

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th MARCH 2016

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

PRESENT: Cllr Gooch in Chair, Cllr Greenwood, Cllr Manser, Cllr Hyndman, Cllr Doe, Cllr Vizzard, Yasmin Gordine
Parish Liaison Officer and Clerk Mrs N Attwood

IN ATTENDANCE: 24 members of the public present for the Bell Farm presentation from C Hawkins (DHA Planning),
D Bradley (Taylor Wimpey) and J Wide (Cert Consulting)

A 30 minute slot was made available for representatives from DHA Planning, Taylor Wimpey and Cert Consulting to conduct a presentation for members of the public regarding the Bell Farm development. Draft amendments to the planning application were displayed and there was an opportunity for questions and answers.

1. APOLOGIES

2. NOTIFICATION TO BE RECEIVED FOR INTENT TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS.
No intent declared

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

Cllr Manser declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.3 (cheques to be signed)

Cllr Doe declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.3 (cheques to be signed)

4. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 10th February 2016

The minutes were Agreed as an accurate record and the Chairman signed off the official copies.

5. POLICE MATTERS

No PCSO's present

Cllr Greenwood reported on a recent road traffic incident that occurred by the shops in Beverley Road.

6. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

6.1 Pavilion Maintenance

It was reported that Drain King had been called to site to clear a blocked kitchen gully; they removed leaves and food waste which was at a cost of £102.00.

Parish Field Storm Damage

It was formally reported that during the heavy storm on 2nd March, a sudden 'mini-whirlwind' struck the parish field. Tree branches were ripped off, blocking the car park entrance and falling on to gardens at the eastern boundary, damaging a shed and a trampoline. All members involved in the clear up, in particular Cllr Andrew Doe, were thanked for their prompt actions.

The Clerk reported that having advised the insurance company of what happened, a claim under BPC's Public Liability cover would not be likely to succeed because BPC was not at fault; the trees (field maples) were healthy and damage was caused by the strength of the storm i.e. 'Act of God', therefore BPC is not liable.

A resident had expressed concern about the amount of ivy on the trees, the evidence of tree callousing, possibly a weak point where the branches had been rubbing together, contributing to the tree damage. Cllr Doe reported that this was not the point where the branch had broken and that the ivy would not have contributed as the tree did not blow over.

Members considered the resident's request that BPC pay the £150 repair bill to the damaged shed and trampoline as a gesture of goodwill. Members felt unable to meet this request as BPC had already included the cost of tree removal from the resident's garden as a good will gesture, even though BPC is not legally obliged to do so.

Members also considered a request from a neighbouring resident that BPC also removes branches overhanging their garden. Members felt that any resident is legally entitled to remove branches overhanging their property, it is not BPC's responsibility, and there is not sufficient money in the budget.

Cllr Doe reported that he has checked all the trees in the field, removed the fallen branches and lowered the height of the remaining trees in the area. Members ratified the Clerk's authorisation for these emergency measures carried out on the grounds of public safety and to reduce the risk of re-occurrence, at a cost of £700.

Cllr Doe advised BPC to focus on future tree maintenance and extend boundary maintenance to the whole length of the eastern boundary to bring down the height of the trees to a consistent, more manageable level. It was agreed by all Members, when looking to increase the precept next year, to build into the budget an amount for tree maintenance for the whole of the parish, enabling money to be set aside for this particular boundary work and for any other tree maintenance issues that occur. The Clerk will add this line to the future budget.

ACTION: Clerk

6.2 Football Kick Boards for Hard Standing Play Area

The Chairman and Clerk will be meeting a supplier of play equipment at the parish field on Tuesday 15th March to assess the area and discuss possible designs for the kick board. All members are welcome to come along and the Youth Club and Football Club are now involved. Members felt pleased to be moving forward with this project and any information received at the meeting will be circulated.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk

6.3 Parish Hall Maintenance

The re-pointing work has now been completed and the invoice has been paid. Peter Gooch has kindly installed the new Parish Hall sign free of charge, to which members passed on their thanks.

Gavin Lawrence has installed the new notice boards at the hall and parish field, and at the rear of the hall has secured the fire escape hand railing and unblocked the soakaway. Cllr Manser asked whether it would be possible to recharge the owner of the tree whose roots had blocked the soakaway; with no proposer or seconder it was agreed that as it had not blocked in the last 30 years, BPC would be neighbourly and pay the invoice without recharging.

6.4 Action with Communities in Rural Kent

All members were in favour of continuing the membership and the cheque was authorised.

6.5 Lower Thames Crossing Consultation

Cllr Vizzard had viewed the plans and explained them to members; Option three looks to be the preferred route by Highways England. It was agreed by all that BPC will decline to comment on this consultation.

6.6 Financial Regulations 2016/17

Cllr Vizzard proposed to adopt the new Financial Regulations that had previously been circulated; this was seconded by Cllr Greenwood and agreed by Members. The Chairman then signed the document.

6.7 Statement of Internal Control

Cllr Vizzard proposed to adopt the new Statement of Internal Control that had previously been circulated; this was seconded by Cllr Greenwood and agreed by Members. The Chairman and the Clerk then signed the document.

6.8 Risk Assessment 2016/17

Cllr Manser asked that the banking of monies received to be changed from 48 hours to 'as soon as is reasonably possible' as she cannot always get to the bank within 48 hours. This amendment was hand written on the hard copy.

