

# BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillor Bradshaw and Borough Councillor Sweetman

**Public:** 2 members of the public were present.

**1 APOLOGIES – Cllr Doe, Cllr Jeffery**

**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 (Finances)

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Both members of the public had attended the meeting to voice concerns over the recent Maidstone Borough Council Call for Sites. Cllr Gooch clarified that there had been no proposals for building yet, as it was just a call for sites and Barming has had a lot of land submitted by land owners. MBC will now assess these sites therefore; at present there are no sites allocated for housing developments.

Barming Parish Council is currently producing a Neighbourhood Plan to try and protect the land south of the A26. Cllr Passmore understands that residents are concerned about the situation, but it is early stages and BPC are going to address it as best we can; without a NHP we would have no defence mechanism. Cllr Gooch explained that the call for sites was not a consultation and there will be an opportunity to respond once the sites are confirmed, this could be just after Christmas, but no dates have been issued. Previously, 1/3 of the sites have gone through.

Cllr Judd explained that BPC are working towards development control. Barming will be developed in some way so we need to collect information to seek specific opinions from all residents and use the information to suggest where developments could take place. It is critical to listen to feedback and Cllr Judd will take it upon himself to consult with all residents within the parish as this is the responsible way forward.

**4. MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026**  
The minutes were then **Agreed** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman

**5. MATTERS OF REPORT**  
Cllr Bradshaw reported that the LGR has been postponed and no further information from Government has been received. Cllr Ford had informed Cllr Bradshaw that he would not be able to make the meeting as he had another parish meeting to attend. Cllr Ford also apologised for not being available for the bollard meeting.

Cllr Sweetman reported that there had been more litter over the summer around the Heath. Cllr Sweetman was also happy to confirm that although LGR has been postponed, MBC are still proceeding with the Town Council.

Cllr Brotherwood confirmed that the overgrown plot at North Pole allotments, discussed at the recent visit, has now been cleared and the water project proposal will be added to the next meeting agenda. There are also 3 trees which require inspecting so the Clerk will chase up Qualitrees.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Pepper will be organising a litter pick for October and will circulate dates to members. Cllr Gooch stated that anyone who volunteers are responsible for themselves, under their own insurance; high-viz vests will be supplied along with litter picking equipment.

Cllr Browning reported that a lot of people had been talking about the Call for Sites and there is really worry about future developments, along with many rumours. Cllr Browning has approached Gallaghers to ask for any available land for

Barming Youth Football Club, but there is no land available for recreation. He has also approached Taylor Wimpey and Redrow to ask for recreational land or new community facilities.

Cllr Browning reported that he had managed to catch an individual who regularly drops litter by the bench on Bull Orchard and has spoken to the person about the issue. So far, this interaction has been positive as no rubbish has been left since.

Cllr Porter was happy to report that the 'Slow' road markings have been reinstated between Glebe Lane and The Bull Inn. He had approached the Highways Steward previously and was told that they would need to revisit his request at the start of the new financial year. Cllr Porter's persistence prevailed and the work was carried out over the summer along with a new roundel sign for North Street.

Cllr Passmore informed members that the Reverend Wil North will be retiring on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2026 and there will be no parish priest whilst his replacement is found.

Cllr Gooch reported that the Member Community Grant funding for the projector and case had been approved and thanks was given. The equipment has been purchased and will be used for public meetings; it will be an asset to the community.

The Clerk reported that the internal stopcock at the parish hall is faulty so to stop any leaks from occurring, a plumber will be replacing it as soon as possible and also adding an isolation switch to make it easier for hirers to operate the water. The cost for this work will be £345.00 ex vat. She has also submitted a meter reading for the allotments as the recent invoice was £761.43. The reading will take 3 days to update on the account so she will contact Castle Water to discuss. Cllr Brotherhood pointed out that it had been an extremely dry summer and one evening the tap had been left on overnight.

**ACTION: Clerk**

The Clerk has chased Unity Trust regarding the savings account and will update members once it is up and running.

**ACTION: Clerk**

The Clerk has now managed to find a new laptop and is waiting for Currys to get back to her to arrange an invoice for payment.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **6. FINANCES**

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

### **6.1 Budget Monitoring**

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

### **6.2 Income & Expenditure**

#### **Income: Unity Trust**

Pavilion Hiring £762.90  
Parish hall Hiring £456.50  
Hiring Deposits £100.00  
Allotment Rent £22.50

#### **Expenditure: Unity Trust**

McGlynn Installment for clearance work £5,115.00  
Mrs N Attwood expenses – Ink, mileage & office supplies £53.69  
Dusters Cleaning £240.00  
Hiring Deposit refund £50.00  
Mrs Fay Gooch expenses - £139.47  
Mrs Fay Gooch – Projector purchase £382.28

#### **Direct Debits:**

BT wifi parish hall £37.99  
Castle Water Allotments £761.43  
Clear it away - £43.30  
Pavilion wifi £10.80  
Hugo Fox website and gov. £53.98  
Castle Water Parish Hall £1.03  
Unity Trust Service £14.05

**Staff Costings:** £3,732.13

**Natwest Income:** £52.81 interest

**Natwest Expenditure:** none

The Clerk informed members that she would be working on the budget soon and requested members to email her with any project ideas to take in to account.

