

Minutes of the Barham Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 02 December 2021 in Barham Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:

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

One vacancy

Clerk to the Council, Joanne Pannell.

No members of the public present.

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

Cllr Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr: Stuart Eccles and Cllr Gary Graham who were both unwell.

2. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Vacancy on the council

The Chairman asked the Cllrs present if they all agreed to the co-option of Dr Manning who had attended the November meeting to state his interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. The decision to the co-option was unanimous by all Cllrs present. The clerk will inform Dr Manning of the outcome.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last full parish council meeting held on 04 November 2021 were proposed by Cllr A. Tatt and seconded by Cllr Hunt, 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 two signs were now in situ, but there were a lot of loose dogs not on a lead running across the field. It was agreed that in January 2022 a post will be put on the Parish Facebook page to ask people to keep their dogs on a lead, if not, it is likely that members of the public will lose access to the field. Cllr Hunt offered to take a photograph of the new signs and send to Cllr A. Tatt for uploading to the Facebook page.

6. Adjournment of the meeting

There were no members of the public present.

7. KCC and CCC Cllr Mike Sole's report

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

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

Firstly, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Parking Restrictions – If any parish wishes to put forward changes to the City Council parking restrictions, then deadline for this is 31 December, although it would be helpful to have them earlier than that. I walked around Bridge with a representative of the parish council in order to clarify some issues with the council Highways team.

Detached Rural Youth Worker – I met up with Richard Stephens to discuss his role in our area. He is keen to find out what provision exists in the area, and what else can be done. Please let me have your thoughts on this.

At long last, **Fly-tipping** that was reported months ago in **Womenswold** has been collected. I am still getting reports every week of persistent uncollected bins in most village – please do let me know bins are being regularly missed.

8. Proposal for cycle path improvements between Kingston and Barham

Cllr D. Tatt walked this route a couple of weeks ago with a former Parish Councillor. Cllr D. Tatt asked why the current path to Kingston is not on the other side near to the Nailbourne River with a wall erected. Cllr D. Tatt had sent an email to Cllr Sole with this suggestion and highlighted funding sources that could be used. Cllr D. Tatt had spoken to the landowners of the former pig site field where the current footpath runs across. Cllr D. Tatt explained the Public Rights of Way (PROW) officer at KCC had looked at the plans and noted that the current path is in the wrong place in terms of the angle of the path. The officer had sent an email to Cllr D. Tatt explaining there was a huge backlog of PROW cases currently, due to the pandemic, but fully recognised the issues with the

current path, noting that it was not a straightforward case and in the wrong position at the Barham end which he thought was a drafting error made in 1987. The officer also noted that there were no legal powers to enforce landowners to replace stiles with gates. The officer suggested making the route a bridle way, if this were the case people would be able to cycle on it. Cllr D. Tatt also noted that the proposed change of path would cross the Nailbourne river so would require a bridge to be constructed, she concluded that this work was ongoing and could take some time to resolve.

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 October. Cllr Graham had collected the bank statements prior to the meeting for scrutinising.
- It was RESOLVED to alter the internal auditor visits from six monthly to annually, this decision could be re-visited if required at a later date. Proposed by Cllr A. Tatt and seconded by Cllr Mullett. The clerk will contact the auditor.

CCC Capital grant 2021-2022

Cllr Hunt noted that there was no update on the replacement Village sign but will keep the Cllrs updated on progress.

The future of Concurrent Function Funding:

Cllr Wood explained the two options proposed by the City Council. It was unanimously agreed that the Council would opt for option B. The clerk will inform the City Council of the decision.

2022 – 2023 Precept / Budget

Cllr Wood explained to the meeting that following the finance working group meeting held on 25th November 2021 it was proposed to increase the precept by 1.5% this year in light of current circumstances and in particular the rate of inflation. However, we did not know the tax base for next year so it is impossible to know exactly what the impact would be on an individual property. Last year there was no increase in the total precept but there had been an increase in individual property values by 1.4%, due to a change in the tax base.

RESOLVED to increase the precept by 1.5%, Cllr A, Tatt proposed, and Cllr Brooks seconded.

Update on the Repair Shop application

Cllr Hunt explained that there was no update.

Update on Unity Bank application

The clerk explained that she had contacted the bank to ask for a replacement letter to be sent to Cllr Mullett, so that he could authenticate his details.

