

## **BARMING PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021 at 7.30pm**

**AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillor Webb and one member of the public

**15 minutes open to the public:**

Cllr Gooch welcomed the member of the public who has taken an interest in the parish council and is considering applying to become a councillor. The gentleman introduced himself, told members a bit about his time in Barming and spoke about the MERLin (The Medway Ecological Riverine Link) group that he is closely involved with. He is keen to preserve the green space between Maidstone and Allington and strives to work with residents for constructive opposition on future housing developments.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Cllr Doe and Cllr Williams

**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 and Cllr Gooch declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.3 (cheques to be signed).

**4. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

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

**5. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

**5.1 Reopening of Halls**

The Clerk informed members that three plumbers have been contacted to provide quotations for the hand basin water heaters. Also, two companies have been contacted to provide quotations to clean down the exterior of the pavilion, clear the gutters and the perimeter grounds; a third quotation will be requested from the company who previously carried out the work. Cllr Manser confirmed that the window company had visited the hall to view the windows that have issues.

A number of hirers have been in contact to book their slots and submit relevant paperwork in preparation of resuming their groups. The Clerk has had to inform two hirer's that their start and finish times will have to change by 10 minutes to avoid groups mixing. Although one of the hirers did not think the request was acceptable, due to health and safety, this is the only option that BPC have to ensure the safety of all users of the halls.

Cllr Manser informed members that she had been asked again if a BBQ could be held at the pavilion; BBQs are not allowed and members do not wish to change this decision.

**5.2 Speed Watch Project**

Cllr Gooch confirmed that the equipment was working but will need to be calibrated before use. Members are to consider a convenient place for the equipment to be stored in future, so that access is always available.

The Clerk has contacted the insurance company and the Kent Association of Local Councils for advice regarding speed watch outside of the parish boundary. Although the insurance company do not have any issues with the equipment being used outside of the boundary, they have said that separate risk assessments would have to be completed and authorisation from the neighbouring Parish or Maidstone Borough Council would need to be received. KALC confirmed that these projects are usually clearly within the parish boundary i.e., after the parish signage and in effect to capture cars coming from neighbouring areas; this is the practical way and also ensures a clear legal base. KALC also said that the Police will have a strong view on where they would want the speed watch to operate from, so it was suggested that

when Cllr Vizzard attends his training, he will take a parish map with him and ask for their opinion. The Clerk will send a copy of the parish map to members. **ACTION: Cllr Vizzard, Clerk**

### 5.3 Future Tree Inspection

The Clerk read out an email from Cllr Doe regarding the parish owned tree that has had its branches cut off by a resident without the council's consent. Members noted Cllr Doe's continuing concern that a tree surgeon acted in this way i.e. without the owner's consent. While members respected Cllr Doe's professional views, they felt that as a meeting had taken place with the residents in concerned and sincere apologies have been received; they were not prepared to take the matter any further, so the matter is now closed. BPC are clearly stating that any work on any parish owned property, without prior consent, will not be tolerated and legal action will be taken if necessary.

Cllr Doe also commented (in his email) that as the insurance company are happy with BPC's process of visual checks on the parish owned trees, he feels that a tree report is not necessary. Members thanked Cllr Doe for his expert opinion and wish to continue with the visual checks. Cllr Manser will enquire at Matterdale Gardens to see how they manage their trees and the Clerk will contact Maidstone Borough Council. Cllr Gooch asked if a tree surgeon could be contacted regarding the Redwood tree (located near the Barming village sign) as it has a wood pecker hole in it.

**ACTION: Cllr Manser, Clerk**

### 5.4 BPC Revised Documents: Online Banking

Cllr Vizzard proposed to adopt the revised documents which was seconded by Cllr Gooch with all members in favour.

### 5.5 Play Equipment Annual Inspection

The Clerk had circulated the inspection report, which was conducted by Wicksteed, prior to the meeting. It is disappointing that some of the foundations have become loose especially as the equipment was only installed in 2019 and due to lockdown, has not had much use. The Clerk has contacted Creative Play and asked them to look into the issues and will continue to chase them.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### 5.6 Car Park Barrier at Parish Field

The Gate Operative has brought to BPC's attention that the barrier has dropped after being hit during the storm of 2016. Members feel that as it is not a security or safety risk, they are satisfied with the current system of a chain and padlock. The general consensus is that it is actually easier locking the gate with a chain and padlock as you do not have to struggle with looking under the metal cowling. Obviously, if the Gate Operative has any further concerns, they should contact the Clerk.

