

Barham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2017

Present: Parish Councillors David Wood (Chairman), David Tamsitt (Vice Chairman), Stephanie Hollowday, Ernie Mullett, John Brooks, Sarah Goulden, Liz Minter, Patti Earl and Susie Duke. Canterbury City Cllr Simon Cook and Kent County Cllr Michael Northey. Three residents (one for part of the meeting only). Clerk to the Council, Amanda Sparkes

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence, and there were no Declarations of Interests.
2. The Minutes of the last full parish council meeting held 05 October 2017 were approved and accepted as a true record and the Chairman signed them.
3. The meeting was adjourned for parishioners' questions and comments.
 - i) A resident mentioned an overgrown footpath that affects people walking to catch the No. 15 bus by the A2 flyover. The Clerk will onwardly report the issue.
 - ii) Another resident spoke about a stretch of pavement in the village that needs leaves cleared from it – but the leaves originate from a private landowner, so can this be reported to Kent Highways? The Clerk will speak to KCC Cllr Northey by email to establish whose responsibility it is to clear these leaves.
 - iii) A resident (Tony Julian) presented some written notes. He has an objective to create a village football club for local boys and girls. He has posted on Facebook and had also contacted the parish council prior to the meeting, and there had been some email dialogue. He explained that there is a primary need for a place to train and play matches.

Cllr Mullet commented that this initiative had been tried before and Charlton Athletic coaching had been booked but only one person had been interested in it. Furthermore, the pitch markers had all been stolen but there was nothing to stop an informal kick-a-bout now on the recreation ground.

Cllr Wood advised that there is a need to establish what level of support and what level and offers of help there actually are. The social media had sparked an initial interest. Cllr Wood advised that a lot must be done by the club itself if established, not the parish council. The resident Mr Julian appreciated this. Cllr Mullett was concerned that the FA want facilities such as changing rooms and showers, but Mr Julian advised this was not a pre-requisite.

There was a show of hands and all councillors were supportive of in principle support for further exploration, and Barham Parish Council felt that there should be a dedicated informal meeting to explore the idea further. This discussion links with the future uses of the Brickfield Recreation ground. This has been set for 7pm in the committee room on Wednesday 15 November 2017. The resident and councillors and clerk will attend. Cllr Minter commented that there are two other charities in the village that may also be able to support something like this.
 - iv) NOTED also, a letter from a resident and circulated to all parish councillors prior to the meeting – about the need for social and affordable housing in the village and a reminder to the parish council to keep the need for a rural exception site on their ongoing agenda.

The meeting continued.

4. Kent County Councillor KCC Cllr Michael Northey report

Cllr Northey reminded everyone of the budget consultation currently, which runs until 3 December 2017. Cllr Wood offered a personal view that KCC should hold a referendum and ask if people would be prepared to pay more than a 2% increase. Cllr Northey explained that a referendum would cost £1.5m and the feeling is that few residents would vote for a larger increase.

For drainage works on Derringstone Street these will move shortly to Derringstone Hill. The new work will include a number of new gullies and catch pit gullies to collect considerably more surface water in the future.

Cllr Earl asked about drainage improvements planned for Railway Hill which she felt remains outstanding. Cllr Northey confirmed he had no notice of work on Railway Hill yet, not since the new drain was found there. Cllr Northey offered to try and find out more information of anything planned but cautioned that tight funding means any work on Railway Hill is unlikely. The Clerk was asked to email Cllr Northey with these details.

5. City Cllr, Cllr Simon Cook report

Cllr Cook confirmed that he had asked Serco to clear the litter by the crematorium off slip road. Regarding flooding he had been asked if the flood plan at CCC is up to date and he has checked with the CCC engineering department who advised the plan is updated and they are as prepared as they can be. For flytipping the CCC website has an improvement to make reporting tool easier: Rather than having to describe where it is, you can now drop a pin on a map. It can also take the location from a phone if the person reporting does it in situ. There's also the facility to upload pictures of the waste.

https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20043/waste_and_enforcement/31/report_flytipping

Cllr Cook confirmed the four nominations from Barham Parish Council to receive a Lord Mayor's Christmas Parcel – and confirmed that all four will receive one.

For Lorry Fly Parking – the initiative at Ashford is now being withdrawn as there is the problem of where they will go. However Cllr Cook is meeting the Police Commander on 3 November and will mention this concern. Cllr Northey advised that there is a judicial review on the proposal for the large lorry park at Standford, which will delay the decision by about a year.

