

## BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017 AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

**PRESENT:** Cllr Gooch in Chair, Cllr Doe, Cllr Manser, Clerk Mrs N Attwood and Catherine James  
Cllr Vizzard joined the meeting at 7.50pm due to attending a MBC meeting

**IN ATTENDANCE:** No members of the public were present

1. **APOLOGIES:** None

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 9.3 (cheques to be signed)

Cllr Gooch declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 9.3 (cheques to be signed)

Cllr Gooch declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.3 (planning interest)

4. **MINUTES of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

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

5. **POLICE MATTERS**

No PCSO's were present but members wanted concerns regarding recent dog thefts in the surrounding area to be noted, this will remind local residents to be vigilant.

**Closed section of meeting**

6. **CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR**

**Catherine James**

Mrs James introduced herself to the council and gave a summary of her employment history and transferable skills; members were given the opportunity to ask relevant questions. Mrs James was then asked to leave the room whilst a decision was made. All members were in favour to proceed with the co-option; Mrs James re-joined the meeting and completed the necessary paperwork.

**Open section of meeting**

7. **RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

**7.1 Resignation of Cllr Hyndman**

The resignation of Cllr Hyndman was formally noted and the clerk confirmed that the necessary paperwork has been completed and Mrs Hyndman has been removed from the email list.

**7.2 KCC Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2017-2022**

Members agreed that good work has been done so far with the changes of structure, which is extremely involved. Drug and alcohol problems cost the NHS and Police significant amounts of money, and also cause serious issues with childcare. The majority of problems occur in vulnerable areas, including homelessness.

Members noted that there are great advice and support services out there for those who need help. Members would also like to see parents being taught how to be good parents, and to increase their children's self-esteem and confidence. Cllr James added that we need to look at the next generation and teach younger people that saying "no" is a positive choice. The Clerk will submit members' comments accordingly.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**7.3 KCC Consultation – Freight Action Plan**

Cllr Vizzard felt that many issues are caused by HGV drivers not using commercial satellite navigation.

Members believe that this should be addressed by the border agency at Dover; that Highways should work closer with the police and a safe and sensible place should be provided for overnight parking, with possible fines not adhered to.

The Clerk will submit members' comments accordingly.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **7.4 Town and Green Space Furniture and Memorial Bench**

Cllr Manser proposed one brown recycled plastic bench to be purchased for the hard standing area at the pavilion; this was seconded by Cllr Vizzard subject to the carriage charge. The Clerk will find out how much the cost of delivery will be and if agreeable with all members she will proceed to purchase.

Members viewed pictures of a metal WW1 memorial seat for the parish field. Cllr James suggested that various school bench providers be looked into as their prices are usually competitive. The Clerk will make some enquiries and report back in time for the next meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **7.5 ACRK Annual Membership Renewal**

Members agreed to renew the membership of the Action with Communities in Rural Kent and the cheque was signed.

#### **7.6 EiS New Website**

The parish website, hosted by EiS is being upgraded and the new site will be going live soon; the Clerk and Chairman will be attending training on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The Clerk informed the council that the Downs Mail had asked for a link to their website to be added. Members agreed that once the new site is up and running they will discuss what links they would like to appear and other pages will be updated.

#### **7.7 Meeting with Hirer: Rachel Cattell**

Cllr Gooch, Cllr Manser and the Clerk had met with Rachel as she had requested to discuss her hiring arrangements at the pavilion. Rachel has been offered premises elsewhere but would like to continue to use the pavilion as it gives a local community feel to the group. Mucky Munchkins has grown from strength to strength and would now like to make the pavilion their permanent facility. With this in mind, Rachel has asked for a sign to be installed by the front gate on posts. Members were all in favour of this and would like the wording to read "Barming Parish Pavilion home of the Mucky Munchkins" as previously agreed with Rachel at the meeting.

Rachel has requested to be billed on a monthly basis so that she is paying a set amount every month; this was to include the Tuesday morning. Members agreed to the arrangement and after a lengthy discussion decided that an increase of 40pence per hour to the hire charge will come into effect for the year 2018/19. This was proposed by Cllr Vizzard and seconded by Cllr Doe, with all in favour.

#### **7.8 Rebound Fence**

Members agreed to continue with Playinnovation; Cllr Gooch will apply for funding from Awards for All and the Clerk will re-submit the application to the Kent Police Property Fund when the application process re-opens in April.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk**

### **8 PLANNING.**

#### **8.1 TM/10/2029/RVARB - Hermitage Quarry, Hermitage Lane, ME20 7PX**

#### **8.2 KCC/TM/0328/2016 – Hermitage Quarry, Hermitage Lane, ME20 7PX**

Cllr Gooch and the Clerk reported on the outcome of their meeting with Gallagher's to find out further information regarding the applications. Members have no objections to either of the applications but think it would be beneficial if an improvement to the junction at Mc Donald's could be considered.

