

Barham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on 03 October 2019

Present: Parish Councillors David Wood, John Brooks, Gary Graham, Liz Minter, Stephanie Hollowday, Stuart Eccles, Ernie Mullett and Diane Tatt. Clerk Amanda Sparkes.
Canterbury City Cllr Mike Sole (for part of the meeting.)
Two members of the public.

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

Cllr Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from KCC Cllr Michael Northey, although he had sent a report to the Clerk which had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and is included below.

2. Vacancy on the council – Electoral services have said that the parish council may co-opt when there is someone suitable to fill the vacancy. There has been no interest at this time. Cllr Hollowday will do a Facebook post and Cllr Wood will write an article for the magazine.

3. Declarations of Interests – None.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 05 September 2019

The Minutes of the last full parish council meeting held 05 September 2019 were approved and accepted as a true record and the Chairman signed them.

5. Matters Arising from previous meetings:

- It was noted that the wormery company is shown on Companies House as dissolved on 16 July 2019. The purchase of the wormery is therefore written off as a bad debt.
- Cllrs then discussed a location for the dog bag dispenser that had been purchased in 2018-2019 to go alongside the wormery, but which is not yet installed. Possible locations are South Barham Road, Brickfield Recreation Ground or Valley Road. Cllr Hollowday commented on the known dog fouling problem on the footpath at South Barham Road and therefore proposed and Cllr Graham seconded and all councillors were in agreement that it be installed at the footpath entrance on South Barham Road.
- The Clerk explained that for a formal request from all parish councils along the Elham Valley route to both KCC Cllr Northey and Cllr Carey - for signage along the route of "Unsuitable for heavy vehicles" that she has contacted the Clerks/Chairmen of the parish councils of Bishopsbourne, Bridge, Kingston, Lyminge, Newington and Elham and asked them to make this one of their meeting agenda items. Responses will be collated and reported back to a future meeting.
Cllr Wood commented that the Clerk had been contacted by a local farmer who had heard about this initiative and raised concerns about access for agricultural vehicles. Any exclusion would not exclude the use of the road by legitimate farm vehicles, delivery drivers or removals vans for example.
- A lot of the offending lorries seem to come from Gomez – TO NOTE an email has been sent to the manager of Gomez requesting a meeting with the Barham Chairman and Clerk, and the Kingston Chairman and Clerk if she is available. A mutual date is still being sorted out. Canterbury City Councillor Mike Sole expressed an interest in also attending if he is available.
- UPDATE re the requests to CCC for new waste bins:
 - i) CCC has agreed to pay for and install a new general waste bin at the large layby opposite the junction of Derrington Hill with South Barham Hill but it is not yet installed.
 - ii) CCC will only agree to a new bin for The Grove provided the parish council both pay for one – and agree to fund the ongoing revenue costs for the emptying of it. The Clerk explained that she has not yet received any reply from the officer about costs and justification for this, and has chased, and will chase again.
- There is no update on the request from Barham Church wardens for funding for professional tree works to be undertaken to tree(s) in the churchyards – the alternative quotes from the Church Wardens are awaited. Cllr Wood explained that he has asked the Clerk to send a

letter to the vicar as the Chair of the PCC to ask that any request/comments to and about the grounds maintenance contractor must go through one PCC contact only in future. The Church will be asked to nominate one person only to liaise with the Clerk and/or Cllr Mullett. The current grounds maintenance schedule has been developed over the last 20 years in consultation with the current rector and his predecessors, and is now implemented by the contractor through the parish council.

6. There was a short adjournment for parishioners' questions and comments. The meeting then continued.
7. Canterbury City Councillor Mike Sole's report:

Parish Council Report – October

Increases in traffic, both current and projected are focussing minds at all levels of government.

Bridge continues to experience issues around illegal and inconsiderate car parking. I am meeting with the council senior transportation officer on site in Bridge to review current restrictions, review the problems and discuss enforcement.

New projections are showing the impact of the Canterbury ring road that will get significantly worse with thousands of new homes in the pipeline – it's not as if that couldn't have been anticipated. Proposals are being considered to alleviate this. The new slip road off the A2 at Wincheap and the expansion of the park and ride continue to be discussed and debated by councillors.