6. Highland Court at Bridge emerging development proposal – Quinn Estates are at pre-application stage with a proposal for Highland Court, Bridge. There is talk of a joint venture between Quinn Estates and Highland Court which will create 300 holiday homes, a 150 unit retirement village, a business park and innovation centre, a leisure and artisan food and drink hub; and state of the art facilities for Canterbury Rugby Club and Canterbury Football Club. Cllr Earl and Cllr Brooks attended a meeting held on 26 October 2017 for parish council representatives, organised by Bridge Parish Council.

Cllr Earl confirmed that the site is not in the parish but is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and that there is nothing in the Local Plan for this scale of development. Quinn Estates have given several presentations in local villages. Cllr Goulden commented that there is not yet a planning application to consider.

There are issues of the topics of combining all Canterbury district sporting facilities together (cricket, football, rugby) and what gets built on the sites that may subsequently get freed up.

Cllr Cook explained that CCC has no view yet as there is no application.

There are hurdles to overcome to build on AONB land and there needs to be a compelling case to do so. After much discussion, Barham Parish Council will carry a watching brief and support other parishes should a formal application be submitted. Whilst not in Barham parish it is in the Kent Downs area and, subject to the detail of any forthcoming application, Barham Parish Council will resist any significant development within the AONB as a matter of principle.

The Clerk will email the Clerks of Bekesbourne and Bridge with this holding view of Barham Parish Council.

7. Finance

The cheque payments totalling £2,609.11 were authorised for payment.

Other financial matters

NOTED that for the water bill received, the Clerk is sending re-charged invoices to Barham Allotments Association and Barham Tennis Club to cover the usage and standing charge

NOTED an internal Audit undertaken on Monday 23 October 2017 with the appointed Internal Auditor (his report is still to follow)

Precept budget for 2018-2019

An F&GP meeting for all Cllrs will be held on 22 November 2017 as the precept setting meeting with a view to Full Council ratifying the requirement at the 7 December 2017 parish council meeting. Cllr Wood reminded everyone that this is a public meeting and open to members of the public.

Church yard path – request for a donation - the Church yard path has been re-laid for £4,500 at the expense of the parochial church council. It needed doing. Cllr Brooks distributed information and details of who else had been asked to contribute etc. Several bodies had been approached and rejected the project. There is also the planned redecoration of the Church being undertaken and grants are being applied for this. Friends of Barham Church has an objective to support the fabric of the building itself not the grounds nor path. Cllr Minter confirmed that the Friends are contributing and committing all their funds (£25k) to the redecoration project.

Cllr Brooks asked that a grant be considered by the parish council to the PCC as the path is not just used by church goers. A straw poll over a number of days saw the number of people using the path as 4 : 1 for non churchgoers to church-goers. The churchyard and building are open to the whole community and for groups like the singers.

Cllr Wood commented that most grant bodies will not fund retrospectively.

Various amounts were suggested as a possible donation amount, and those councillors with an interest or perceived interest in the Church (namely Cllrs Brooks, Goulden, Wood and Minter) did not vote. Of the other councillors, one voted to give £2,000, and four voted to give £1,000 – so a cheque for £1,000 was written and signed at the meeting and given to Cllr Brooks to take to the PCC.

8. Publicity & Communications including website

The Village Survey Action Plans – the action plans for the village and the one for children and young people will be reviewed at the F&GP alongside precept budget considerations.

For the removal of the Bell Cottage phone box – The residents buying the box tried to proceed with its removal but found there is still a power supply connected to it. The Clerk is therefore talking to BT about getting this capped off.

For the Facebook page for Barham parish council – Cllr Hollowday advised things have been quiet.

9. First Aid demonstration session for residents

Cllr Wood advised that this initiative is ongoing - the resident Community First Responder in the village is prepared to run an uncertified first aid session for up to 12 people free of charge. A session will cover basic first aid including resuscitation techniques. Cllr Wood has put something about this in the parish magazine.

10. Christmas trees and Christmas lights 2017

There are normally three Christmas trees in the village – at the village green, Derringstone Green, and the Village Hall. In previous years Mr Clough senior (now deceased) has donated one or more, but Barham Parish Council will ensure all three are provided. Cllr Mullett will talk to Mr Clough junior.

