

Minutes of the Barham Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 04 November 2021 in Barham Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:

Parish Councillors: David Wood (Chairman), Diane Tatt (Vice Chairman), Ernie Mullett, Gary Graham, Carolyn Hunt, John Brooks, and Andreas Tatt.

One vacancy

Clerk to the Council, Joanne Pannell.

Two members of the public.

1. The Chairman's opening remarks and apologies for absence

Cllr Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting including the two members of public present.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr: Stuart Eccles due to work commitments.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Vacancy on the council

A member of the public present had contacted the clerk prior to the meeting noting his interest in becoming a parish councillor. Cllr Wood asked the gentleman to address the meeting to give a brief history of his past employment and skills that he could bring to the council. The gentleman introduced himself and explained that he had been a resident of the village, in the same house immediately next to the Village Hall, for twenty-nine years. During his career he had been Head of Barton Grammar school and had worked in a wide variety of schools all over the Country. For Eighteen years he, with a team of professionals, had been responsible for all aspects of delivering school services from planning to finance, so had a good understanding of business needs. He regularly walks his dog around the Public Rights of Way Routes in the village, plays double bass in orchestras throughout Kent, and drives a 1953 Jaguar car. Cllr Wood thanked the gentleman for his introduction and explained that co-option would be on the next agenda.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last full parish council meeting held on 07 October 2021 were proposed by Cllr Mullett and seconded by Cllr Graham, the Chairman duly signed them at the meeting.

5. Update and actions agreed from a Footpath meeting held 21 July 2021 at Brickfield Road with Mr Rolf Groombridge, Chairman David Wood, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Mullett, and the clerk.

Cllr Wood noted that the signs had been delivered and showed one of the signs to the meeting, he explained that only one post would be required to secure the sign at the Brickfield Road entrance, rather than the two that were originally planned for. Cllrs present agreed that the sign was particularly good and commented on the nice green colour background.

6. Adjournment of the meeting

Cllr Wood explained that the representative of Barham and District horticultural society would be asked to address the meeting under agenda item 21. Open Spaces. There were no other public comments or questions.

7. KCC and CCC Cllr Mike Sole's report

Cllr Sole's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and posted on Facebook:

November 2021 (an update on what I have been doing in November)

Autumn is now well and truly here, and the heavy rain is highlighting the many blocked gullies that KCC have failed to clear despite several requests over several months. I continue to chase for these to be done.

Parish Council Meetings – With 16 parish councils in my KCC division it is not possible to attend all of them regularly, but I am always happy to try to arrange other times to meet up with parish councillors, clerks, and residents to discuss issues outside of the formal monthly meetings.

Parking restrictions – If any Parish wishes to put forward changes to the City Council parking restrictions, then the deadline for this is 31st December 2021, although it would be helpful to have them earlier than that.

National Farmers Union – I had a very informative meeting with members of the Canterbury NFU. As a result of this I am following up matters including fly-tipping and ragwort.

Canterbury City Council – meeting attended in the month were the Regeneration Committee and full Council.

In **Wincheap** there is a significant concern about the proposed gyratory scheme (Wincheap becomes one was as does Simmonds Road) as there has been no public consultation about the impact on residents and businesses. I have also (so far unsuccessfully) tried to reduce the night-time anti-social construction work on the A2 slip road in **Thanington** – unfortunately neither CCC nor KCC have direct power over Highways England.

I have had fruitful discussions with KCC about setting up and **apprentices bus travel scheme**.

On **flooding** I have had meetings with both the River Stour Internal Drainage Boards and The Little Stour, Nailbourne, Petham Bourne Flood Action Group.

Fly-tipping again seems to be increasing and Canterbury City Council are very slow to deal with reported items, some still outstanding several months later – I continue to chase for action.

Cllr Wood asked in the absence of Cllr Sole were there any issues that Cllrs would like to report? Cllr Graham had contacted Cllr Sole about the poor state of Valley Road.

8. Proposal for cycle path improvements between Kingston and Barham

Cllr D. Tatt thought that the council should explore the Highway Safety grants to cover any possible cost. It was proposed to set up a working group to explore all the options. Cllr D. Tatt agreed to speak to a former Cllr about any other progress on this project.

9. Use of S101 delegation to the Clerk since the last meeting: None

10. Financial matters

- The cheque payments since the last meeting were noted.

Other financial matters

- RECEIVED the bank statements and bank reconciliation for September and Cllr Graham to scrutinise and sign them. Cllr Wood thanked Cllr Graham for his efforts on this.

