

BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barham Village Hall, Thursday 1st December 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: The Chairman Mrs L. Davies, Vice Chairman Mr E. Mullett and Cllrs J. Callan, Mrs C. Ridgeway, Mrs V. Steer, D. Tamsitt and D. Wood..

140/2011 Public Speaking:

One Parishioner attended the meeting.

PCSO Gavin Dodwell attended the meeting and advised that he has found someone to assist with Speedwatch and will let the Chairman know of the dates.

141/2011 Apologies:

Cllr J. Brown and M. Simpson due to work commitments.

142/2011 Minutes of Last Meeting:

Proposed by Cllr D. Wood and seconded by Cllr D. Tamsitt;

143/2011 Matters Arising: None

144/2011 Finance:

(a) Balances as at 30 November 2011

Current Account.....	£ 3,341.13
Capital Reserve Account.....	£40,727.18
Includes Social Fund Balance of.....	£ 2,676.93

(b) To pay any Accounts received prior to the meeting:

- (i)** Barham Village Hall re Parish Council July 2011 to October 2011 - £60.00;
- (ii)** Barham Village Hall re Barham Toddler Group July 2011 - £45.00;
- (iii)** Clerk's salary/administration expenses for period 01/10/2011 to 31/12/2011 - £1,571.61;
- (iv)** Print Matters re printing of questionnaires for Proposed Development at Barham Court Farm - £632.00;
- (v)** Pay any other Accounts received prior to the meeting:
 - (1)** Grassmow re Village and Churchyard cuts for October 2011 - £529.00;
 - (2)** Mrs C. Ridgway re repayment of expenditure incurred in respect of questionnaires for Proposed Development at Barham Court Farm - £27.97.

(c) Any other financial matters:

- (i)** The Clerk read out a Thank You letter from Barham Toddler Group;

(ii) The Clerk advised that following a play equipment assessment, the multi unit platform at the Brickfield Road Play Area required urgent repairs costing £1,389.94 plus VAT. It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr E. Mullett will arrange for the removal of the multi unit platform. In respect of the other repairs required to the play equipment at both play areas, the Clerk is to arrange for Serco to attend to these;

(iii) Cllr D. Wood declared a beneficial interest due to being a member of the Historical Society. The Historical Society made a request for a recorder and two microphones to be purchased as an asset of the Parish Council, which can be used not only by the parish Council but be loaned out to the various organisations of the village when required. The motion was agreed by all and Cllr D. Wood is to do some research in to cost of same.

145/2011 Town and Country Planning Matters:

(a) Notice of Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area – Longwood, Railway Hill, Barham – The Clerk reported that there are overgrown Laurel trees on the front boundary (presumably originally planted as a hedge and now overgrown), with the Yew tree at the end of the Laurel trees and growing at the side of the driveway. The Yew tree has been previously reduced and now has sparse crown with broken branches on the side facing the Laurel trees. Removal of the Laurel trees will leave the Yew tree more visible and show its poor condition. This is the reason for the removal of the Yew tree;

(b) Notice of Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area –The Sportsman, Derrington Hill, Barham – Fell two large Sycamore trees on bank in rear garden. A third Sycamore tree at same location has fallen in recent gales and replacement trees have been planted – No objections;

(c) CA/11/01579/FUL – Friends Cottage, The Causeway, Barham – First-floor extension to rear of dwelling – Planning Application Granted - Noted;

(d) CA/11/01580/LB – Friends Cottage, The Causeway, Barham – First-floor extension to rear of dwelling – Planning Application Granted - Noted;

(e) Copy of letter dated 23/11/2011 from Canterbury City Council re alleged breach at Walderchain Wood, Barham with all Councillors. The Clerk is to write to Canterbury City Council and advise that the Parish Council are annoyed and surprised that they were not consulted regarding the siting and size of the structure and whether there was any way of mitigating its visual impact in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The structure can be seen for miles around in most directions, with a large number of trees having been felled to make way for this structure. As a grain store, access of HGV's to and from the site could only go through the village via Gravel Castle and Rabbit Hole, both being very narrow, single lane roads not suitable for such vehicles as well as there being no paved areas for pedestrian safety;

(f) Cllr C. Ridgway reported that so far she has collected in 125 questionnaires regarding the proposed development at Barham Court Farm. The deadline for handing in the survey is 04/12/2011. Cllr C. Ridgway to arrange a date for a further public meeting for the week commencing 23/01/2012. Cllr J. Callan spoke about the meeting the Chairman, Cllr C. Ridgway and himself had with Carol Wrate of Canterbury City Council, who was wishing to carry out a survey regarding what affordable housing could be incorporated in the proposed development at Barham Court Farm. Mrs Wrate was advised that the Parish Council would not contribute towards the cost of such a survey as we were already carrying out a survey in respect of the said proposal and also that no Planning Application had yet been received nor had any decisions yet been made by the Parish Council regarding such proposal;

(g) Copy of Localism Act from NALC with all Councillors;

(h) A Plain English Guide to the Localism Act with all Councillors

(i) Any other Planning Applications received prior to the meeting:

1. Notice of Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area –The Cottage, Railway Hill, Barham – Cut back crown of one Beech tree at rear left hand corner of the property to previous cutting points (15% reduction) – No objections;

2. Notice of Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area –The Lawns, Valley Road, Barham – Fell one dead Poplar tree on bank at rear of garden – Exempt – For information only.