## **7. PLANNING**

**26/503207/FULL** 55 Maryland Drive ME16 9EA – All members in favour of no objections

**26/503046/FULL** 107 Heath Road ME16 9JT - All members in favour of no objections

**26/502963/FULL** 17 Silverdale ME16 9JJ - All members in favour of no objections

## **8. Kent Minerals Sites Plan: Pre Submission Draft Public Consultation**

Cllr Browning proposed for the Clerk to submit the combined draft responses that Cllr Gooch and Cllr Porter had circulated to all members. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **9. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group**

The working group provided an update to members and will now be interviewing and appointing a planning consultant to steer and lead the project professionally.

## **10. East Farleigh Station: Foot Path Project**

The Clerk has contacted the landowner again and they have confirmed that they are looking into the legal side and will revert back to BPC hopefully within the next 2 months. Cllr Passmore proposed a preliminary budget for this project of £25,000. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk**

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

Cllr Gooch reported on the recent Highways meeting which was very constructive and the KCC Engagement Officer was very pleasant and listened to all of BPC's concerns. Unfortunately, highways deal with current issues and BPC are trying to prevent problems occurring in the future. This is seen as low priority as they are not happening now. KCC have not adopted the roads yet, so cannot process traffic regulations until the adoptions are completed. BPC need to sit tight and defer this matter until KCC Highways can act on it. Cllr Bradshaw will ask for advance notice of when the bollards are due to be removed and will let BPC know.

## **12. Clearance of Footpath between Wesley Close and Banky Meadow**

Cllr Porter asked what spending powers would be used to carry out this project. The Clerk suggested S137 and Cllr Pepper proposed to proceed with this action. This was seconded by Cllr Browning with all members in favour. The Clerk had obtained 3 quotations which she read out to members, keeping the companies anonymous. Cllr Porter proposed to accept the quotation for £350.00 and proceed with the work. This was seconded by Cllr Constant with all members in favour. The Clerk will inform Arbour Tree Surgery that they were successful.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **13. PROW rear of Rede Wood Road Motorbike Issues**

Cllr Gooch reported that the problematic bikes have been a serious issue for residents. She has spoken to the PROW manager who has confirmed that as soon as the designated developer funding is received from the Pea Field development there will be improvements carried out on the PROW, which will include installation of bike inhibitors. BPC will be involved with future discussion on this matter as it affects so many of the residents in the parish. Cllr Bradshaw offered to see if temporary wooden inhibitors can be installed in the meantime and asked Cllr Gooch to email him the details.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

## **14. BPC Highways Improvement Plan: Consultation Results**

The outcomes of the two Highways consultations carried out by BPC had been circulated by the Clerk. Due to the positive feedback, Cllr Porter proposed to proceed with both items on the highways Improvement Plan and for the Clerk to contact KCC Highways and inform them of the results. Cllr Passmore seconded BPC0726A Double yellow lines on both sides of the Western Entrance to the Service Road, Tonbridge Road; with all members in favour. Cllr Constant seconded BPC0726B extension of double yellow lines from near the top of Farleigh Lane down to no.14 Farleigh Lane; with all members in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Porter praised the Clerk on how she had organised the consultation and also provided the results in a clear format for members.

## **15. Installation of CCTV at Parish Field**

Cllr Gooch informed members that security measures have now been installed and warning signs are also in place.

## **16. KCC Safer Road Users Mature Driving & Passenger Courses**

Cllr Gooch proposed for BPC to allow KCC to use one of the halls free of charge to offer this course to residents in the parish. This was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour. The Clerk will contact KCC and arrange a suitable date and time.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **17. Remembrance Service Arrangements**

Cllr Gooch proposed a £50 donation to St Margarets church to go towards the printing of the service sheets and £50 which will include the purchase of the wreath and a donation to the Poppy Appeal.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **18. Glebe Lane Path Clearance and Gate Type**

At the full council meeting in May, members accepted the quotation for the ground work £11,995.00 and the work was due to commence in July. Unfortunately, due to the visit from the MBC Bio Diversity Ranger and the recommendation that work should not proceed during the bird nesting season, as the vegetation was so dense, was taken into account. On this advice BPC delayed the clearance. The re-scheduled start date was 7<sup>th</sup> September and by then the vegetation had dramatically increased which resulted in an increase of £1,500 to the original estimate. Members were all in favour to proceed with the increase as it was BPC who requested the delay and the extra cost for the green waste clearance was clearly evident from photographs. Cllr Gooch proposed to ratify the increase, this was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

Members then went on to discuss the gate requirements to make the area secure once the fencing was completed. This would be a wooden gate with double sided locking system with a keycode, if possible so that maintenance can be carried out easily. Cllr Judd proposed an expenditure of up to £5,000. This was seconded by Cllr Porter who also suggested that the Clerk could authorise the installation of the gate under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972. All members were in favour of this motion.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **19. Grant Request from Maidstone & Weald Samaritans**

Cllr Gooch proposed to refuse the grant request on this occasion. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour. Members felt that as BPC is regularly receiving grant requests a policy is now needed. The Clerk will devise a policy for members to consider at the October meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Gooch proposed an extension for the meeting until 10pm. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour.

Cllr Gooch proposed to move to a closed session for part 2 to exclude the public and press due to a confidential employee matter. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

#### **20. Meeting Close**

The meeting was closed at 21.20pm. The next Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2026 in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road.