If we should leave the EU on 31 October, especially without a deal, then we are told to expect a knock-on effect as vehicles queue up to cross the Channel. No one can predict the exact level of disruption but if the roads around Dover & Folkestone are congested it will disrupt the Stagecoach buses that serve Nailbourne as well as those seeking to go about their normal daily routines. If lorries are diverted to be held at Manston Airport it will disrupt the Serco trucks that travel there to be emptied. Lorry drivers seeking to avoid the planned diversions will no doubt find themselves travelling through our villages and country lanes even more than usual as well as parking up for some time. I understand from KCC that they will be able to call on the police and the army if required – whether or not that is reassuring I shall leave to you to decide.

Although the A2 has been recently cleaned of litter, problems around fly-tipping and other rubbish in both official and unofficial lay-bys continues to be a problem. I have requested some more covert cameras at fly-tipping hotspots in the ward.

I have sent details of the Lord Mayor's Christmas parcel scheme through to the parishes – if anyone knows of a suitable recipient please let me know.

Cllr Mike Sole

Cllr Minter commented that one improvement to the traffic issues in and around Canterbury would be to open Chaucer Road through the barracks.

8. KCC Cllr Michael Northey report:

Here is a report which I would be glad if you circulate to all your Members. It explains in some detail the plans to reduce fly tipping and the results so far of the new charges for certain categories of household waste at the KCC HWRCs. It will need a bit of time to digest, and there is not enough time before this evening.

That is the first item of my report. It was sent out today by Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste. Tomorrow, Friday, we elect a new Leader, as Paul Carter is stepping down, so who knows who will be in which positions next week?

The second item regards current level or preparations in case of an no-deal Brexit. This as everyone knows is a time of great uncertainty. I was at the Conservative Conference this week and returned yesterday evening, so am now catching up on a lot of correspondence. The mood there is that Brexit will happen come what may at the end of this month (the day of Barham PC's next meeting), but of course there are many who believe otherwise. However in Kent preparations are far advanced in case of a no deal leave. There is a mass of paperwork, and I recommend looking at the KCC website, for the papers on this, plus the last Council agenda papers . We debated the information available then at full Council on 12 September, and it is clear that Operation Stack is now abolished, so there will be no gumming up of the M20, with the knock on results all over Kent. Instead the new scheme Operation Brock gives the police powers to direct vehicles if necessary , especially lorries to designated routes, so avoiding country lanes but more particularly to Manston to park if necessary. Kent can cope with up to 10,000 lorries before having to send them out of county. There are so far 4 designated points in Kent; Dover Docks, one near Folkestone, one at Ashford, one at Ebbsfleet, plus one in Essex, where lorries can check their paperwork is in order before turning up to get on to ferries, so reducing time and delay. KCC is negotiating hard with national government to also provide more outside of county before lorries ever get to Kent. Preparations are far advanced to protect food supplies and especially medicines.

That is a small summary. Work is going on at great depth and intensity covering all issues. The French authorities, especially the port of Calais are being extremely helpful and they no more want delay than we do. They too have similar traffic plans including holding bays at Lille.

Hope this is of some reassurance. If there is a deal then much of this will not apply, but who knows what the political situation will produce..?

We shall know a great deal more by the time of the next Barham meeting. Have a good meeting today.

KCC Cllr Michael Northey

9. Finance - the cheques were authorised and signed.
- NOTED a payment of £731.39 taken by direct debit on 1 October 2019 to EDF Energy for the street lights energy bill for the period June to September 2019
 - NOTED a capital grant application was submitted for a Zipwire to the CCC Parish Council Capital Grant scheme for 2020-2021 – total project cost £9,821.80, grant sought £4,812.68 and parish council's own contribution if the grant is successful will be 51% at £5,009.12.
 - Grounds maintenance retender: NOTED that infact the current contract with the grounds maintenance contractor was accepted by the council as a fixed price and conditions 3 year tender with effect from 1 April 2019.
 - RECEIVED for information an end of Quarter 2 report, to 30 September 2019, showing spend against budget headings.

New Model Financial Regulations

The National Association of Local Councils has updated the Model Financial Regulations. The Clerk has worked through these with some adaption for the parish council. These were circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Brooks proposed, Cllr Tatt seconded and all councillors were in agreement that these be ADOPTED as the new Model Financial Regulations. The Clerk will replace the version held on the parish council's website with the new Model.

