

Minutes of Barham Parish Council's Finance and General Purposes Meeting held in The Committee Meeting room of Barham Village Hall on Monday 19 October 2015

Present

Parish Cllrs David Wood, Ernie Mullett, Sarah Goulden, Stephanie Hollowday, Jim Risby, Lilly Matthews and Liz Minter

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr David Tamsitt (annual leave) and Cllr John Brooks (annual leave)

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None

Adjournment – As there were no residents present there was no adjournment

Authorisation of accounts – The cheques were signed and authorised. The committee were made aware that owing to a cheque book not being delivered to the Clerk since her change of address, the Clerk and Chairman had written personal cheques to cover outstanding bills. The bank have been chased a number of times and the mandate to update to the correct address has now gone through. A cheque book has been received via Cllr Tamsitt and matching cheques to reimburse the Clerk and Chairman written.

Other financial matters

NOTED that the council's annual insurance renewal with Zurich took effect from 1 October 2015. The parish council is still in a 3-year tie in agreement with Zurich to 30 September 2017.

NOTED that the property sums insured have been uplifted by the appropriate index linked percentage for 2015 at 3%. The Clerk has updated the Fixed Asset Register to match this uplift – although the fixed asset register also has a separate column for the annual return purposes which need to reflect value as the original purchase price.

RECEIVED the Clerk's spreadsheet showing expenditure against budget headings to the end of Quarter 2

PCO red phone box outside Bell Cottage

Further to the resolution at the 01 October 2015 parish council meeting to go ahead with the purchase of this box from BT for £1 and the removal of the telephony, the Clerk will complete the necessary paperwork and bring a cheque to the next full parish council meeting.

Items for consideration

Christmas tree lights for Christmas 2015

After discussion, Cllrs resolved that Cllr Mullett would contact Mr Clough for two Christmas trees for the parish council; one for the village hall and one for the Derrystone Downs play area green, and three sets of solar lights (two x 5m strings plus solar panels per tree at a cost of £80 for each set).

Replacement trees on the village green

Residents' have requested replacement trees which have been removed or died along the village green - the trees are looking a bit sparse and there are gaps. KCC's portal shows that they own the trees along the Valley Road boundary but not along The Street boundary. Cllrs felt that replacements need to be in-keeping and agreed to replace any that need replacing, subject to residents opposite being consulted. Cllr Mullett proposed and Cllr Minter seconded and all councillors were in favour of the Clerk writing to residents before the next meeting.

New Bus Shelter

A new Bus Shelter at the top of Derrystone Hill, subject to KHS permission and the possibility of a CCC capital grant or other grant was noted in the February 2015 parish council meeting Minutes, and left for the new council to take a decision following the May parish council elections. Cllrs discussed this. They felt that the Mill Lane side is quite

protected, but the other side is not. Mostly it is children in the winter that are most affected. Cllr Minter agreed to go to the Fifth Trust and get a quote from them to build a wooden shelter (and progress of this be subject to Kent Highways and Stagecoach permission.) The Clerk will source a second quotation as per the financial regulations.

A new salt bin for The Grove

If the parish council purchase a new salt in, the parish council would have to fill it up in the future. The Clerk explained that Crookenden Place had had a one tonne salt bag delivered previously and that she had just accepted Kent Highways offer of another one for this winter there, so a salt bin was not required at this time.

Sandbag store

There is still a need to consider a long term solution and location for a sand bag store. The village hall site is the ideal site for a small store, as this is near to where the bags are needed. Cllr Minter commented that the 'demountable barriers' that the city council provided last winter were far more effective. Cllrs felt that this whole issue needs further thought around storage as a whole.

Precept budget preparation for 2016-2017

The Clerk had drafted a precept for discussion. The councillors had a lengthy discussion about all the items.

RECOMMENDATIONS to Full Council that arose :

For allotments:

- i) that allotment plots only be offered to Barham residents initially as Barham Parish Council will be contributing financially
- ii) that the allotment group should be the lead body on grant applications following advice received from Village SOS/Funding for All mentors
- iii) that consultation with residents be undertaken on what else they might like to also see at the Brickfield Recreation Ground so that the allotments do not impinge on any future ideas. The field is a popular walking track with dog owners. The parish council would like the allotments situated at the top to allow future developments.

New equipment for the Brickfield Recreation Ground:

Cllr Hollowday explained young people locally are asking for a zip wire, similar to the one installed at Elham. She will find out more details from Elham parish council about costs and supplier.

Cllr Risby said that he would consider giving a personal contribution of £200 in the future for a bench for the Derringstone Green play area.

Last year's precept request was for £29,000. The F&GP sub committee's recommendation to Full Council is for an increase to £34,312. This is a 15% increase, but is mainly explained by the Public Works Loan repayments of £5,582 per year now being required. Two-thirds has been added to the precept and one-third absorbed within the previous budget allocation. The increase will be in the region of £6 per year on a Band D household.

Cllr Risby proposed and Cllr Minter seconded and all councillors agreed that this should be the recommendation to go to full council to be ratified on 5 November 2015.

CCC capital grant

Assuming that the city council will invite applications from parishes again for 2016-2017, the F&GP subcommittee's recommendation to Full Council is that a capital grant be made for something for the recreation ground, such as outdoor gym equipment, or zip wire.

Concurrent Function reimbursement in future consultation

RECEIVED a copy of Canterbury City Council's consultation report and the Clerk's draft response to it – this will be brought to Full Council to ratify at their meeting of 5 November 2015. The Chairman asked that it be amended slightly to align the funding period to one year

in to a new council only (that is to run to 31 March 2020 after the city council elections due in 2019).

Christmas Hampers

City Cllr Simon Cook has contacted the Clerk. The Lord Mayor's Christmas Hampers are being offered again this year, to the old and needy. Nominations are being invited. The parish councillors suggested three residents. The Clerk will forward their details to Cllr Cook.

The meeting closed at 9.22pm.

Future meetings of the Full Council: 5 November and 3 December 2015, in the village hall. For 2016: No meeting in January, 04 February, 03 March, (30 March – Annual Parish Meeting for electors), 07 April, 12 May, 02 June, 07 July, No meeting in August, 01 September, 06 October, 03 November, 01 December 2016.
(and F&GP or Planning sub-committee dates: if a meeting should be required: in the committee room of the village hall, 16 November and 21 December 2015, in the committee room of the village hall. And for 2016: 18 January, 15 February, March to be scheduled if required, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July, 15 August, 19 September, 17 October, 21 November and 19 December)