### 5.7 Highways Improvement Plan for the Parish

Cllr Gooch read out the draft plan that she has compiled for BPC; members were happy to proceed with the plan. Cllr Gooch will email the plan to Cllr Simon Webb to see if there are any items that he can help with. **ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

## 6 FINANCES

### 6.1 To note Monitoring Report to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021

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

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

The Clerk reported that all of the allotment invoices had now been paid and the plots are now all full.

#### Income received

The following payments received since the last meeting were noted:

Natwest Interest	£	0.35
Allotment Rent	£	200.00
Pavilion Rent	£	143.60
MBC Parish Service Scheme	£	1567.50

#### Confirmation of payments made

The following payments were agreed

DD – MBC Field Bin	£	19.50
DD – EDF Electric Pavilion	£	19.00
DD – EDF Electric Parish Hall	£	66.00
DD – BT Wifi Monthly Payment	£	28.28
DD – MBC Rates	£	264.00
DD – PWLB Loan payment	£	863.20

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

A list of online payments was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Online: Mrs N Attwood – expenses 36.71

Wicksteed – Play equipment inspection 72.00

Employer/Employee payments – 1561.71

Cheque payments: 3426 Mrs F Gooch – expenses 52.73

3427 S Manser – expenses 13.02

3428 HMRC – PAYE Payments 1025.09

3429 BARMARA – Hire refund 50.00

## **7 PLANNING**

Any planning matters received prior to the meeting

**21/502696/FULL 12 Beechwood Road ME16 9HN – No objections**

**21/502848/PNEXT Broadlands North Pole Road – No objections**

**21/502692/FULL 2 The Old School South Street ME16 9EY – No objections**

## **8 MATTERS OF REPORT**

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

Cllr Webb circulated his report prior to the meeting. He informed members that he had been very fortunate to be asked to serve on four KCC committees: Adult Social Care, Public Health, Governance and Audit, and Growth, Economic Development and Communities. Cllr Gooch will liaise with Cllr Webb regarding vulnerable residents and gave thanks to the Public Health Team for the fantastic advice and communication throughout the pandemic.

Cllr Gooch thanked Cllr Webb for attending the meeting, which BPC appreciate.

### **8.2 Borough Councillors Report**

Cllr Gooch informed members that the Conservative Party have overall control now so we will probably see some changes, all will be revealed in due course!

Cllr Gooch is settling in well as Mayor and will be relaunching the Maidstone Market this Saturday.

#### **Chairman's Report**

Cllr Gooch received information from the Nu Venture bus company that North Street will be closed for a number of weeks during the school summer holidays. Gallagher's will be having electrical cables installed which will reduce engine noise at the quarry. BPC had not been informed of the planned work so Cllr Gooch contacted KCC and Street Works to find out further information. They have confirmed that they will be having site meetings to plan the closure and contact residents to inform them as soon as possible.

### **8.3 Individual Councillors Report**

Cllr Manser requested that the MERLin meeting invite is sent through with more notice in future. The previous invite only gave her a two-hour notice. Dates for future meetings will be emailed to the Clerk.

Cllr Manser asked Cllr Webb if he knew why hedge cutting has been carried out in Autumn removing the berries and also in June during the nesting season; Cllr Webb will investigate the matter.

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

The PCSO had emailed the Clerk with no real issues to report. However, he has been made aware of drink driving along the Tonbridge Road and ongoing issues with neighbours due to dogs barking constantly.

The Clerk confirmed that the replacement bench will be ordered and Cllr Manser will be the delivery contact and call on other Councillor's for help with lifting the bench when it is delivered.

An email from the president of the Maidstone Malayalee Association had been circulated by the Clerk to members. Unfortunately, it had not been received in time to place on the agenda so BPC could not consider any funding for the June event; members suggested that the group keeps us informed of any future events for BPC to consider.

## **9 CORRESPONDENCE**

LCR – Issue 2

## **10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Full Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road.

Cllr Gooch sends apologies for the July meeting.

The meeting was closed at 21.04pm.