CCC Capital grant 2021-2022

The clerk confirmed that the parish council had received the payment of £704 towards a replacement village green emblem sign.

Cllr Hunt asked for an agenda item to go onto the December agenda with regards to how we should store the old village sign. Cllr Hunt shared mocks of the new village emblem which has old English sign writing, noting that the sign represented Barham village, she had consulted Mrs Atherton on the proposed emblem. Cllr Wood asked if our current letter head emblem could be replaced with the new emblem. Cllr Hunt noted that the current emblem in 'high-res definition' needs to be altered using different software. It was agreed that Cllr Hunt will send the current mock to Cllr D. Tatt to put it into a useable format. Cllr Hunt explained that work on the new sign will start later this month from completion prior to the end of this fiscal year. Cllr D. Tatt asked if the old sign could be store in a glass cabinet in the village hall? Cllr Hunt agreed that it would be an innovative idea to display this during the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

The future of Concurrent Function Funding:

Cllr Wood and clerk had attended a meeting with the City Council on this issue earlier in the week. The outcome was that this funding will continue at the same amount for an additional two further years to what had already been agreed with an additional 3% inflation added. He noted that this was good news as it amounted to approximately 17% of the council's overall budget.

Flint wall between the Churchyard and The Spinney

The clerk had contacted Lilford Surveyors again about the previous site visit in relation to the wall but had not received a reply. The clerk had also again contacted the second surveyor who said he would be willing to conduct a site visit but had not received a reply. Cllr Mullett suggested that the clerk use the contact that he had provided to request a site visit. Cllr Wood explained that the wall in question was grade one listed as it forms part of the Church site. The clerk will contact the new surveyor.

11. **Publicity & Communications including website**

Cllr A. Tatt noted that the only question received on Facebook had been for a recommendation for a decorator. Cllr A. Tatt can no longer post on the village Facebook page because it says that the parish council is no longer a member. Cllr A. Tatt will talk to the administrator of the site to rectify the issue. Cllr Wood asked if it could again be posted on Facebook that the clerk attends the Tuesday Coffee Stop meeting on the third Tuesday of the month, should any residents wish to raise any issues. Cllr Wood also asked if a polite notice could be put on Facebook to remind residents that parking at the rear of Crookenden Place is really for older people and the infirm, there is plenty of on street parking in other roads nearby.

Website change

The noticeboard at Brickfield recreation ground has been updated with the new website details.

12. **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 running 02-05 June 2022**

Present at the meeting was a representative from Barham and District Horticultural Society who asked if the council would consider a wider programme of planting trees, noting that there were several pockets of money available for such a project and given the current climate issues this would benefit the environment. Cllr Wood explained that he would take agenda item 21. under this item and invited the gentleman to address the meeting. He explained that the Society would like to plant some trees in the recreation ground to commemorate the life of Mr M Atherton, the former president of the Barham and District Horticultural Society for many years and to celebrate 120 years of the Horticultural Society. The representative explained that they would like to plant some trees in the recreation ground but needed the permission from the parish council. The Society had thought that it would be beneficial to plant some in the recreation ground around the picnic tables to offer some shade, the Woodland Trust could design a plan for the trees and also include flora and former in the planting, which could include some native broad leaf trees that offer biodiversity. Cllr Wood asked what sort of tree would be planted to commemorate Mr Atherton? The representative replied that Mrs Atherton had offered some oak saplings, however he noted that the downside of this was the leaves that would fall from the trees in autumn may cause a maintenance issue with the tennis courts. Cllr Wood queried how long a new sapling needed to be maintained for? The representative replied that it usually needs between three- and five-years dependent on the size of the initial sapling, a three-metre tree would cost a hundred pounds, the larger the sapling the higher the cost. Cllr Hunt stated that the allotment society had started to put a couple of saplings in the recreation ground, one being a cherry and the other a walnut tree. Cllr D. Tatt thought that there was plenty of depth around the area to keep them away from the tennis courts and not too near to the football pitch which would provide an aesthetically pleasing look to the area. Cllr Wood thought that one possibility could be at the bottom of the recreation ground. Cllr Hunt agreed that there was scope for a larger canopy in that area with large trees or hedging. Cllr Hunt will lead on the planting of the trees in conjunction with the horticultural society and Cllr Wood will contact the Kent Men of trees to ascertain the availability of saplings. Cllr D. Tatt noted the offer from Mrs Atherton about the oak saplings to commemorate Mr Atherton, Cllr Hunt thought that the Mr Atherton tree should be planted in the picnic area and the canopy in the recreation ground. Cllr Wood explained that there are grants available for such a scheme some could be applied for by the horticultural society and the parish council could apply for others. Cllr Hunt will provide an update at the next meeting. Cllr Wood thanked the representative for addressing the meeting.