146/2011 Roads and Footpaths:

(a) Copy of Kent County Council HOSC Notes November 2011 with all Councillors;

(b) Cllr J. Brown to report on the costs of 30mph activated speed signs – Hold over to next Agenda;

(d) Cllr J. Callan sought approval for the text of an open letter to be placed in the Parish Magazine. This is in response to an article in the “In Touch” Conservative circular by City Councillor Bill Oakey, regarding the proposed footpath between Barham and Kingston. Cllr J. Callan received approval from the Parish Council for the text and to publish the letter.

147/2011 Parish Maintenance:

(a) Cllr Mrs V. Steer continues to report street lights that need repairing;

(b) There are no street nameplates and/or direction signs to be reported;

(c) Cllr J. Brown to report on “No HGV’s” signs for Out Elmstead Lane – Hold over to next Agenda;

(d) The Chairman will take a photo of the Beech tree along Valley Road that is dead for Highways as they cannot locate the tree we referred to;

(e) The Parish Council have concerns regarding the heavy growth of ivy on the listed flint wall around Anne Court and the Old Dairy House and the Clerk is to enquire of the residents as to who is responsible for maintenance to the said wall;

(f) Cllr E. Mullett is to speak to Steve Biddolph regarding the removal of ivy on the Red May tree along from the old slip road by The Shrubbery;

(g) The Chairman read out a letter received from John Andrews, the Churchwarden of Church of St. John The Baptist, regarding a contribution towards the repair of the Church Clock. The Clerk is to advise that the Parish Council has reduced its precept this year and at this time are unable to provide a substantial contribution towards the repair of the clock.

148/2011 Social:

(a) An article is being placed in the Village Magazine and the Gazette stating that the members of the Parish Council would like to form a group to discuss the Jubilee celebrations on a united front and that anyone interested is to contact the Chairman or a member of the Village Hall Committee;

(b) Bonfire Night was held on the 12/11/2011 due to bad weather on the 05/11/2011. The Chairman was able to hand the Clerk a cheque for £915.58 being the net proceeds from bonfire night but when taking into account the cost of the fireworks that had been paid for previously, there was a loss made this year of £1,104.42. This was put down to having had to postpone bonfire night to a later date than originally intended;

(c) Pensioners Luncheon is to be held on 11/02/2012.

149/2011 Village Hall: Nothing to report.

150/2011 Post Office/Shop: Nothing to report.

151/2011 Youth Club:

The Chairman reported that David Willis will close the Youth Club account and forward us a cheque for the funds held shortly.

152/2011 Open Areas:

(a) The Clerk reported that the Parish Council were to mark on the map where we wished to place trees, where trees already existed and what kind of trees were to be planted on Dumpton Field for the Queens Diamond Jubilee. The matter would then be reviewed and Canterbury City Council would advise us whether permission to plant trees would be granted. Cllr D. Wood will look into obtaining trees from the Woodland Trust;

(b) Cllr E. Mullett report on conversation with Keith Groombridge re Moles – This item to be removed from Agenda;

(c) Minutes of Little Stour & Nailbourne River Management Group Meeting of 28/05/2011 with all Councillors.

153/2011 Village Plan:

Cllr M. Simpson is pursuing funding for updating of the Village Plan – Hold over to next Agenda.

154/2011 Website - www.barhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk: The Clerk continues to maintain and keep the website updated. The Clerk reported that from the 08/11/2011 to 25/11/2011, excluding the Clerks visits, there have been 218 other visits recorded to the website.

155/2011 KALC/ ARCK /CPRE:

- (a) KALC – Copy of E-mail dated 18/11/2011 re Kent County Council Emergency Planning Team with all Councillors. Place on next Agenda for discussion;
- (b) Kent Downs Orchid Issue 20 Autumn/Winter 2011 for circulation with Councillors;
- (c) CPRE – Countryside Voice Winter 2011 for circulation with Councillors.

156/2011 Correspondence/General:

- (a) The Chairman reported that the red telephone box by the 'Red House' is listed but not the one in Valley Road. The Chairman will enquire of English Heritage as to how the red telephone box in Valley Road can be listed;
- (b) Copy of letter dated 21/11/2011 from Canterbury City Council re Rural Settlement Hierarchy with all Councillors

157/2011 Date of Next Meeting:

Parish Council Meeting to be held at Barham Village Hall on Thursday 2nd February 2012 at 7.30p.m.

Meeting ended at 9.35p.m.