Flint wall between the Churchyard and The Spinney

The clerk had provided a report to Cllrs following a meeting with another surveyor. Cllr Wood requested the clerk to contact the owner of the Spinney property. Cllr Wood explained that the vegetation needed to be cleared from the walls, especially at the back of the wall where the headstones had been moved to, as this was the responsibility of the Parish Council, he asked Cllrs for any thoughts on who may be able to undertake this work? Cllr Mullett suggested Mr A Clough. Cllr Hunt asked if the Fifth Trust undertook this sort of work? Cllr Brooks noted that a team of volunteers had previously cleared the ivy from the walls. The clerk was requested to ask for a quote from Mr Biddolph to clear the area. Cllr Wood asked Cllrs if they were agreeable to progress this? All Cllrs agreed to this in principle.

Publicity & Communications including website

Cllr A. Tatt noted that there was nothing to report.

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

Cllr Hunt produced two papers to the meeting which explained the proposed outcome of her meeting with the President of Barham and District Horticultural Society. The proposal is to create a fully enclosed and separate space by adding a fence running North to South from the new access gate to the football field fence line. Insert a wide gate centrally to enable mowing access and enhance fence line with native hedging. This proposal is inside the tennis court bank, therefore reducing any impact to this area, and will enable dog walkers' access to the main recreational space without passing through the picnic area. It is suggested that a mix of three or five native trees in each corner of the area ensuring there is an appropriate distance of around ten feet from the allotment border, football field boarder and Rabbit Hole border. It is planned to enhance the boarder with the football field with either native hedging or a single line of smaller trees and again a single line of the small trees between the corner tree planting at the Rabbit Hole end.

It is proposed to move the picnic tables away from the entrance gate to create a more random approach considering ease of mowing and siting for shade and sun. Cllr Wood noted that Mr Punyer had put these in originally, so he would be asked to move them. There is also an option to include a larger specimen tree in the centre of the area to be dedicated to Mr M Atherton with agreement from the Horticultural Society and his wife Mrs W Atherton. The site of this proposed tree is currently under debate with the Horticultural Society.

The proposal for the un-mown area in the main area of the ground is to create a larger wooded area with pathways / avenues intersecting the trees for access and walkers. Acquired native trees would be as a minimum whips / sapling, the source of these is to be decided. Cllr Hunt explained that it would be essential to have this land surveyed by an organisation such as Kent Wildlife Trust to ensure the environment retains any existing ecology or impact to existing species such as the orchids. A Cllr asked if broad leaf tree species were to be used? Cllr Hunt replied that there were still further discussions to have with the Horticultural Society.

Cllr Hunt explained that there is a lot of work to do on this project, but the Queens Jubilee runs throughout the year, so there is time to complete this and asked the Parish Council to consider going ahead with the project, (especially given the current environmental situation) or not. Cllr Hunt had been to some local nurseries to gauge the price of trees, noting that saplings were £7 each and a 5 foot tree is around £40. Cllr Hunt will also contact the Kent Woodland Trust for prices. Cllr Wood thought that there may be more saplings available in the new year.

Cllr Wood suggested that Cllr Hunt prepare a paragraph about the project to go in the Parish magazine. Cllr Hunt agreed to do an illustrative plan by 15th January 2022 to go into the February edition of the magazine. Cllr D. Tatt explained that there were a lot of grants available for this sort of project and Cllr Wood suggested contacting the Kent branch of the CPRE concerning hedging. Cllr Hunt requested that Cllrs forward her any grant information and welcomed any comments on the project from Cllrs. Cllr Hunt agreed to send copies of her report to Cllr Graham and Cllr Eccles in their absence. Cllr Wood had tried to contact the Kent Men of Trees, but there had been no answer to date.

Cllr A. Tatt had conducted some research on purchasing a Beacon for the Queens Jubilee and explained that the cost was between £450 to £500. Cllr Hunt noted that the Beacon was simply a gas canister and that there was nowhere high enough for a Beacon to be placed. Cllr Hunt noted that Womanswold had a Beacon, we could publicise that if it were to be lite to celebrate the event. The Parish Council agreed not to pursue the purchase of a Beacon.

12. Highways

The bin at the South Barham layby will be moved to replace the missing bin at Brickfield recreation ground. Cllr Wood explained that when we know the date when the bin will be moved, we will inform the landowner who will then fence off the layby.

