

# BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

**PRESENT:** Cllr Gooch in Chair, Cllr Pepper, Cllr Doe, Cllr Porter, Cllr Judd and Clerk Mrs N Attwood.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillor Bradshaw, Mr J Constant for co-option interview

**Public:** 2 members of the public

1 **APOLOGIES** – Cllr Passmore, Cllr Brotherwood, Borough Cllr Sweetman, County Councillor Jeffery, County Councillor Ford. Cllr Browning had sent apologies to the Chairman.

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. The Clerk will be taking photos of the presentation during the public session.

3 **DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS**  
Cllr Doe declared a pecuniary interest in item 21 (Tree Report)

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

Cllr Gooch invited 2 members of the public to attend the meeting as they had been nominated for a KALC award which will be presented to them at a later date. Unfortunately, the submission date for the 2026 awards had been missed, so Cllr Gooch felt it was appropriate to informally present Mandy Baker and Sue Dunn with a bouquet of flowers to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the Girl Guide movement in Barming.

Photos were taken to be added to the next edition of the Barming news and then the two members of public left the meeting.

4. **MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> 2026**  
The minutes were then **Agreed** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman

5. **MATTERS OF REPORT**  
Cllr Gooch reported that the hedge at the parish field has now fully established and the handyman will trim before September. Cllr Gooch requested that the Clerk now contacts Landscape Services to add the maintenance to the ongoing ground maintenance contract so that it is kept to between 4-5ft in height; the cost will be reported at the July meeting. The handyman has been watering the hedge on the Tonbridge Road. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Gooch informed members that Barming has now been formally designated a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan (General regulations 2012) The public notice has been displayed on the Maidstone Borough Council website and a toolkit has been sent to the parish council.

Cllr Gooch was pleased to report that BPC has now finally received the formal registration for the Glebe Lane Allotments at Land Registry.

The Clerk has submitted the audit to Mazars, the external auditors and the information has been displayed on the noticeboard.

The Clerk reported that the allotment water invoices have had credits issued from Castle Water, due to the new water meter finally being confirmed.

The Heart of Kent Hospice had sent a letter to the Clerk to thank BPC for their donation which is much appreciated.

Cllr Doe has been asked by a resident about the trees on the land at Barming Place as there is a lot of over hang on the boundary. Cllr Gooch confirmed that the adjoining green is borough council land, but everyone is entitled to cut back any overgrowth to the boundary line. Cllr Gooch will inform MBC of the roots of the trees lifting the resident's concrete.

Cllr Porter received a complaint regarding the recent South Gas Network roadworks on the Tonbridge Road as it was only 2-way traffic lights and there was no signage to warn of joining traffic. Although the traffic was kept flowing well with this set up, Cllr Porter contacted SGN to report the complaint and the work was cleared quicker than the permit date.

## 6. CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR

The interview for Joshua Constant took place and members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Cllr Judd proposed to co-opt Joshua Constant. This was seconded by Cllr Gooch with all members in favour. The Clerk will send out a welcome pack and the relevant paperwork will be completed. Cllr Constant then signed his acceptance of office. **ACTION: Clerk**

## 7. FINANCES

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

### 7.1 Budget Monitoring

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

### 7.2 Income & Expenditure

#### Income: Unity Trust

Pavilion Hiring £858.65  
Parish hall Hiring £842.35  
Barming News Adverts £135.00  
North Pole Site Allotment Plot Income £135.00

#### Expenditure: Unity Trust

Mrs N Attwood expenses £63.99  
Dusters Cleaning £240.00  
KCS Global Education parish field sacks £23.99  
Clear it Away swing removal £20.00  
KCS Global Education consumables £39.92  
KCS Global Education parish field sack delayed previous order £23.99  
Wicksteed inspection £180.00  
Mr D Buckettt Audit Fee £403.60  
LHL/Ryan Property Tax Services Auditors Fee (NNDR Refund) £1,092.97  
Maidstone Signs finger post vinyl £87.00  
Qualitrees Tree Survey £522.00  
Zurich Insurance policy £1,733.84  
Hiring refund – booking cancelled £155.00  
Allotment plot refund £11.25  
Heart of Kent Hospice donation £200.00

#### Direct Debits:

BT wifi parish hall £40.31  
Clear it away - £43.30  
Pavilion wifi £10.80  
Hugo Fox website and gov. £53.98  
Castle Water Parish Hall £31.64  
Unity Trust Service £21.25  
Business Stream Waste water parish hall £93.44  
O2 BPC Mobile Phone £22.67

**Staff Costings:** £3,141.12

**Natwest Income:** Interest £54.42

LHL Property Auditors NNDR refund £2,602.30

**Natwest Expenditure:** Public Works Loan Board £863.20

## 8. PLANNING

**26/501672/LAWPRO** – 651 Tonbridge Road ME16 9DQ – Lawful development certificate for proposed loft conversion with roof alterations/ hip to gable extension, rear dormer and 2no. front rooflights. Cllr Gooch proposed no objections to this planning application. This was seconded by Cllr Judd with all members in favour.

**The Period Barn, Tonbridge Road** – This application will be reported to the meeting of the Planning Committee to be held at 6.00pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at the Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1TF. Cllr Gooch will attend on behalf of BPC and will confirm her attendance. **ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

## 9. Internal Audit Report

Members of BPC noted the receipt of the internal audit report from Mr David Buckettt. Cllr Gooch and Cllr Judd will look into the pension schemes for the Clerk and the Clerk will investigate sim only deals for the BPC mobile phone.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Cllr Judd, Clerk**

#### **10. Internal Audit Quotation 2026/27**

Cllr Porter proposed to accept the quotation from Mr David Buckett for £450.00. This was seconded by Cllr Gooch with all members in favour. Cllr Porter highlighted that BPC may wish to consider another auditor for the following year, as Mr Buckett has decreased the number of parish councils he audits.