13. **Highways**

Cllr Wood reported that he had bagged up the dog waste bags left at the site of the missing bin at Brickfield Recreation ground. These had been collected by the waste contractor and they had

left a new bag for residents to dispose of their dog waste. Cllr Wood asked the clerk to contact the grounds maintenance contractor about removing the old bin base.

The bin at the South Barham layby will be moved to replace the missing bin in the recreation ground, but it is not sure how quickly this will be done. Cllr Wood explained that the landowner will fence off the layby when we have a date for the removal of the bin, which is a shame because we have lost a valuable village facility. Cllr Wood asked the clerk to chase enforcement again with regards to finding out who was responsible for disposing of such a large amount of rubbish. Cllr Wood explained that if the bin had been emptied three times a week we may not be in this position, but there had been communication issues between CCC officers and the contractor canco. The clerk was asked to share the email exchanges between the two department to the Deputy Chief Executive at the City Council.

14. Highways Improvement Template

The Clerk has previously spoken to the KCC Highways officer about the 20mph proposed speed limit for The Street and Church Lane and a hundred yards either side of the school. The officer had advised that the next step for the proposed speed limit would be to get public opinion on the proposal. Cllr A. Tatt offered to design a form to gauge opinion which could be obtained from the Parish council and Cllr D. Tatt offered to leaflet drop leaflets to houses that may be affected by the proposal go include the Head Teacher of the school.

Cllr D. Tatt asked why Out Elmstead had been removed from this project and asked for it to be reinstated. The clerk will ensure that it is included on the HIP. Cllr Wood explained that any 20mph limit would need to be self-enforcing. Cllr D. Tatt explained that the road at Out Elmstead currently had a 30mph restriction, but that it was a single-track road.

Cllr Brookes had been approached by a resident about the double yellow lines at the bottom of Railway Hill. When the lines were put in single line was put behind a mini that was parked on the road. Cllr A. Tatt explained that one resident had voiced their dismay that there was not a parking space included within the double yellow lines. Cllr Wood explained that one parking space was requested to be left. Cllr Brooks noted that the issue is that the parked mini hardly moves. A member of the public explained that some people find it difficult to access the Causeway as you come down Railway Hill it is difficult to turn left due to the parked mini, he thought a solution was to move the mini away from the bridge to make the turn easier. Cllr Wood queried whether the parish council should ask the public to gather their views on the situation at the top of Derringstone Street, noting that the parish council could apply for Joint Transportation Board approval. The clerk was asked to find out what the closing date for any application is and let Cllr A. Tatt know. Cllr Graham asked why we could not extend the bollards in the Shrubbery? Cllr Wood explained that KCC would need to install them.

15. Open Spaces

It was AGREED not to pursue installing two concrete pads at Brickfield recreation ground. Cllr Wood noted that the village had not previously had a beacon, mainly because there is nowhere high enough. Cllr Hunt explained that traditionally a beacon should be able to be seen by another beacon. Cllr D. Tatt thought that initially it would be a good idea to obtain some quotes. Cllr Mullett had a contact that he would ask for a quote.

Play area inspections

Cllr Hunt explained that following the Cllrs inspection of the play equipment last month, the majority was not in too bad condition. They had used a screwdriver to test if the wood in the ground was soft, as the ROSPA inspector done, although some were soft, they were still sturdy. The wooden seats in the play area need to be wire brushed and treated with wood preserve as did the benches in front of the Shrubbery and the seats on the village green, the clerk was asked to get a quote for this work. Cllr Wood requested if it could be confirmed that a new no dogs sign has been put on the gate of the small playground in valley road? Cllr Hunt will check and report back to the next meeting. It was AGREED that Cllr D. Tatt and Cllr Wood would do the next six-monthly play inspection.

UKPN pole replacement at Brickfield Recreation Ground

The Clerk had received an email from UKPN with a change of plan to the original one. The original plan went through the trees along the Recreation Ground boundary, but this is not now deemed to be feasible. The alternative cable route will mean coming back onto the Council land through the bottom gate. This alternative route would be on private land so UKPN would need to get permission

from the landowner. There is also a pole that is in a quite dangerous location (pole 887834) and shows signs of actually being hit by cars/lorries. The proposal is to move this pole within the Recreation Ground in proximity to where the new proposed substation site will go which will be just within the boundary. The clerk was asked to find out timescales for the work.