Cllr Hunt explained that current work being conducted at Derringstone has meant that cars are parking further down the road, so the need for double yellow lines has not been such an issue of late

Cllr Hunt asked why the flashing speed sign outside the school was flashing when the school was not in use, but flashing at night? Cllr Wood explained that originally the lolly pop person would have activated them at the start and close of children arriving and leaving school, however, these were changed to a software system which are clearly not working. The clerk was requested to

raise this issue with relevant department. The clerk was requested to ask the Highways officer the cost of speed surveys and what the timescales would be to instigate them.

Cllr Wood asked if there was any support to be offered to Denton Parish Council with reducing the speed limit on the A260? Cllr Mullet explained that this had been an accident black spot for a number of years. It was agreed that the clerk would formally write to the clerk at Denton Parish Council offering Barham Parish Councils support to their campaign.

13. Highways Improvement Template

Cllr Wood explained that previously the Parish Council had asked Kent Highways for a 20mph limit on the entire length of Valley Road, but Kent Highways stated that this was not possible, hence going with a shorter section of the road. Cllr Wood explained that the section of road that the Parish Council is now looking at for the 20mph limits are for some of The Street, Greenhills and Out Elmstead Lane.

14. Open Spaces

UKPN pole replacement at Brickfield Recreation Ground

The clerk will contact UKPN to find out when the work to move the poll in Brickfield recreation ground is scheduled for because this is now holding up projects at the site that the Parish Council would like to undertake.

Storage of the renovated Village sign

Cllr Wood had raised the issue of the storage of the old Village sign at the Village Hall Committee meeting. The Committee agreed to house the renovated sign.

15. Footpaths & Rights of Way

Covered under item 8.

**16. Village organisations
Barham Football Club**

Cllr D. Tatt noted that there was nothing to report at the moment, and she will ask the secretary of the Football Club to contact the clerk with details for the proposed addendum.

17. Clerk report

All items are incorporated elsewhere in these Minutes.

18. Planning applications

New planning applications since the last meeting:	
16.	CA/21/01071 - Sunny Downs, Out Elmstead Lane, Barham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6HL Detached three car oak garage and extension to existing oak framed garage for store. Permission Granted
17.	CA/21/02578 - Location: Broome Park, Canterbury Road, Barham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6QX Proposal: T.P.O. no 1, 1953 - Various works please see tree works schedule. Closing date 3 rd December
	You can view and comment on applications online at https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planningsearch

Cllr D. Tatt remarked that there had been a change to the original CA/21/01071 planning application, by removing the hay barn from the application there is a reduction in the level of development, but this needs to be monitored.

Cllr D. Tatt explained that a formal proposal had been received today to develop Barham Court Farm with twenty-two dwellings. Cllr A. Tatt looked online and noted that there were fifty-four documents attached to the application. Cllr A. Tatt also explained that at the presentation on the proposal by Roma homes there was to be a pedestrianised link between Valley Road and Church Lane, this would need more investigation.

19. Councillors items

Cllr Hunt asked for the trees to be trimmed back at the bus stop in the Causeway, due the trees shadowing the streetlights which makes the area very dark. Cllr Wood requested that the Cllr Hunt wrote to him detailing the issues.

Cllr D. Tatt and Cllr A. Tatt gave their apologies for the February 2022 meeting.

20. Date of next meeting

Cllr Wood reminded Cllrs that there is no parish council meeting in January. The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 03 February 2020 at 7.30pm in Barham Village Hall.

Proposed date and time of the next years parish council meetings (2022 - 2023):

To start at 7.30pm - 03 February, 03 March, 07 April, 05 May, 02 June, 07 July, no meeting in August, 01 September, 06 October, 03 November, 01 December, no meeting in January 2023, 02 February 2023 and 02 March 2023.

It is proposed to hold the Annual Parish Electors meeting on 25th April 2020 to start at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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: no meeting in January, 03 February, 03 March, 07 April, 05 May, 02 June, 07 July, no meeting in August, 01 September, 06 October, 03 November, 01 December, no meeting in January 2023, 02 February 2023 and 02 March 2023.

Annual Parish Electors meeting provisionally 25th April 2022.

And F&GP meeting dates *should these be required*: to be confirmed