

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th April 2023 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

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

IN ATTENDANCE: None

Public Session

No members of the public were present.

1. APOLOGIES

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 Doe declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 5.7 (Quotations for tree work)

Cllr Manser declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.3 (online payments)

Cllr Gooch declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 6.3 (online payments)

4. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 8th March 2023

The minutes were **Agreed** as an accurate record with all members in favour.

5. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

5.1 Coronation of King Charles III: Celebrations

Cllr Gooch reported that the lamp post signs had been delivered and will be put in situ by the handyman.

The children at Barming Primary School are getting excited about receiving the mugs that the parish council have arranged for them. The Mayor and Cllr Gooch will be at the school on Tuesday 2nd May and it hopes to be a fun afternoon for the children.

Cllr Gooch had recently had a meeting with the chairman of the Dawn Patrol Rotary Club to arrange the litter pick for Monday 8th May 2023, this community event has been advertised in the recent Barming News. Maidstone Borough Council will provide the litter pickers and will deliver them nearer to the time when we know definite numbers of volunteers. Cllr Gooch suggested that BPC may wish to purchase half a dozen litter picking rings to go around the top of the rubbish bags at an approximate cost of £8.99 each. Cllr Doe proposed to proceed with the purchase, this was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour.

Cllr Gooch thanked Cllr Passmore for volunteering to carry out risk assessments of the field for any planned picnic event and also thanked the Clerk for all of the information that she had obtained regarding procedures for holding an event. Due to the lack of other willing volunteers, it has been decided not to arrange the picnic event.

5.2 Allotment Windfall Projects

Cllr Gooch has been in contact the contractor to arrange a new date for the site meeting as the previous date had to be cancelled, all members will be kept informed. The Clerk will be discussing the tendering process with the auditor at the end of the month when the audit takes place.

5.3 BPC Insurance Quotations

The Clerk has requested three quotations from the insurance broker and has also approached a fourth company for a quotation. Details of the one quotation that had been received were circulated to members. This item will be placed on the May agenda for members to consider all of the quotes received.

ACTION: Clerk

5.4 Road Name Request for phase 2A of the Oakapple Place Development

Members had previously circulated ideas via email, the suggestions were discussed in depth and the following suggested road names will be submitted to the Borough Council.

Street 2: George Sunnucks Way

Street 3: Smedleys Way
Street 4: Peafield Rise
Street 5: Rosebay

5.5 Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Charity: Funding Request

The Clerk had received a funding request letter for £300. Cllr Vizzard proposed a donation of £100.00, this was seconded by Cllr Manser with all members in favour.

5.6 KALC Annual Subscription

The Clerk had previously circulated the subscription details and leaflets that had been sent from KALC. Cllr Gooch proposed to continue with the annual subscription, this was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour.

5.7 Quotations for boundary hedging at the parish field: car park and play area

Cllr Doe had provided quotations for this work so left the meeting for members to be able to discuss the item.

The Clerk brought to members' attention that although the quotations for each separate job all came under the threshold required to obtain three quotations, added together the amount exceeded it. After due consideration members felt that all the jobs should still be treated as separate quotations because they were requested separately over a long period of time, and the unforeseen delay of Cllr Doe's serious accident and recovery period has caused these separate jobs to be brought together. Under normal circumstances, the tree work would have been carried out at different times over a longer period and separate quotations would have been received at different times.

The play area quotation – Cllr Gooch proposed to accept the quotation, seconded by Cllr Vizzard with all members in favour.

The car park quotation – Cllr Vizzard proposed to accept the quotation, seconded by Cllr Manser with all members in favour.

The eastern boundary quotation – Cllr Passmore proposed to accept the quotation, seconded by Cllr Gooch with all members in favour.

Cllr Doe was invited back in to re-join the meeting and was instructed to carry out the works as soon as possible.

ACTION: Cllr Doe

5.8 Quotation for Ivy Removal at Parish Field

The Clerk informed members about a complaint that had been received by a neighbour regarding ivy that is growing over into their garden and becoming quite destructive. This resident had previously complained back in January and BPC did arrange for a large amount of ivy to be removed but unfortunately, this did not include this specific area. The Clerk did request for the contractor to revisit the site to look at the area and he felt that the ivy was maintained sufficiently on the BPC side of the boundary. The Clerk then read out the email response that had been received from the resident.

Members are happy for the resident to cut back any ivy that is in their garden up to the boundary, in accordance with their legal rights and BPC do not require any of the cuttings back so they can dispose of them in the correct manner. BPC have planned to maintain the boundary level in this area, which will be carried out in due course, and no further quotation is required.

6 FINANCE

6.1 Budget Monitoring

The Clerk circulated the budget monitoring and bank reconciliation prior to the meeting.

