

BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - HELD THURSDAY 05 OCTOBER 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.
One resident, and Clerk to the Council, Amanda Sparkes.

1. Cllr Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked to record thanks to Cllr Tamsitt for chairing the last two parish council meetings.
Cllr Wood commented that recent news indicates that PCSOs are to be given more powers in the future to combat bad parking outside schools and that more PCSOs are also to be recruited.
Apologies for absence were received from Canterbury City Cllr Simon Cook and Kent County Cllr Michael Northey.
2. Declarations of Interests – None for this meeting. Cllr Minter explained that she was about to submit a planning application to the local planning authority for her new home and would obviously declare an interest in that going forward. There is nothing about it yet to consider.
3. Minutes of the last meeting - The Minutes of the last meeting held on 07 September were approved and accepted as a true record of the meeting, and Cllr Tamsitt as the Chairman of that September meeting, duly signed them.
4. Adjournment for parishioners' questions and comments.
There were no questions. The meeting continued.
5. Finance – The cheques were authorised and signed.
Other financial matters
RECEIVED the bank reconciliation and bank statements for September 2017 and RESOLVED the signature of a councillor other than the Chairman thereon.
NOTED that on 19 September 2017 the Clerk completed a VAT refund claim for the period 01 July 2017 to 31 August 2017 totalling £2,365.80.
NOTED that for the water bill received, the Chairman will read the meters and the Clerk will then proportion and re-charge to both the tennis club and the Barham allotments association.
NOTED that the November F&GP meeting on Monday 20 November 2017 will now need to be changed as Cllr Wood is unable to attend. This will be a meeting for all councillors to attend and be the precept setting meeting with a view to Full Council ratifying the requirement at the 7 December 2017 parish council meeting.
6. Governance Review by CCC – this city council review will include looking at local parish council arrangements. The Chairman and the Clerk attended a KALC meeting on 26 September 2017. Each parish council has been urged to put it in a response even if it is that they wish their parish to have no change. (The Clerk has uploaded a written response to the online consultation on 9 September 2017). Cllr Wood advised that Barham Parish Council and other local parish councils and KALC will get more involved at Stage 2 when the recommendations are published by CCC.
7. 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.
8. Sale of Bell Cottage phone box – The Clerk advised residents buying the box have confirmed they still wish to proceed with its removal.
9. Facebook page for Barham parish council – Cllr Hollowday advised the page had received a message about the CB29 footpath opposite the Shrubbery being difficult to navigate because of the stile there, and also of being overgrown. Cllr Minter offered to check this, she commented that her husband had already reported the overgrown area online to Kent County Council, and she felt it important as the path keeps people from having to walk in the road.
10. First Aid session for residents
Cllr Wood advised that further to the resident request discussed at the last meeting, 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. The Clerk explained she had spoken to Simon Cavalier who felt it was a good idea too and he would take it to the rest of the hall committee for approval to offer the venue free of charge.
11. Highways

The Clerk and the Chairman will complete the Kent Highways Annual Tracker Survey 2017.

The A2 is to be closed for access for some weeks for overnight re-surfacing. The parish council has no details of this. Cllr Early expressed concern about how bus services may be maintained. This will be down to dialogue between the Highways Agency and the bus companies.

Street lighting upgrade - All the remaining lights have been upgraded to LED lanterns. There has been work on progressing the dimming option which is imminent. The contractor is offering training on the dimming system. The lights should be able to be dimmed from 100% to 20% overnight to make further savings on energy. This can be in groups of lights or single units.

The Clerk and Cllrs Wood, Hollowday, and Tamsitt will be trained on the new system.

Possible bus shelter on Derringstone Hill

(Cllr Tamsitt has declared an interest in this item). There are two marked out bus stops, either side of the road outside Bali Hai. A possibility of a bus shelter for one or other has been discussed. The lay view, therefore, in the absence of Highways officer guidance, is for a shelter on the Mill Lane side. This land does belong to KCC Highways though so their permission is required to proceed with getting quotes for a bus shelter here. Cllrs discussed at the September 2017 parish council meeting and felt that, before resolving to abandon the idea, there should be a meeting with Kent Highways ahead of the budget setting requirement for 2018-2019.

Cllr Wood and Cllr Tamsitt and the Clerk are to meet people on site on 18 October 2017.

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 will lead on this removal exercise with a view to completing this on 4-6 weeks.

Speedwatch

Cllr Wood advised that volunteers are being signed off for practical training. A result from the first session showed a speeding vehicle was also not taxed. Cllr Hollowday will put a post on Facebook about speedwatch sessions now being live. Cllr Wood and the village co-ordinator Lis Rowe are organising further sessions.

Cllr Goulden commented that for a local motorcycle rally last Sunday many motorcyclists were speeding up Derringstone Hill. Cllr Wood offered to make enquiries about how and if to record speeding motorbikes.