For the lights held the Clerk will meet with resident Lily Matthews who is holding the stock and check their status and replacement battery requirements.

Cllr Hollowday and Cllr Duke kindly offered to help string the lights in the trees etc.

Cllr Minter suggested that the Chairman of the Men of Trees could perhaps provide a permanent tree on the village green as a Christmas tree?

11. Highways

RECEIVED the Clerk's report of the Kent Highways Parish seminar Forum held on 17 October 2017, for information.

NOTED that on 24 October 2017, the Chairman and Clerk did an audit of the salt/grit bins in the parish – none need 'topping up' currently.

For Streetlighting – there is a training session being run by the contractor on 9 November 2017 from 2pm-4pm re the dimming management system. All Councillors were invited to attend this.

Speedwatch UPDATE: Cllr Wood confirmed that the 11 volunteers have all completed their computer training with three left needing on-street training. A check that day 2 November 2017, at The Shrubbery on Valley Road, had observed 22 speeding vehicles in one hour. Cllr Hollowday offered to put a Facebook post on about this.

Wooden tubs at top of Derringstone Hill - The Fifth Trust agreed to move the two tubs on Derringstone Hill in the Autumn to the Fox Way/The Grove junctions. They will also be reduced in height. The ones at Derringstone Hill will also be replaced with reduced height tubs too. Cllr Tamsitt and Cllr Minter are leading. One of the boxes has now been removed.

UPDATE on bus shelter(s) on Derringstone Hill – A CCC officer met with the Clerk, Cllr Wood and Cllr Tamsitt on 18 October 2017. The site visit findings and discussion was summarised in a report by the Clerk and sent to all cllrs. There are some outstanding questions/actions. This item will be considered at the F&GP precept budget setting meeting to be held on 22 November 2017.

Badger warning signs – There has been a resident's request for Highways 'Badger Warning' signs on Green Hills by Horse Head Farm, following a series of incidents where badgers are being hit by drivers. Cllr Wood explained that the resident has even also offered a financial contribution to the costs. The parish council were happy in principle that Kent Highways advice about signs and criteria for their locations be obtained.

12. Open Spaces

SCALPING - For scalping to level the car park area – Cllr Mullett will organise a second load of scalping and someone to level them in due course after settling of the first load.

UPDATE re UKPN provision of electricity connection to the village green and associated housing – this is now in situ. The Clerk asked to record thanks to Cllr Wood for his help with this project. The Clerk and Chairman will now lead on the provision of internal meter and power points, and ultimate energy supplier (EDF was suggested by Cllr Minter and co-incidentally is the current supplier for the street lights).

UPDATE on provision of two new litter bins for the village green – Cllr Mullett has kindly agreed to take the delivery of these in early November.

UPDATE on a sandbag storage box – now that the base is in situ the Clerk will order a sand bag box for the village green location.

NOTED that Cllr Wood and Cllr Earl undertook the play areas inspection on 18 October 2017.

Cllr Wood commented that although the top and outside (road side) of the hedge at Brickfield Rec has been cut the inside of it needs cutting. The Clerk will speak to Cllr Mullett about the best contractor to ask to deal with this extra cut.

Volunteer working party re minor actions from annual play area inspections reports

The annual play area inspections have some items that need monitoring, but nothing is urgent at the moment. There are items that won't need a contractor such as cleaning of seats and uprights on equipment and staining of gates and at the September 2017 meeting Cllrs felt 6-8 residents may be invited to get involved in a working party (this must be booked through the Clerk.) The Clerk drafted a poster to attract some volunteers, this is now with the Chairman. Cllr Wood advised the best time for a working party would be spring 2018 and he agreed to speak to Cllr Hollowday about organising this, and setting a date and advertising for it.

Land at BRICKFIELD RECREATION GROUND: Suggestion for future uses

Cllr Hollowday's discussion paper has been circulated to all councillors and discussed at recent meetings. She is keen to get residents aware of the parcels of land owned by the parish council; to stimulate discussion; and to bring back areas into use by residents, rather than just have the land as grazing. Councillors have been mindful of the issues of mowing, and additional costs for that, the making out of a football pitch and its maintenance, the provision of picnic benches and whether grazing rights may be affected. Nothing is firm at present, quotes from local contractors for costs of mowing the recreation ground are still being sought. The Chairman and the Clerk have various estimates for various fence line options, for new/replacement fencing (and appropriate gates) across the recreation ground to allow alternative uses. Cllr Wood asked Cllr Hollowday for long-term ideas for a middle section if fenced off. This item will be considered at the F&GP precept budget setting meeting to be held on 22 November 2017.