Cllr Hollowday proposed and Cllr Graham seconded and all councillors RESOLVED that payment be by direct debit for the Public Works Loan Board six monthly instalments, EDF Energy (for street lighting), the annual subscription to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), and Affinity Water (for water bill at Brickfield Recreation Ground).

Website Accessibility Regulations

There is a requirement to make websites as 'accessible' as possible for people with disabilities such as vision impairment, colour blindness, those with motor difficulties, learning disabilities, and the hearing impaired. This involves a rethink on the website template and things like the headings, links and link descriptions, the font size and type face, and colours, and descriptions of images not just the images.

20% of the UK population has a permanent condition that affects their access to digital material (plus many more will have a temporary condition.)

The requirement takes effect from September 2020.

There are 50 criteria to meet.

The parish council must also publish an Accessibility Statement.

KALC have provided a briefing note to Clerks on what is required and will shortly be hosting workshops which the Clerk will attend.

But the following also needs to be considered:

Parish Council website hosting update

KCC EIS host the parish council website currently at no charge. They will not continue to fund the free website from 1 September 2020.

The current KCC EIS websites are not Web Accessibility Compliant and need a radical overhaul. They are developing a new template that will be compliant. However the cost from September 2020 will be in the region of £1,200 to £1,300 per annum.

KALC is in discussion with other providers and will give information to parish councils late September.

This will need to be a budget consideration for 2020-2021.

Cllr Wood asked the Clerk to ask the KALC legal advisor if the parish council has to legally have a website. He commented that he was not suggesting that it is a good idea not to have one, but options should be explored.

Precept setting for 2020-2021

TO NOTE a working group meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 November 2020 for all councillors to consider the precept requirement for 2020-2021.

10. Rural Housing – an exception site: The sites search has been completed, and the parish council resolved at their 06 June 2019 parish council meeting to appoint English Rural Housing Association to work with the Rural Housing Enabler - to progress a Local Needs Housing scheme (landowner agreement permitting) on land at the rear of Crookenden Place and Oxenden Way. The units built will remain as affordable for tenants with a connection to the village, in perpetuity, with no right to buy – and the project is being progressed as a Local Needs Scheme, where English Rural will lead and fund the scheme. The Rural Housing Enabler and English Rural representative have held a meeting with the landowner. English Rural are now preparing an indicative layout and talking to the landowner. There is no update at this time.

11. Publicity & Communications including website

The updated Village Survey Action Plans (one for the Village and the one for Children and young people, and a "Completed/Achieved/Abandoned" list) are available to view on the parish council website.

12. Facebook - Cllr Hollowday had nothing to report.

13. Highways

As per the parish council's resolution at the 05 September 2019 parish council meeting that a moveable Speed Indicator Device (SID) be explored, the Clerk emailed the Kent Highways officer and asked that the six locations proposed by the parish council be assessed for suitability prior to an order being placed. The Clerk and Chairman are to meet with the officer on 08 October 2019 to explore locations that Kent Highways may approve.

Street lighting: The structural and electrical testing for all the village street lighting columns and lanterns was due to be undertaken middle-late September. The Clerk will speak to the contractor about the reports.

Cllr Wood explained that when the parish council first started to upgrade the street lanterns to LED the first contractor installed units that are not dimmable – unlike the subsequent upgrade replacements by

the current contractor. Dimmable lanterns save on the ongoing energy costs. The Clerk was asked to ask the contractor to dim the ones that can be dimmed by a further 10%.
The contractor has given a quote to change the initial units. The Clerk will look at the locations of these so that the council may assess whether some should be upgraded. This may then be discussed at the budget setting working group meeting.

Extending the line of bollards in Valley Road: Horticultural Society members are concerned about compaction of the tree roots at The Shrubbery caused by cars parking by the trees and over their roots. At the 05 September 2019 meeting the parish council resolved to go ahead with 60 new bollards – this is pending Kent Highways permission – once permission is received the contractor will be appointed.

Cllr Wood explained that he had met with Kent Highways officers that day, 03 October 2019. They will measure up and mark suitable locations on a map. He cautioned however that they might not give permission for all the stretches that the parish council had initially wanted.
He also explained that Kent Highways has allocated £2,000 from their small works budget to Barham Parish Council for items on the Highways Improvement Template.

