

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th APRIL 2026 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

PRESENT: Cllr Gooch in Chair, Cllr Brotherwood, Cllr Pepper, Cllr Browning, Cllr Vizzard, Cllr Porter, Cllr Passmore, and Clerk Mrs N Attwood.

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor Sweetman

Public: 1 member of the public and 2 Glebe Lane Allotments Association Representatives.

1 **APOLOGIES** – Cllr Morgan and Cllr Judd

2 **NOTIFICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED FOR INTENT TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS.**
Cllr Porter informed members that he would be audio recording the meeting.

3 **DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS**
Cllr Gooch declared a pecuniary interest in item 6.2 (Finances)

PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public wished to speak

4. **MINUTES of the Meeting held on 11th March 2026**
The minutes were then **Agreed** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman

5. **MATTERS OF REPORT**
Cllr Gooch informed BPC that the Borough Council had agreed to proceed with forming a Town Council for Maidstone.

The Borough Council will be submitting a call for sites for suitable land for development; this could include housing, retail and gypsy/traveller sites.

Cllr Gooch confirmed that the next issue of the Barming News had now gone to the printers.

Cllr Porter reported that double yellow lines at the top of South Street had been re-installed. After the road was re-surfaced there was confusion as to whether the double yellow lines had ever existed. Luckily, Cllr Porter had taken photographic evidence and provided this to KCC. Finally, after 6 months the matter has been resolved.

Cllr Porter has received concerns regarding unlicensed ice cream van operatives. Usually, each person who works on the ice cream van would need to be DBS checked, hold appropriate liability insurance, be trained in food hygiene and hold the correct license, which can cost in excess of £430.00 per year. Cllr Porter recently asked for KALC to add this item to their next agenda when they hold their quarterly meeting with the Borough Council. BPC can then obtain a current list of reputable vendors and also to find out how the MBC Licensing Department monitor ice cream vans within the area.

Cllr Passmore informed members that he will be attending the Kent Community Railway Partnership Annual Meeting.

Cllr Passmore informed members that the village green application for land at Abingdon Road had been submitted by the local residents along with evidence of use of the land. The lead resident will be informing the auction house of the application. Cllr Gooch has been in contact with the BPC's solicitor who confirmed that BPC should work directly with the auction house to avoid any delay, rather than via the solicitor.

6 FINANCES

Cllr Gooch proposed to formally note the receipt of the finance paperwork that was circulated by the Clerk on the 7th April 2026. This was seconded by Cllr Vizzard with all members in favour.

Cllr Passmore proposed to authorise the finances, this was seconded by Cllr Browning with all members in favour.

6.1 Budget Monitoring

The budget monitoring and bank reconciliation were circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

6.2 Income & Expenditure

Income: Unity

Pavilion Hiring £1,057.12
Parish hall Hiring £926.37
Hiring Deposits £100.00
Barming News Adverts £40.00

Expenditure: Mrs F Gooch expenses – consumables for halls £24.09

Mrs N Attwood expenses – Ink, power lead for laptop & mileage £107.59
Dusters Cleaning £240.00
Hiring Deposit Refund £100.00
LHL Auditors Fee (NDR Refund) £6,971.68

Mr P Gooch – Handyman invoice £957.85 – including timber replacement on play equipment, plywood and stain for new play area safety signage, Rubber edging to solve trip hazard in play area, work on Bull Orchard planter, Timber for finger post sign, Magnolia paint for halls. All receipts can be viewed as submitted to Clerk.

Mr N Wright – PAT Testing £50.00
MBC NDR Rates for Parish Hall £764.40

Direct Debits: BT wifi parish hall £34.99

Clear it away - £43.30
Pavilion wifi £10.20
Hugo Fox website and gov. £53.98
Castle Water Parish Hall £14.08
Castle Water Allotments £73.06
Unity Trust Service £13.60
EDF Pavilion £59.86
EDF Parish Hall £113.38
O2 BPC Mobile Phone £21.05
Business Stream Pavilion waste & water £108.84
Castle Water Allotments £66.65

Staff Costings: £3,138.72

Natwest Income: Interest £54.99

Natwest Expenditure: £0.00

6.3 Signing of the end of year accounts 2025/26 – The Chairman and Clerk duly signed the paperwork in preparation of the audit.

7. PLANNING

26/500953/FULL 14 Abingdon Road ME16 9DP – Cllr Gooch proposed objections to this planning application as the design of the proposed front roof extension is out of place and out of keeping with the pattern and design of neighbouring front flat roof extension. Visually it will have a jarring impact on the street scene; adversely impact the rural ambience and setting of the green which it fronts on to, and will introduce urbanisation of the otherwise rural setting. Designing in a hipped roof at the front instead of a gabled roof would help soften the impact of the flat bland frontage. Cllr Porter seconded the objection with all members in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

26/500153/FULL The Period Barn, Tonbridge Road ME16 9NH – Cllr Gooch proposed to submit that the views of BPC had not changed. BPC cannot see much change from the original plans therefore, BPC stands by the original comments submitted. This was seconded by Cllr Vizzard with all members in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

26/501234/FULL 143 Heath Road ME16 9HJ – Cllr Passmore proposed no objections to this planning application. This was seconded by Cllr Gooch with all members in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

26/501267/FULL 5 Priorsdean Close ME16 9EZ – Cllr Porter proposed no comment on this planning application. This was seconded by Cllr Gooch with all members in favour.