Cllr Greenwood proposed to adopt the new Risk Assessment that had previously been circulated and amended; this was seconded by Cllr Hyndman and agreed by Members. The Chairman then signed the document.

6.9 Amendments to Standing Orders

Cllr Vizzard proposed to adopt the changes to the Standing Orders that had previously been circulated; this was seconded by Cllr Hyndman and agreed by Members. The Chairman then signed the document.

6.10 Ground Maintenance Contract 2016

Members viewed the quotes that the Clerk had obtained. Cllr Greenwood proposed to accept Landscape Services quotation which was seconded by Cllr Doe and agreed by Members. The Clerk will contact Landscape Services and thank the other companies for their quotes.

ACTION: Clerk

7 PLANNING.

7.1 16/501085/NMAMD – Fellgarth, North Pole Road ME16 9HH – BPC has no objections to this planning application.

7.2 16/501347/FULL – 42 Rede Wood Road ME16 9HR – BPC has no objections to this planning application.

7.3 16/501256/FULL – Old Comptons, North Pole Road ME16 9HH – BPC has no objections to this planning application.

Planning applications received prior to the meeting

16/501161/FULL – 153 Heath Road ME16 9HJ – BPC has no objections to this planning application.

7.4 Consultation – Publication Version of MBC Local Plan & Integrated Transport Strategy

Cllr Gooch explained that any views that are submitted will be forwarded to the inspector and the whole point is to challenge the legality of the document, and that if Members do not think it is justified, they need to say so.

It was agreed that BPC have no further comments to submit on the Local Plan, however regarding the Integrated Transport Strategy, the majority of Members would like to see North Pole Road left open to vehicles.

The Parish Liaison Officer informed Members that the Maidstone branch of KALC intend to challenge the housing numbers and are looking for contributions towards the consultants fees. BPC does not wish to contribute.

8 FINANCE

8.1 Budget Monitoring

The Clerk will circulate the budget monitoring information once the statements have been received.

ACTION: Clerk

8.2 Income received

The following payments received since the last meeting were noted:

Parish Hall Rent – Feb	£ 836.50
Pavilion Rent – Feb	£ 371.00
Vat refund	£ 1390.00

Confirmation of payments made

The following payments were agreed

DD – South East Water – Pavilion - Feb	£ 15.00
DD – South East Water – Parish Hall - Feb	£ 1.00
DD – South East Water – Allotments – Feb	£ 28.00
DD – EDF Energy – Pavilion Electricity – Feb	£ 43.00
DD – EDF Energy – Parish Hall – Feb	£ 64.00

8.3 Cheques for signature

All Councillors were in favour “**that the Council approve the following payments**”. This was **Agreed** and the following cheques were signed

2768 – County Craftsman – pointing work – cheque sent off 21/02/16	£1152.00
2769 – N Wright – PAT Testing 1 st cheque stopped as lost (2759)	£ 45.00
2770 – E Whitehouse – Gate Duties	£ 60.00
2771 – N Attwood – March Salary & Office Allowance	£ 970.58
2772 – Drain King Ltd – Pavilion blockage	£ 102.00
2773 – Greenbarnes Ltd – Notice boards	£ 1418.75
2774 – Dusters – Cleaning Services	£ 180.00
2775 – S Manser – Expenses	£ 11.74
2776 – Southern Water – Parish Hall Waste Water	£ 61.02
2777 – Southern Water – Pavilion Waste Water	£ 114.85
2778 – KALC – Chairmanship Conference	£ 72.00
2779 – Post Office – HMRC Payment	£ 390.23
2780 – N Attwood – Expenses	£ 28.68
2781 – G Lawrence – Parish Hall Gulley Clearance	£ 187.00
2782 – A Doe – Emergency Tree Work at Parish Field	£ 700.00

2783 – G Lawrence – Installation of Notice Boards
2784 – ACRK- Membership payment

£ 110.00
£ 50.00

9 MATTERS OF REPORT

9.1 County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Stockell was not present.

9.2 Borough Councillors/Chairman's Report

Cllr Gooch has been informed of a fun day that is being arranged by the Friends of St Margaret's Church on the 26th March 2016, they would like to use the car park at the parish field; Cllr Manser will look into the availability.

ACTION: Cllr Manser

The Mucky Munchkins have booked the parish field for a fund raising event on the 5th June 2016; please contact the group for further information.

9.3 Individual Councillors Report

Cllr Greenwood informed members that he had reported the potholes in Beverley Road and Hurst Way.

Cllr Manser asked Cllr Doe if he could arrange the bollards for the closure of the car park over the Easter period. The carpark will be closed on the Sunday and Monday.

ACTION: Cllr Doe

Cllr Manser enquired about the lights on the zebra crossing on the Tonbridge Road; the Clerk informed her that it had been reported to highways and is on their scheduled works list.

9.4 Clerk's Reports

The Clerk handed out the official nomination documents for the upcoming Parish Council elections on 5th May 2016.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

KCPFA – 90th Anniversary Appeal – will be added to April's agenda to discuss
Local Government Boundary Commission Review
EDF Smart Meter Booklet
Alzheimer's Society – Charity Masked Ball Invitation

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13th April 2016 at 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 27th April 2016 at 7.00pm** in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road

With nothing further to be discussed, the meeting was closed at 9.25pm