C/fwd: Quote to replace/extend the decaying stakes at the entrance to Brickfield Recreation Ground – this is pending and will come to a future meeting.

RECEIVED an invitation to the KCC Highways, Transportation & Waste 2019 Parish Seminar for Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe – to be held on 13 November at Canterbury Cricket Ground. Cllr Tatt and the Clerk will attend.

14. Open Spaces

Six-monthly councillors play areas visual inspections

Cllr Hollowday and Cllr Graham explained that they had done their inspection. They have some concerns that need further work:

i) Valley Road play area:

- There are caps missing on some equipment.
- Some of the safety surfacing has trip hazards.

The Clerk will get quotes to repair or replace these.

ii) Brickfield Recreation Ground:

- The parallel bars in particular are wobbly. The Clerk will get a quote for these to be reset along with replacement or resetting of the safety surface.

The next Community Litter pick event

This is to be held on Saturday 02 November 2019 between 2pm and 4pm starting from the village hall

Update re a new Village Sign on the Village Green

At the 05 September 2019 parish council meeting, councillors favoured Option 3, a pierced metal sign, which although the second most expensive is double-sided.

Cllr Mullett has spoken to a blacksmith in the village to see if he may be able to produce one. The blacksmith is going to come back to him.

Cllr Wood also offered to speak to the Nailbourne Community Foundation to see whether they may offer a grant.

10. Footpaths & Rights of Way

Cllr Minter advised that there are rotten iron railings on the path alongside the care home, which are exposed, leaning and some have sharp spikes. Cllr Wood offered to look at these.

11. External Organisations

Barham with Kingston WI has reached its centenary and £500 will be given to each of the parish councils. Cllr Minter attended and was presented the cheque at their 12 September meeting. The parish council has resolved to allocate this to the Social Fund. Cllr Wood thanked Cllr Minter for attending on the parish council's behalf.

12. Clerk Report - The Clerk report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Items are incorporated elsewhere in the Minutes.

13. Planning Matters

New planning applications:

CA/19/01821- Arter Brothers, Eagle Motor Works, Old Dover Road, Barham, CT4 6EX

Non-material amendment to planning permission CA/17/00809/FUL for the proposed 10 two-storey dwellings following demolition of existing commercial buildings; to allow reduction of brick finishes and the addition/increase of cladding finishes to units 1-3,4,6 and 8-10. Omission of cladding finish to the garage/carport of unit 10.

CA/19/01743 - The Oast House (formerly Aylets), Gravel Castle Road, Barham, CT4 6LG
Proposed outbuilding for double garage and pool.

Representations from residents include objections to: overdevelopment of the site, situated in a public right of way, visible from the road and too near it, Noise pollution from the pool plant room, and impact on Primrose Cottage due to the land falling away and the aspect of Primrose Cottage. There is also a risk of possible damage to the beautiful copper beech on the site.

There have been two similar previous applications (CA/18/00334 and CA/18/02376) which were both withdrawn – In December 2018 the Parish Council unanimously agreed to submit a letter of concern to Canterbury City Council against the 18/02376 application due to the scale of the proposals and the noise levels likely to result from the pool.

Cllrs felt that their position and view has not changed with regard to the current application and that the parish council should lodge formal concerns and urge CCC to refuse it.

Other Planning matters:

Cllr Wood commented that Barham Parish Council will support the Football Club in their endeavours for gaining planning permission for a building on the site of the old cricket field.

14. Councillors items

Cllr Hollowday advised that she still has the old battery-powered Christmas tree lights and could a councillor think who may like them? Cllr Minter said she would think about this. She offered to write an article for the magazine and include this.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

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

Future meetings: Full Council: in the Grabham Room in the village hall: 31 October (- changed from 07 November now cancelled), 16 December 2019. No meeting in January 2020, 6 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May, **Annual parish meeting in the main hall date Wednesday 27 May 2020**, 4 June, 2 July, No meeting in August, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November and 3 December 2020.

And F&GP meeting dates should these be required: in the committee room: 23 October, 13 November 2019, 15 January, 19 February, 18 March, 15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 21 October, 18 November and 16 December 2020.