Christmas items 2021

Cllr Wood asked the meeting if the parish council should purchase a Christmas tree for outside the village hall but noted that the rubber ducting may only last one more year due to wear and tear. Cllr D. Tatt offered some replacement ducting. It was AGREED that Cllr Mullett would order the tree. Cllr Hunt enquired if any help was needed to erect the tree? Cllr Wood responded that the grounds maintenance contractor puts the tree up, but it would be helpful if people are around to assist. Cllr Wood also asked if the parish council should put the lights up around the trees as in previous years. Cllr A. Tatt mentioned that a resident had asked for a donation towards the batteries for the lights. The parish council could provide low level finance under section 101.

16. Footpaths & Rights of Way

Cllr Mullett had been out for a walk on Derringstone Downs and noted that there is a large drop on one side of the stile. Cllr Mullett knows the landowner so will raise the issue with him.

17. Village organisations Barham Football Club

Cllr D. Tatt reported that the Football Club had had a formal pitch inspection conducted by the Kent Football Association. At the Brickfield site there is a years' work to do in order to get the pitch up to a good standard, but the Football Association may not offer a grant because there is no long-term lease on the surrounding land. It would be helpful if this could go into the new lease as an additional cost which would assist the Football Club to apply for grant aid. Cllr D. Tatt said there had been a couple of injuries in the male team, so they had moved to Elham to practice. Cllr Wood asked how long they would like the lease for, Cllr D. Tatt requested up to twelve years. The council agreed for the lease to be progressed, proposed by Cllr Graham, and seconded by Cllr Brookes.

Cllr Wood requested that the Football Club writes to the clerk setting out what they require to be in the addendum. Cllr D. Tatt agreed to do so. Cllr Mullett asked if it would assist with the pitch by putting sheep in. Cllr D. Tatt will mention this offer to the club at the next meeting on Saturday. Cllr Wood enquired about progress on the Pavilion? Cllr D. Tatt explained that this was currently on hold due to there being a lot of younger players at the moment and a shortage of football coaches, so if anyone knows of any coaches, please ask them to contact Cllr D. Tatt. The clerk was asked to ensure that this point went into the parish magazine.

Cllr D. Tatt reminded those present about the village hall hundreds club lottery, noting that renewal is due in January 2022. Cllr Wood noted that the village hall were keen to work with the parish council to plan an event to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee following the success of the Diamond Jubilee event. It could be a similar event to the Diamond Jubilee when residents were asked to bring a picnic to the village hall to share with their family. Cllr D Tatt proposed, and Cllr Hunt seconded.

18. Clerk report

All items are incorporated elsewhere in these Minutes.

21. Planning applications

New planning applications since the last meeting:	
15.	CA/21/02359 - Barham Bowls Club, Valley Road, Barham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6NX Replacement of existing sports green for artificial all-weather surface. Closing date 12 th November
16.	CA/21/02447 - Barham Downs, Dover Road, Kent Erection of public artwork. Closing date 8 th November
17.	CA/21/02544 - 8 Kitchener Close, Barham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6QN Use of garage as ancillary accommodation together with single-storey extension, new windows and doors to existing garage and new detached garage. Closing date 26 th November

You can view and comment on applications online at https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planningsearch

Cllr A. Tatt remarked that it was encouraging to see the Bowls Clubs proposals and fully supported them.

Cllr A. Tatt queried if application number 16. shown above was in the parish of Barham, the clerk was requested to forward to the clerk at Womanswold. On the final proposal Cllr A. Tatt had not heard any adverse comments from member of the public. Cllr A. Tatt also asked if there had been any update on the Out Elmstead planning application, the clerk will check and let her know.

19. Councillors items

Cllr Hunt gave her apologies for the pre-budget meeting on 25th November as she would be at an awards ceremony in London. Cllr Wood confirmed that the draft budget papers would be sent to her for any comments.

20. Date of next meeting

Cllr Wood reminded Cllrs of the next meeting date of 02 December 2021 at 7.30pm in Barham Village Hall. There is no parish council meeting in January.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed:
Chairman, Cllr David Wood

Date:

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the parish council at their next parish council meeting

Future meeting dates in person:

Provisional dates for Full Council: 02 December 2021, no meeting in January

And F&GP meeting dates *should these be required*: 25 November and 15 December 2021.