#### **11. Unity Trust Savings Account**

On the internal audit, Mr David Buckett advised BPC to consider opening a Unity Trust instant savings account to gain more interest on the money that is held at present. Cllr Gooch proposed to proceed with opening the account, this was seconded by Cllr Judd with all members in favour.

#### **12. Glebe Land Ground Clearance/ Fencing Payment Arrangements**

McGlynn Groundworks had sent in the payment terms and conditions for the works to proceed. Cllr Gooch proposed to accept the terms and conditions. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

#### **13. Broomshaw Road/ Stables End Bollards**

Cllr Gooch had emailed Cllr Bradshaw to set out the planning history, BPC's and residents' objections, and the severe dangerous impact the removal of the bollards will cause. Cllr Bradshaw has spoken to the Highways Manager and will arrange a meeting so that BPC can discuss the traffic calming measures and highway safety as BPC needs to be able to give answers to its residents. Cllr Gooch will circulate the meeting details so that all members have the chance to attend.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

#### **14. Barming Youth Football Club**

The Clerk had received an email from the football club to discuss the possibility of them coming back for the Under 7's to play matches at the parish field. As BPC already has hirers using the pavilion on Saturdays, the Clerk suggested that a reduced rate of £9.80 per hour is considered for just the use of the field, without the use of the toilets. Cllr Porter proposed to agree to the football club hiring the field at £9.80 per hour. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour.

#### **15. Banky Meadow Foot Path: Installation of a barrier/railing**

At the May meeting Cllr Pepper reported a near miss. Some children had come at speed out from the KM12 footpath onto Heath Road in front of her vehicle. They were on bikes and did not even attempt to stop and check if the road was clear. Cllr Gooch proposed to add the installation of a single railing to the Highways Improvement Plan to encourage children/cyclists to slow down. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour. Cllr Gooch will send the information to Cllr Bradshaw.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

#### **16. Abingdon Road Land: Village Green Request**

Cllr Porter had circulated information from another parish council to explain how having a Village Green status on a piece of land can cause difficulties carrying out future activities on the land, for example; planting trees or turfing. Cllr Gooch was concerned that expectations have now been raised and the grant application that she had submitted to the William and Edith Oldham Charity Trust did include that it had been put forward for village green status. The grant of £10,000 is to be considered by the trust at their meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Constant suggested that BPC could look at what they wish to do with the land and then consider the village green application. Cllr Porter added that it is an overall asset for the whole of the Barming community and it would not be useful if we place the village green status on it. Cllr Bradshaw confirmed that BPC would not even be able to place a birdbox on the land or replace any trees that became damaged etc without applying for permission which could take up to 5 years. Cllr Porter proposed not to commit to a village green application at this moment in time. This was seconded by Cllr Judd with 5 in favour and 1 abstention. Cllr Gooch will inform the William and Edith Oldham Trust of BPC's decision.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

#### **Cllr Pepper left the meeting at 9.00pm**

#### **17. Abingdon Road Land: Swing Installation**

Cllr Porter proposed installing a compliant swing with a timber frame and natural bark chippings for the wider community to enjoy. Cllr Gooch doubted there was enough space, and Cllr Porter amended his proposal to suggest looking into the feasibility of such a swing. This was seconded by Cllr Constant with 3 members in favour and 2 members against due to road safety concerns. Cllr Porter will report back at the July meeting.

**ACTION: Cllr Porter**

#### **18. Abingdon Road Land: KCC Highways Maintenance Costings**

As no correspondence has been received regarding this item, Cllr Bradshaw will chase up KCC. Therefore, this item is deferred until the July meeting.

### **19. Play Area Inspection Report**

Members noted the receipt of the comprehensive report. Cllr Gooch reminded members that the handyman keeps a weekly list of any maintenance/reports which are available for anyone to view.

### **20. North Pole Road Allotments: Plot Clearance**

Cllr Gooch recently received a complaint from a resident who is concerned about the overgrowth, weeds and grass on some of the plots as it could attract rats and looks like no one is tending them. Cllr Doe volunteered to meet Cllr Brotherhood to carry out a site inspection and assess what work needs to be done to prepare the plots for rental.

**ACTION: Cllr Doe**

**Cllr Doe left the meeting room for the next agenda item**

### **21. Tree Survey Report**

The tree survey report had been circulated prior to the meeting by the Clerk. One contractor had provided a quotation for all of the work required and the Clerk had asked Cllr Doe to also provide a quotation. There were 5 high risk trees listed on the report. Members considered both quotations and felt that due to the health and safety concerns, they would proceed with the work immediately. Cllr Gooch proposed to proceed with the quotation from Cllr Doe of £1,250.00 as it was considerably cheaper and will instruct him to carry out the high priority work first. This was seconded by Cllr Constant with all members in favour.

### **Cllr Doe re-joined the meeting**

Cllr Doe was informed of the decision and he added that the tree report was a very detailed and comprehensive report.

### **22. Emergency Plan**

Cllr Gooch was not convinced that BPC require an emergency plan due to the borough council already having measures in place; this would be very different if ours was a small rural parish. Cllr Doe proposed not to progress with an emergency plan, this was seconded by Cllr Judd with 4 in favour and 1 abstention.

### **23. Meeting Close**

The meeting was closed at 21.29pm. The next Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026 in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road.