

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 120TH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd APRIL 2019

AT BARMING PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELMONT CLOSE

PRESENT: Cllr F Gooch in the Chair, Cllr S Manser, Cllr B Vizzard, Cllr F Willson, Cllr Doe, Mrs Nicola Attwood and guest speaker Mr S Connor from Gallagher's

IN ATTENDANCE: 28 members of the public, Sean Connor (Director, Gallagher's) Lance Taylor (Chief Executive, Gallagher's) & Bill Bowley (Quarry Manager, Gallagher's)

APOLOGIES: PCSO Chivers, History Society, Allotment Secretary.

1.	<p>WELCOME AND ANNUAL REPORT - BY THE CHAIRMAN</p> <p>Cllr Gooch welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. The minutes from the previous year were agreed and signed off by the chairman; proposed and seconded by residents who were in attendance at the previous annual meeting; these residents will remain anonymous due to GDPR.</p> <p>Cllr Gooch then reported on the Parish Council's year and gave thanks to all members, the Booking Clerk and the Clerk.</p>
2.	<p>GUEST SPEAKER – Mr Sean Connor</p> <p>Mr Connor gave an informative talk on the work that Gallagher's do at the quarry on Hermitage Lane, the history of Kentish Rag Stone, the blasting process and also spoke about their future plans to manufacture aggregates at the site. A number of local residents voiced their concerns regarding the increased dust within the area of Barming and also noise levels. Sean listened to all of the concerns and will be discussing these with his colleagues at the quarry to see what measures they can possibly put in place to alleviate the issues.</p>
3.	<p>OPPORTUNITY TO - Question your Local Councillors</p> <p>Due to time constraints, no formal questions were asked but members of the council were available during the refreshments to speak to residents.</p>
4.	<p>CLOSE AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS</p> <p>Cllr Gooch then concluded the formal part of the meeting at 8.45pm for refreshments.</p>

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Bullet points from meeting:

1 - Mr Connor gave an overview of the company, spoke about the estate management, the history of Kentish Ragstone, future plans to manufacture lightweight aggregates and blasting at the quarry.

2 - Manufactured aggregates – Hydraulically bound aggregates.

Gallagher's have secured the patent for this process at the Hermitage Quarry. In the pilot scheme 200 tonnes of waste material produced 1000 tonnes of manufactured aggregate. Post pilot, the company are looking to achieve 29,999 tonnes converted to 75 tonnes. This is a 'no air born dust' process but will see an extra 60 per day lorry movement.

3 – Complaints and suggestions from residents.

There was a general displeasure from residents regarding the increase of dust around the area, dust clouds in slight breezes are occurring and residents also raised concerns over health implications due to dust – [During the dry spell last summer Gallagher's tripled their water suppression and they will continue to do so; they take complaints very seriously and wish to be good neighbours so will look in to the dust issues again.](#)

Noise in gardens, vehicle movement alarms, increased noise from crusher, noise echoing down to Bull Orchard and experiences of double rebound noise, residents do not need to set alarm clocks as they are woken each morning by workers at the quarry from 7am – could some form of sound proofing be installed? – [Mr Connor will take these comments as new complaints as he has not been informed of any noise issues.](#) Noise surveys were completed last summer and they were all well within the limits. The movement alarms would be difficult to solve as they are a safety device but Gallagher's will have a think about all of the issues raised.

Would it be helpful to have a resident working group for issues? – [Gallagher's respond to complaints and have always consulted on an individual basis.](#)

Blasting – we know when it is coming as always at 2.30pm, sometimes cupboard doors shake and fish tank water is disturbed – [The blasts may feel increased due to over air pressure but Gallagher's can assure you that every blast is surveyed and logged. Safety is priority, all of their own equipment is used, explosives are loaded by hand, depth and positions are measured and post blast surveys are completed. Blasting vibration data is collected \(recent results from by the Water Tower were shown\) and these are all sent to KCC – all are well within the stringent guidelines.](#)