C/fwd: Drainage on Railway Hill

There was a meeting held with KCC Cllr Michael Northey and a KHS drainage manager with the Chairman, Clerk, and Cllr Earl and residents at Derringstone Hill/Railway Hill on 21 April 2017.

The drainage manager has advised the Clerk on 22 August 2017 that the camera survey did identify a defect in the pipe, which KCC will be looking to repair at the same time as carrying out some improvements to the system. The officer advised he will respond with more detail soon.

The Clerk advised that the new flood warden Mike Evans is now on board – and he is attending a Flood Warden training course run by KCC. Mike's details are now on the website in the flood plan document.

11. Open Spaces

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

The annual play area inspections for Brickfield Rec and Valley Road play areas have some items that need monitoring, but nothing is urgent at the moment. At the September 2017 parish council meeting, the Clerk explained that there are items that won't need a contractor such as cleaning of seats and uprights on equipment and staining of gates. Cllr Tamsitt suggested that residents be invited to get involved in a working party – six or eight may be needed and must be booked through the Clerk.

The Clerk drafted a poster to attract some volunteers, this is now with the Chairman. Cllr Wood agreed to speak to Cllr Hollowday about organising this, setting a date and advertising for it.

Visual play area inspections: Cllr Earl and Cllr Wood are going to undertake the next visual play areas inspection on 18 October, weather permitting.

Scalpings to level the Brickfield Road recreation ground car parking area: Cllr Mullett has organised a ten-tonne load to be delivered on 7 October 2017 and he will get someone to deal with levelling of it. The Clerk advised she wanted to record thanks to him for sourcing such a useful and reasonable supplier and for all his help with this.

Wormery Update

The wormery ordered earlier this year is coming on nicely. The company are kindly going to keep it covered & sheltered over the colder months in its first winter approaching. Once the first winter is over, a wormery should be mature enough to stand UK winters unless they drop below -5 for more than a few days. The delivery will be arranged for around February 2018.

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. She stressed that her thoughts were just a collection of ideas at this stage, and she was keen to make the areas, particularly Brickfield Rec more family-friendly. 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 had sourced various estimates for various fence line options, for new/replacement fencing (and appropriate gates) across the recreation ground to allow alternative uses.

All the above new information will return to the November parish council meeting for a further discussion.

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.) Allotment signage has been considered, and text now approved by both the parish council and BAA. The Clerk explained the order is being fulfilled and she and the Chairman will fix it to the Allotments gate.

Cllr Mullett advised that there have been some thefts at the allotment site and he understood that the BAA would like to plant some new hedging. And that this new hedging be considered on the parish council side of the allotments' fencing. The Clerk was asked to speak to new BAA Chairman and ask for their thoughts in writing (and for the parish council to then consider any proposal at the November parish council meeting)

Electricity supply to the village green

The UKPN invoice for a standard electricity supply to the village green has been accepted and paid. Cllr Wood and Cllr Mullett are about to take delivery of the cabinet. The location of it will be by the single white line near The Bakehouse and within 3m of the existing supply. There are queries about the base to resolve and a date for installation needs to be after that. Cllr Wood had suggested that the concrete base be extended to accommodate a sand bag store box also. This is in hand. At the September 2017 parish council meeting, cllrs resolved to order two new litter bins to replace the existing corroded ones – these are on order with delivery anticipated early November.

Old cricket field trees:

The Men of Trees are giving Barham Parish Council up to 40 new trees for the cricket field, with stakes, rabbit proof guards, and ties, all free of charge. Cllr Goulden and Cllr Wood will meet with their Chairman again to mark out 40 locations. These will be focussed around the edge of the field. Cllr Mullett is dealing with the removal of the old trees, now that they are no longer in leaf, and the required pruning will be done.

Timescale for planting will be November/December.

The Men of Trees will not provide sheep guards which will also be required. Cllr Mullett is dealing with this and will get a price on their costs.

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.

12. Village Clubs & Societies – Cllr Minter advised that the Friends of Barham Church weekend was very well supported and £450 on the Ride and Stride event was raised in Barham, and the full total of all activities raising in excess of £1,600 for the Church.
13. External Organisations
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. TO NOTE that 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. This will be a November parish council meeting agenda item.
14. Clerk report – the Clerk report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Most items are incorporated elsewhere in the Minutes.