8. Emergency Plan

Cllr Passmore requested for this item to be on the agenda as he feels that all Councillors need to familiarise themselves with the help that is available in the event of an emergency. There are a number of different organisations who offer support; Kent Resilience, MBC and KALC to name a few and all members should know who does what. There is an emergency plan template which BPC should go through and review at the next meeting.

Cllr Pepper had previously attended the emergency planning training and felt that it would be a large amount of work to register everyone in the area and devise a plan with specific jobs for people.

Cllr Vizzard mentioned that he had attended a recent resilience meeting and had contacts for various volunteers. Cllr Gooch suggested that Cllr Passmore and Cllr Vizzard work together to produce a draft document to be discussed at the May meeting.

Cllr Porter added that it might be an idea to discuss with Teston Parish Council the possibility of being able to access their water and vice versa as they seem to be on a different pumping station to BPC. Therefore, in the event of either parish losing water, we would be able to assist each other. **ACTION: Cllr Passmore, Cllr Vizzard**

9. Footpath between Banky Meadow and Wesley Close

Cllr Brotherwood mentioned that there is a lot of fencing that is damaged along this footpath and there is a bigger issue with local footpaths within the parish as they all seem rather overgrown with vegetation. Cllr Sweetman added that there are low hanging branches in KM12 and when she previously contacted KCC about this issue, they informed her that it had been removed from the annual maintenance schedule due to budget constraints.

Cllr Gooch proposed that BPC continue to maintain the footpath as it really does need to be cleared. This will hopefully encourage people to walk to the local primary school rather than use cars for the short journey. Any work would not be carried out until September due to the nesting season (Wildlife Act 1981). This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour. **ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk**

Cllr Gooch then proposed that in due course, BPC proceed with the adverse possession process. This was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour. **ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk**

10. Neighbourhood Plan

The working group had to cancel their last meeting due to the Extra-Ordinary meeting held on the 1st April, but they will circulate a document to all members to show who is doing what tasks. Cllr Pepper then asked whether the BPC logo had been sent to Cllr Brotherwood which the Clerk confirmed had been done. **ACTION: Working Group**

Cllr Gooch proposed to bring forward items 17 & 13. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

17. Glebe Lane Allotments: GLAA Grant for fencing project

GLAA had approached Glebe Fencing for a quotation to install 15.5m of 1.5m high V mesh fencing at the Glebe Lane allotment site. The cost of this project will be £787.50 plus vat. Cllr Porter proposed that BPC fund the whole project using S106 money. Cllr Gooch seconded with all members in favour. The Clerk will liaise with Glebe Fencing and Cllr Gooch will send the quotation to the borough council to call down the required amount for the work. **ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk**

13. BPC-owned Clerk's Laptop and Associated Software

The Clerk requested that members authorise the purchase of an upgraded laptop and the relevant software needed to complete business functions. Cllr Gooch proposed for the Clerk to proceed with the purchase of the required equipment with a budget of £1,500.00. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

Members returned to item 11 of the agenda

11. Disused Allotment Entrance in Glebe Lane: Land Clearance

The Clerk had approached 5 contractors to quote for the land clearance. Only 3 quotations had been received in time for the meeting. Contractor A £3,615.00, Contractor B sent various quotations which were viewed: £4,300, £6,990 and £6,750. And Contractor C £1,700.00. Cllr Porter proposed to accept the quotation from Contractor A (McGlynn Groundworks) this was seconded by Cllr Gooch with all members in favour.

Cllr Doe had informed Cllr Gooch that no work could be carried out before September due to the Wildlife Act 1981 which protects nesting birds from March to August. Cllr Gooch contacted the Green Spaces Manager at Maidstone Borough Council for advice. He has suggested that a survey is carried out at the end of April to ensure that no birds are nesting in the hedge so that the work can be carried out sooner.

12. Disused Allotment Entrance in Glebe Lane: Installation of Fencing quotations

The Clerk had approached 4 contractors to quote for the fencing. Only 2 companies supplied quotations in time for the meeting. Contractor A £4,680.00 for the rear fencing, £420.00 for the gate and £180.00 per 6ft bay for the front fencing. Contractor B gave two options for different gate set ups: option 1 = £10,733.11 plus vat and option 2 = £12,830.11 plus

vat. Members felt that contractor A was the preferred choice, but would like clarification on the front fencing quotation and to ensure that it is premium fencing throughout. Cllr Porter will send the photos of the preferred fencing to Cllr Gooch and she will ask contractor A (McGlynn) for a detailed report for clarification. Cllr Gooch will also enquire if both projects are carried out by this one contractor, if any discount could be added as a combined quotation.

This item will be added to the May agenda.

ACTION: Cllr Porter, Cllr Gooch, Clerk

14. Tree Survey Report Quotation

The Clerk requested a quotation from Qualitrees who carried out the last tree inspection report, this came in at £410.00 plus vat. Cllr Porter informed members that we now have a further 2 trees to be added to the report which are situated at the between 53 and 71 Glebe Lane ME16 9BA. Cllr Porter proposed for the Clerk to accept the higher quotation at her own discretion and instruct Qualitrees to proceed with the inspection. This was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

15. KALC Annual Subscription

Cllr Gooch proposed to continue with the annual subscription and authorise the expenditure of £1,478.16 plus vat. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

16. St Margaret's Churchyard Burial Ground: Grant towards Maintenance

Cllr Gooch proposed a grant of £1,000.00; this was seconded by Cllr Browning with all members in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

18. Meeting Close

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm. The Clerk reminded members that the Annual Meeting of the Council will begin at 7pm, with the next Full Council Meeting held immediately after on Wednesday 13th April 2026 in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road.

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