

Barham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on 31 October 2019

Present: Parish Councillors David Wood, John Brooks, Gary Graham, Stephanie Hollowday, Stuart Eccles, Ernie Mullett and Diane Tatt. Clerk Amanda Sparkes.
Canterbury City Cllr Mike Sole.
One member 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 Parish Cllr Liz Minter (leave) and KCC Cllr Michael Northey, although he had sent a report to the Clerk which is included below.

2. Vacancy on the council – A resident has indicated an interest in the vacancy and was present at the meeting to view the proceedings. He had written a couple of paragraphs about himself which had been circulated to all councillors for consideration. He will attend the next (16 December) parish council meeting when the parish council will formally consider him for co-option to the vacancy.

3. Declarations of Interests – None.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 03 October 2019

The Minutes of the last full parish council meeting held on 03 October 2019 were approved and accepted as a true record and the Chairman signed them.

5. Matters Arising from previous meetings:

- Cllrs resolved at the 03 October 2019 meeting that the dog bag dispenser should be installed at the footpath entrance on South Barham Road. The Chairman and Clerk have completed a site assessment and feel that it may be positioned on the same pole as the dog waste bin already there. The Clerk needs to obtain suitable fixings.
- The Clerk has been in contact with all parish councils along the Elham Valley route, regarding the suggestion for signage along the route of "Unsuitable for heavy vehicles". One reply (Bishopsbourne) is outstanding, and Elham and Bridge parish councils have replied that they are not interested. However, Kingston, Lyminge, and Newington are supportive. The Clerk will continue to progress this and make enquiries about whether a TRO is actually needed for advisory signage.
Cllr Wood advised that a meeting with the managing director and operations manager of Gomez had been held on 29 October 2019. Present were Cllr Wood, the Clerk, the Kingston Chairman and Canterbury City Councillor Mike Sole. Cllr Wood advised that Gomez were supportive of the initiative for signage. None of the lorries that visit them are owned by them, and there are 50 plus movements per day to their site. They do and will encourage drivers not to use the Elham Valley route to the Channel Tunnel.
- 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 still not yet received any reply from the officer about costs and justification for this, and has chased, and will chase again. She also thanked city councillor Mike Sole for his assistance in also chasing the officer (although also without a reply).
- 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.

6. There was a short adjournment for parishioners' questions and comments. There were no questions so there was no adjournment. The meeting continued.

7. Canterbury City Councillor Mike Sole's report:

Parish Council Report – November 2019

I receive a lot of correspondence from residents in across the ward about bin collections so I recently spent time with a Serco crew emptying bins in Bridge so that I could see for myself the issues that the operatives face when collecting our rubbish. This was a very interesting and informative experience.

I have also spent time in Bridge with KCC and City Council transportation officers to review parking restrictions and other issues such as dropped kerbs and the re-marking of white lines. I have asked the city council if they would install some temporary covert cameras in fly-tipping hotspots in the Womenswold Parish.

With lorries continuing to park up in unofficial lay-bys I have asked the City Council for a progress report on the Swale Borough Council lorry park proposals at Brenley Corner and also attended a meeting with Barham Parish Council and Kingston Parish Council with Gomez at Highland Court to discuss how to reduce the number of lorries driving down the Elham Valley.

Finally, on Saturday 16 November the City Council is hosting a parish workshop from 9:30am to 1pm at Canterbury College. All parish councillors are invited to join the city councillors that represent the rural wards at this event. Details have been distributed to all clerks. The rural forum meeting on 11 November is therefore cancelled.

Cllr Mike Sole

Cllr Tatt commented that Barham in general does not experience a problem with rubbish collections, except that Out Elmstead Lane is regularly missed. Cllr Sole asked Cllr Tatt to email him with the details. Cllr Brooks commented that individual bins in Barham are sometimes missed.

Cllr Wood confirmed that he is booked to attend the workshop on 16 November 2019. Its aim is to explore how CCC can improve the partnership working arrangements between parish councils, Canterbury City Council and the Kent Association of Local Councils.

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 a 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.
 - RECEIVED the bank reconciliation and bank statements for September and RESOLVED a Cllr signature thereon other than the Chairman.
 - NOTED payment received from Barham Allotments Association for £90.58 for the recharge of the water bill for the allotments.
 - 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.
 - NOTED the Internal Auditor's report for the audit undertaken on 26 September 2019 – there are no matters of concern.
 - NOTED that the Clerk has replaced the Financial Regulations published on the parish council's website with the new Model adopted.
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 explained she has posted about the upcoming litter pick twice and will do another reminder on 1 November 2019.
13. Highways
Speed Indicator Device (SID) - Flashing speed sign
A flashing speed sign was supported in the village survey of 2016. The parish council resolved at its 05 September 2019 parish council meeting to explore the possibility of the moveable Speed Indicator Device. A Speed Indicator Device (SID) is a moveable device between various locations. It displays the actual speed of an approaching vehicle on a digital display. It must be moved between locations - under national legislation they must be relocated after a maximum of two months, although ideally every 3-4 weeks. Barham Speedwatch volunteers have said they will help.
The Clerk asked Kent Highways on 21 September 2019 to progress this initially with just seeking agreement for locations that Highways would approve. These must have a relatively straight line of sight to the sign, be within the KCC highway boundary and have enough physical space for installation. A final order will be subject to locations and budget. (Cost is £7,000 - £9,000 – for the device and installation of poles)