Allotments at Brickfield Recreation Ground

(There is planning approval on CA/16/01292/FUL and Barham Allotments Association (BAA) signed a seven year tenancy agreement from November 2016.)

The Chairman is holding the new signage for Allotments gate at Brickfield Recreation Ground – he and Cllr Tamsitt will put this up.

At the last meeting, Cllr Mullett had advised that there have been some thefts at the allotment site and he understood that the BAA would like to plant some new hedging around the perimeter. The Clerk had asked the new BAA Chairman for details in writing that had been circulated. This included details of species of plants and future maintenance. BAA have lodged an application with the Woodland Trust for hedging plants with mixed indigenous species chosen to encourage local wildlife, and if successful the plants will be with BAA next March. BAA confirmed they would take full responsibility for the hedge upkeep. BAA would like new hedging be considered on the parish council side of the allotments' fencing. Cllr Goulden commented that the Chairman of the Men of Trees opinion was that it was virtually impossible to put a new hedge on the inside as this will restrict the allotment space. The parish council were happy with the principle and the species proposed. Cllr Goulden therefore proposed that a new hedge be allowed on the outside perimeter with a separate written agreement alongside the lease document to state that BAA will be responsible for it and only for the time that the area is an allotment garden/for the length of their tenancy. There may also be clauses around the height, the responsibility regime and a sheep guard requirement. The Clerk and Cllr Goulden will deal with the wording of this agreement.

Old cricket field trees: The Men of Trees are giving Barham Parish Council 40 new trees for the cricket field. Cllr Goulden advised she visited with the Chairman of the Men of Trees on 1 November and urged for the removal of the old trees now. Cllr Mullett explained the contractor had been unwell for a month but was back to work now and the required pruning etc will be done. Timescale for planting will be by January. There will be big trees planted along Rabbit Hole but they will be set further back to avoid future maintenance issues and overhanging the road issues when they are grown.

The Men of Trees will not provide sheep guards which will also be required. Cllr Mullett explained that instead of individual guards a new line of fencing will be provided to protect the tree line. (C/fwd: The Men of Trees will need a minimum of three extra volunteers to help plant the trees. The Clerk will advertise for resident volunteers to help with planting. Cllr Mullett advised it may be easier to get a mini digger too.)

13. Footpaths & Rights of Way

Cllr Minter explained that she remains concerned about an overgrown section of footpath that is the only safe route to Out Elmstead. She had circulated photographs. The Clerk will pick this item up with her and see what can be done or if the report to the KCC public right of way department can have its status checked.

Cllr Minter again reminded people that it would be desirable to push again for the stiles to change to gates. The Clerk and Cllr Minter will pick this up again too.

14. External Organisations

NOTED the invitation to KALC AGM to be held on Saturday 18 November 2017 in Ditton, Aylesford. The Chairman might attend.

2018 Boundary Review of parliamentary constituencies - NOTED The UK Parliament is proposing to reduce the number of parliamentary constituencies, and therefore MPs, from 650 to 600. In England, the number of constituencies will reduce from 533 to 501. The Boundary Commission for England is conducting a review of parliamentary constituencies and is seeking views on their proposals (at <https://www.bce2018.org.uk/>.) Deadline for comments to the Boundary Commission is 11 December 2017.

Swingboats – the swingboats are owned by the parish council and on long term loan to the PTA. There is a difficulty with being able to use them, with inspection and insurance requirements. The ward councillor, Cllr Simon Cook has been making enquiries with the city council's legal department. A public meeting is to be held on Thursday 16 November 2017 in the village hall at 7.30pm. to discuss their future use and issues around insurance and inspections.

Cllr Wood commented that a decision on their future will be made, and whilst the option to keep them and use them is being explored, as they are on loan, they would revert back to Barham Parish Council in the event of them not being used again. So there may be a need to find a new place to store them? Or to consider selling them? The parish council has nowhere to store them.