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

15. Planning Matters

New planning applications: CA/17/01486/FUL – and CA/17/01487/LB : Elmstone Court Nursing Home, Out Elmstead Lane, Barham Proposed single-storey rear extension following demolition of two extensions, partial demotion of the rear wall and alteration of hard landscaping. (subsequently granted below) CA/17/01579/FUL and CA/17/01580/LB - The Old Farmhouse, Derringstone Street, Barham, CT4 6QB Single-storey side extension following demolition of outbuilding. (subsequently REFUSED by CCC below) CA/17/01662/FUL - Derringstone Hill Farm, Derringstone Hill, Barham, CT4 6QD Proposed conversion of farm building to ancillary accommodation. (subsequently withdrawn below) 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. CA/17/02070 – Broome Cottage, Broome Park, Canterbury Road, Barham, CT4 6QX Proposed detached greenhouse in rear garden. CA/17/02165 - Leanda, Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6NX Proposed rear dormer and 4 no. rooflights to front.
Notifications CA/17/01486/FUL (and CA/17/01487/LB) : Elmstone Court Nursing Home, Out Elmstead Lane, Barham, CT4 6PH Proposed single-storey rear extension following demolition of two extensions, partial demotion of the rear wall and alteration of hard landscaping. GRANTED CA/17/01133/FUL - Derringstone Hill Farm, Derringstone Hill, Barham, CT4 6QD Proposed conversion of existing barn to single-storey dwelling. WITHDRAWN CA/17/01662/FUL - Derringstone Hill Farm, Derringstone Hill, Barham, CT4 6QD Proposed conversion of farm building to ancillary accommodation. WITHDRAWN CA/17/01045/FUL – Buzzards - Variation of condition 02 of planning permission CA/15/01423/VAR, the erection of three detached dwellings in the grounds of Sydney House, Barham; variation relating to drawings: to alter the siting and elevations of the shed/bike store. GRANTED CA/17/00876/FUL - Greenbanks, Greenhills, Barham, CT4 6LE Retrospective polytunnels for horticultural use, relocated greenhouse and shed for storage of implements. GRANTED CA/17/01182/FUL - Dane Cottage, The Street, Barham, CT4 6NY Application for listed building consent for external alterations to include the replacement of existing single-glazed timber windows to double-glazed timber windows. GRANTED

CA/17/01438/FUL – 22 Heathfield Way - Proposed two-storey side extension following demolition of garage, including front and rear dormers. GRANTED

CA/17/01486/FUL and CA/17/01487/LB – Elmstone Court Nursing Home, Out Elmstead Lane - Proposed single-storey rear extension following demolition of two extensions (and partial demolition of the rear wall) – GRANTED

CA/17/01579/FUL and CA/17/01580/LB - The Old Farmhouse, Derringstone Street, Barham, CT4 6QB
Proposed single-storey side extension following demolition of outbuilding. REFUSED by CCC

Other Planning matters: New applications/Other Planning matters that arise before the meeting to be reported.

Highland Court at Bridge development proposal

A flyer was sent from Quinn Estates regarding The Highland Court, Bridge proposal, which is a joint venture between Quinn Estates and Highland Court and 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.

The flyer gave details of two public exhibitions held 28 and 30 September. The parish council will keep a watching brief on this development.

Skate Park at Aylesham - At September 2017 there is a 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 equipment, associated fencing and lighting and creation of bund). Barham Parish Council is supportive of this.

Application No: 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.

This application will be reported to the meeting of the Planning Committee on 10 October 2017 for a decision. Barham Parish Council wrote in support of the application. The CCC officer recommendation for this application is to GRANT with Conditions. (The previous application was refused for two reasons: the loss of employment land and for being outside of the main Barham settlement – and therefore not sustainable and car reliant for occupants). There have been four letters of support (including one from Cllr Simon Cook) and one from the parish council too. The site has been vacant since 2013, has fallen into disrepair and does not enhance the AONB. The scale, layout and design of the dwellings is acceptable, there is minimal flood risk, and minimal possibility of any future employment use for the site.

Southease, Derringstone Hill

Cllr Tamsitt explained he had been approached by residents who are getting drawings drawn up for a detached 3-bed house on a plot at the side of the house in the next 4 weeks. They have offered parish cllrs a chance to see the proposal before their submission.

16. Councillors items

Churchyard path - Cllr Brooks advised that the Church yard path has been re-laid and resurfaced at the expense of the parochial church council and work completed. Grants were unsuccessful as the work was not to the building. He wondered if the parish council would consider a grant as the path is not just used by church goers. The total costs were £4,500 but also with lots of self help at no charge. The Clerk will add the donation request to the next meeting agenda. Cllr Brooks was asked to bring more information and details of who else has been asked to contribute to the next meeting when the request is considered.

BT and fibre broadband in the village

Cllr Wood explained that he had been written to by a resident who had contacted BT about the possibility of fibre broadband in the village. Some properties can get this, some can't. The Bridge exchange has been enabled. Properties in The Street above the pub, Church Lane and Rectory Lane are waiting for Box 5 (on the old A2) to be upgraded.

When asking BT for a timescale and if there was a technical issue with enabling of this box, BT sent the resident details of the Community Fibre Partnership. BT asked that the resident get a list of interested parties who want fibre broadband together and they would then provide a price and help with grants etc.

The resident would like the parish council support in a request for BT to look at this. Cllrs indicated that they would be happy to give Barham Parish Council's written support for the provision of fibre broadband. The Chairman agreed to speak to the resident to find out more information and what is required and at what costs.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Future meetings of the Full Council: in the village hall. 2 November and 7 December 2017.

(And F&GP/Planning sub-committee dates: if a meeting should be required: in the committee room of the village hall - 22 November and 18 December 2017)

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