction of horse friendly surfaces/safety

measures, extension of private driveway and minor re-alignment/allocation of adjacent plots to accommodate new bridleway routes, which includes revised drawing numbers for Condition 3 (boundary treatments), 4 (hard surfaces), 6 (open spaces), 9 (charging points), 10 (updated ecological enhancements strategy), 11 (soft landscaping details), 36 (window glazing) pursuant to 20/501773/FULL (Erection of 181 dwellings) – BPC note that they have complied and will monitor the progress with an active interest; the Clerk will submit the comments by 27th January 2022. **ACTION: Clerk**

8 MATTERS OF REPORT

8.1 County Councillor's Report

Not present at the meeting

8.2 Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Gooch has been extremely busy with Mayoral Duties but has still managed to empty the bins and produce the Barming News on time!

8.3 Individual Councillors Report

Cllr Passmore attended the Joint Transport Meeting and reported that unfortunately there is no funding for the Fountain Lane junction improvements. Cllr Passmore also informed members that he will be submitting a planning application for his property; obviously when this is due for discussion, he will leave the meeting room.

Cllr Williams reported that the light switch at the pavilion had been fixed by a contact of her husband. The gentleman kindly carried out the work free of charge as part of his 'free hour in December' act of kindness. Cllr Williams went on to let members know that it was suggested that the fluorescent lighting may need to be replaced soon along with the heaters at the pavilion. Cllr Gooch suggested that the Clerk adds both of these jobs to the wish list/things to do.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Manser reported that there had been a complaint received from a regular hirer regarding the state of the parish hall after a party. Ceiling tiles had been removed, balloons were left hanging around the hall and metal wire had been attached to the heaters which thankfully a gentleman from her group removed for BPC. The user has been identified and the Clerk will write a letter to the offending hirer.

ACTION:

Clerk

8.4 Clerk's Reports

The Clerk gave thanks to Cllr Williams, Cllr Vizzard and his wife for promptly helping the lady who collapsed at the Remembrance Service. Mrs Vizzard also drove the lady back home and made sure she was safe and settled.

The Clerk informed members that she had received an offer from Mr Gooch to act as BPC's handyman, this item will be placed on the February agenda for members to discuss the proposal in more depth.

ACTION: Clerk

The Vat refund has been received onto the bank account.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

Countryside Voice – Winter 2021
Fieldwork – Winter 2021

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting was closed at 22.00pm.