6.2 Income received

The following payments received since the last meeting were noted:

Unity Trust Account

Parish Hall Income £676.80
Pavilion Income £1405.55
Barming News Adverts £290.00
Allotment Rent (2023-24) £354.38

Natwest Account

Parish Hall Income £346.52
Natwest Interest £28.40

Outstanding Invoices

Invoice: None outstanding

6.3 Cheques for signature & Online Payments

Confirmation of payments made

The following payments were agreed

Natwest Direct Debits

None

Unity Trust Direct Debits

Castle Water Parish Hall £5.00
Parish Hall WIFI £29.99
O2 Mobile Contract £38.20
MBC Waste Collection £19.50
Castle water Allotments £148.27
Business Stream Waste Water Parish Hall £23.35
EDF Parish Hall £221.26
EDF Pavilion £45.00
Unity Trust Quarterly Charge £18.00
Castle Water Parish Hall £5.00

Employer costs

Total Staff Costs £2911.60 includes HMRC Employer Payment

Online payments authorised

Dusters – Cleaning £180.00
S Manser expenses - £42.00
N Attwood expenses £62.40
Mr P Gooch Handyman Invoice - £456.00
KALC Training Course - £44.40
Mrs F Gooch expenses - £65.17
David J Hadlum Barming News Print - £373.45

6.4 Signing of the end of year accounts 2022/23

The Chairman and the Clerk signed off the relevant paperwork in preparation of the audit.

7 PLANNING

7.1 Any planning matters

23/501009/Full Chord Electronics Ltd: Erection of a 3rd Floor to The Old Pump House Farleigh Bridge

Cllr Passmore has had positive feedback that the building is being looked after. Cllr Manser voiced her concerns regarding the proposed window, as it does not match what is already there. Cllr Gooch explained that the louvres had been added to reduce the size of the glass.

The following response was agreed by all members.

BPC support this application but have the following concerns: There is no transport policy to encourage the use of bicycles/trains to get to the site (bicycle stations etc), not enough environmental improvements have been considered (rainwater catchers and highest BREEAM standards) and BPC are concerned about future parking pressures.

23/501008/LBC Chord Electronics Ltd: Erection of a 3rd Floor to the Old Pump House Farleigh Bridge

As above.

Oakapple Lane, Barming – Proposed Traffic Regulation Order.

The following response was agreed by all members:

BPC fully support the Traffic Regulation Order and in addition would like to see 20MPH roundels on the road.

8 MATTERS OF REPORT

8.1 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Webb was not present.

8.2 Borough Councillor's Report/ Chairman's Report

Maidstone Borough Council have opened up the 'Borough in Bloom' competition which ranges from individual plant pots to whole gardens. The prize will be a £25.00 voucher and the competition will close on the 30th June 2023.

The anti-social behaviour town centre survey is available to complete until the 8th May 2023.

The new Moat Park café is now open to visitors.

Cllr Gooch then went on to inform members that the Community Governance Review for parishes has been delayed to allow staff to focus on the upcoming elections. The recommendations will go out for consultation in June with impacted parishes, for Borough Council approval in September 2023. As BPC is likely to expand, the production of the Barming News will have to be discussed with a date for the final edition communicated to residents. Cllr Gooch explained that the area would then be far too large to cover as there could potentially be significantly more residents; maybe something could go online. Cllr Gooch requested for the Community Governance Review to be added to the September and October agendas so that BPC members could discuss finer details of any impacts.

ACTION: Clerk

8.3 Individual Councillors Report

Cllr Passmore informed members that he has been in contact with Network Rail and Southeastern regarding the platform gap issue. He has been informed that there is a possibility that a ramp could be installed, Cllr Gooch will speak to the representatives at the Kent Community Railway Partnership AGM about the matter. Cllr Gooch added that she was still waiting for permission to install the notice board by the train station. **ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

Cllr Manser asked whether the area of land that we usually do not mow for the 'no mow May' initiative will be left again this year. She was disappointed to see that it had just recently been cut. Members agreed for the Clerk to contact the contractor and request that it is left until the beginning-mid June depending on the contractor's schedule.

ACTION: Clerk

8.4 Clerk's Reports

The Clerk has received an application from a local resident who is interested in becoming a member of BPC. The gentleman's application has been circulated to all members and his co-option will be placed on the May meeting agenda.

ACTION: Clerk

9 CORRESPONDENCE

Countryside Voices – Spring/Summer 2023

Kent Countryside Voice – Spring -Summer 2023

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.00pm** in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road for the Annual Meeting of the Council which will be followed by the regular Full Council Meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Barming Primary School on **Wednesday 26th April 2023 at 7.00pm**.

The meeting was closed at 9.21pm.