15. Clerk report – the Clerk report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Most items are incorporated elsewhere in the Minutes. Noted:

The Rural Area Member Panel items:

- Rural Litter Action Guide – This new Guide was circulated on 6 October 2017.
- Cameras - CCC's cameras that were purchased last year are still available for use in persistent areas of flytipping. Bring areas to the attention of CCC and officers may be able to put use them to tackle this.
- The RAMP "Environmental Opportunities Fund" is a pot of money (£1,500 for the rural area) to which people can apply for funding to help tackle environmental issues.

Clerk at Coffee Stop - The Clerk usually attends a Coffee Stop on the third/fourth Tuesday of each month between 10.30 and 11.30. The Chairman is usually at each session too to take enquiries also.

16. Planning Matters

New planning applications:

CA/17/02240 - Sydney House, Derringstone Hill, Barham

Variation of conditions 01 (approved drawings) and 02 (materials) of planning permission CA//17/01507/VAR for the erection of three detached dwellings in the grounds of Sydney House, Barham; to allow glass link between main dwelling and outbuilding and amendment of external materials on plot B.

The parish council has no comments.

CA/17/02321- Riverside Cottage, Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6NX

Proposed formation of vehicular access to Valley Road.

CA/17/02322 - Riverside Cottage, Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6NX

Listed building consent for proposed hardstanding to front following removal of boundary wall.

CA/17/02327 - Riverside Cottage, Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6NX

Listed building consent for proposed replacement windows from single-glazed to double-glazed.

The parish council has no comments on the three planning applications for Riverside Cottage above.

CA/17/02227 - Ivy Cottage, Railway Hill, Barham, CT4 6PX

Proposed single-storey rear extension.

The parish council has no comments.

CA/17/02272 - Land on South-West side of Dover Road, Barham

Retrospective application for proposed change of use of land for siting of a residential mobile home and container and erection of 4 no stables, 1 barn and 1 outbuilding.

RATIFIED a Barham Parish Council objection to the mobile home element of this application:

The buildings in question on this application have been up for some time and they are visible from the A2 behind the lay-by, particularly if you travel from the Dover direction towards Barham, but also from the reverse direction, in particular the mobile home.

Barham Parish Council considers the buildings unsightly, particularly the mobile home and container.

Field stables are not the issue, more the mobile home attached to the retrospective application.

Barham Parish Council consider this breach of planning is an attempt to get permission for a more permanent structure over time.

Please accept this letter as a strong objection to the flouting of planning rules. The mobile home is not appropriate to the open setting of the Kent Downs Landscape area and should be removed.

Notifications

CA/17/01955 - Old Dairy House, Rectory Lane, Barham, CT4 6PD

Application for listed building consent for proposed single-storey extension to front porch and single-storey rear extension together with replacement windows and associated alterations. GRANTED

CA/17/02070 – Broome Cottage, Broome Park, Canterbury Road, Barham, CT4 6QX

Proposed detached greenhouse in rear garden. GRANTED

A neighbouring planning application for a Skate Park at Aylesham (DOV/17/00920 - Land between Burgess Road and Ackholt Road, Burgess Road, Aylesham, CT3 3AS: Change of use of land to Park, and installation of outdoor gym, associated fencing and lighting and creation of bund) - GRANTED

AWAITING FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF DECISION: CA/17/00809 - Arter Brothers, Eagle Motor Works, Old Dover Road, Barham, CT4 6EX: Proposed 10 two-storey dwellings following demolition of existing commercial buildings. The CCC officer recommendation for this application was to GRANT with Conditions.

Other Planning matters:

Governance Review by CCC – this city council review will include looking at local parish council arrangements. The early recommendation for Barham is no change to the parish boundary, which is supported by Barham Parish Council. There will be a further round of public consultation to follow, and any changes in the district will take effect from the May 2019 elections.

Highland Court at Bridge emerging development proposal – noted in these Minutes at Minute No. 6 above.

17. Councillors' items – none this month.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Future meetings: Full Council: in the Grabham Room in the village hall. 7 December 2017. And F&GP/Planning sub-committee: in the committee room - 22 November and 18 December 2017

Meeting dates for 2018: Full Council: First Thursday of each month – except recesses in January, March and August: 1 February, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November and 6 December 2018. (and F&GP dates *if required*: Usually 3rd Monday of each month: 15 January, 19 February, 26 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June, 16 July, 20 August, 17 September, 15 October, 19 November and 17 December 2018.)

Signed..... Chairman, Barham Parish Council

Date

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

Extra Clerk reports items circulated this month to note: None