The Clerk and Chairman met two highways officers on 08 October 2019. The following sites for three poles, all having two-way usage, so effectively giving six locations, were agreed, subject to underground utility checks:

- On Derrington Green by the play area – in the verge opposite the bus stop (this will require some tree pruning to be totally effective).
- Outside No. 6 The Shrubbery – on the opposite verge.
- On the opposite verge to the Coachman's Cottage (in between the village hall and the school).

Once Kent Highways have checked for underground utilities and the sites are formally approved the next step is for the parish council to consult with residents. If this is supportive then installation would be within 12 weeks of an order.

KCC Highways, Transportation & Waste 2019 Parish Seminar

The Seminar will take place on 13 November 2019. The Clerk and Cllr Tatt will attend.

Electrical Testing and Structural Inspections

The street lighting contractor was instructed on 08 July 2019 to go ahead with the five-year inspections and these were scheduled for mid-September. The parish council made budget provision over the last 2 years to cover the cost, plus a little reserve incase any need attention/remedial repairs or replacement. The inspections were booked for mid-September. The Clerk explained she has chased for the results and reports and will chase again.

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. At the last (03 October) meeting, 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.

The Clerk was asked to now email the officers and ask for permission for the parish council to install some bollards at the agreed locations.

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.

Other highways matters

Cllr Brooks explained that the signpost at the bottom of Greenhills has a sign for the Church which is facing the wrong way (pointing up Greenhills, when it should be pointing to The Street). The Clerk will report this.

Cllr Hollowday advised that the Bridleway sign at Walderchain has been knocked off its post. The Clerk will also report this.

Cllr Wood explained that the Clerk has already reported the 30mph sign at the top of Church Lane that had also been hit.

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. An appointment with a play company representative has been booked for 4 November 2019.

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. The weather forecast is poor and a Facebook post will be made by 11am on the day.

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 Mullett will speak to the resident again for an update.

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

10. 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.

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

12. Planning Matters

<u>New planning applications:</u>	
12.	A late application was reported to the meeting: CA/19/01948 - Sydney House, Derringstone Hill, Barham, CT4 6QD Proposed 2 no detached outbuildings for use as shed and garage. Comments must arrive on or before 29 November 2019.
<u>Notifications</u> CA/19/01517 - Broome Court, Canterbury Road, Barham, CT4 6QX Proposed conversion of barn into annexe and car port. REFUSED by CCC	

Other Planning matters:

Barham Youth Football Club

Cllr Tatt advised that the Youth Football team has put in a planning application again for a 20 foot container, with the required architect's drawings that CCC requested. The emphasis is on this container being temporary until a pavilion can be provided.

Canterbury City Councillor Mike Sole advised that he will write in support of the application.

Barham Parish Councillors are also supportive and will formalise a comment. Without the provision of the container the future of the Club will be jeopardised. There has been a previous footprint of a cricket pavilion.

CCC review of the Canterbury District Local Plan.

CCC is beginning work to review the CDLP which will provide a vision for the District to 2040. An important part of the preparation of the Plan will be to assess its impact on the environment as well as the social and economic impacts.

CCC has explained that the way in which CCC carry out the assessment is very important, in particular how they identify the local objectives based upon the particular issues facing the District. CCC has prepared a Draft Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report, which sets out how they intend to approach this assessment. Consultation is taking place on the Scoping Report. Consultation details and how to make comments are at www.canterbury.gov.uk/scoping-report
Consultation closes at 5pm on Monday 9 December 2019.

13. Councillors items

KALC meeting - Cllr Tatt advised that she went to the Kent Association of Local Councils meeting at Herne. There had been a talk by the Leader of CCC on his function and a presentation by Barbara Flack, the Chair of Blean Parish Council and the Chair of the Rural Forum, promoting the Forum.

Cllr Tatt explained that both the Serco waste contract and the Housing contract are both being brought back into house by CCC.

A welcome pack for residents

Cllr Tatt asked if the parish council had ever considered preparing a welcome pack for Barham residents. The parish council did talk about this some years ago but the pack was never finalised. Cllr Tatt explained that she would be happy to put something together. Cllr Wood felt it should be a precept consideration.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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: 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: 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.