#### **8.3 17/500247/FULL – 135 Heath Road, Barming, ME16 9HJ**

Cllr Gooch left the room whilst the application was being discussed as this is the neighbouring property to her house.

Members have no objections to this application.

Cllr Gooch re-joined the meeting.

### **9 FINANCE**

#### **9.1 Budget Monitoring**

The Clerk will circulate the monitoring sheet to all members when the bank statements are received.

#### **9.2 Income received**

The following payments received since the last meeting were noted:

Parish Hall Rent	£736.75
Pavilion Rent	£820.50

#### **Confirmation of payments made**

The following payments were agreed

DD - South East Water – Pavilion	£ 35.00
DD - South East Water – Allotments	£ 30.00
DD - South East Water – Parish Hall	£ 11.00

DD – EDF Electric Pavilion	£ 46.00
DD – EDF Electric Parish Hall	£ 64.00
DD – NEST Pension Payment	£ 10.76

### 9.3 Cheques for signature

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

2887 – Mrs N Attwood –Salary and Office Allowance	£ 1025.10
2888 – Mrs E Whitehouse – Gate Duties	£ 60.00
2889 – David J Hadlum Printers – Print of Barming News	£ 255.00
2890 – S Manser – Expenses	£ 56.73
2891 – F Gooch – Expenses	£ 2.00
2892 – Dusters – Cleaning Services	£ 147.00
2893 – N Attwood – Expenses	£ 30.00
2894 – Mrs N Attwood – Salary **post-dated for March	£ 1025.30
2895 – Mrs E Whitehouse – Gate Duties **post-dated March	£ 60.00

Cllr Vizzard will be added to the Natwest account as a signatory; Cllr Gooch will arrange the paperwork.

## 10 MATTERS OF REPORT

### 10.1 County Councillor’s Report

County Councillor Stockell was not present.

### 10.2 Borough Councillors/Chairman’s Report

Cllr Gooch reported on the possibility of planning applications only being available to view online. This would be impractical for parish councils who have no Wi-Fi installed and will be discussed further to find out the next steps.

MBC awaits the final inspector’s report on the Local Plan. Council tax charges will probably increase by £4.95 per Band D property but this has not been formally approved yet.

Cllr Gooch thanked Barry Plummer for the excellent job he did in resolving a complaint regarding a bonfire that was lit at the allotments.

At the recent KALC meeting Cllr Gooch was informed that parish councils should have a dedicated laptop for the Clerk and personal computers should not be used.

Cllr Manser asked Cllr Gooch if she had heard any information about the borough council charging a doorway tax to homeless people. Due to the staff at the borough council concentrating on prevention of homelessness Cllr Gooch cannot imagine this to be the case but will certainly look into it.

### 10.3 Individual Councillors Report

Cllr Vizzard and Cllr Manser had attended the fire hydrant meetings and informed members that the hydrants around the parish will be cleaned and marked up correctly and then a map will be sent to the clerk. Parish Councils are then asked to keep an eye on all hydrants with a dedicated inspector, which Cllr Vizzard volunteered to do.

Cllr Vizzard gave his apologies for the March meeting.

Cllr Manser informed members that the water heater at the pavilion had been repaired with the element and thermostat being replaced.

Cllr Manser asked for the plant tubs to be added to the next agenda as they are rotting and one has collapsed, she will look at various types to replace and prices. **ACTION: Cllr Manser**

Cllr Manser also asked for the village sign to be cleaned as a branch has grown close to the back of it and is making it extremely dirty. **ACTION: Clerk**

It was reported that 39 South Street was re-advertised in January as it effects a listed building and also needs a tree survey to be completed.

### 11.4 Clerk’s Reports

The audit appointments by area for 2017-2022 have been received and PKF Littlejohn LLP will be covering Kent.

Direct debts have been set up for the waste water on both the parish hall and the pavilion; paperwork should be received within the next 10 days.

The Clerk has been contacted by the Kent Community Warden who would like to attend a meeting, hopefully in March although this has not been confirmed.

The Clerk gave her apologies for the March meeting, due to a particularly special family commitment.

Applications have been received from Ms Fleur Willson and Mr Peter Budgen to join the parish council. Members decided that they would consider the co-option of Ms Willson at their next meeting. Members had declined to co-opt Mr Budgen in the past, and mindful that the decision remains valid, decided not to take his application any further. The Clerk will write to Mr Budgen accordingly.

#### **12 CORRESPONDENCE**

No Correspondence to circulate but members were given UK Power Networks leaflets to distribute to any vulnerable people in the community.

#### **13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Full Meeting of the Council will be held on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017** at **7.30pm** in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road.

With nothing further to be discussed, the meeting was closed at 9.42pm.

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