

# BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026 at 7.00pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

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

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

**Public:** None

1 **APOLOGIES** – Cllr Doe 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 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Cllr Gooch proposed that she continues in the role of Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Brotherwood with all members in favour.

All members agreed that the position of Vice Chairman would be agreed if and when required.

4 **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Cllr Gooch proposed Cllr Pepper for Internal Auditor. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

Cllr Gooch proposed Cllr Brotherwood as the North Pole Allotment Site representative. This was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour.

Cllr Gooch proposed Cllr Porter as the Glebe Lane Allotment Site representative. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour.

Cllr Gooch volunteered to continue with producing/editing the Barming News. This was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour. Cllr Pepper added that if Cllr Gooch ever needs assistance, she should ask members for help.

Cllr Porter volunteered to continue as the KALC representative. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour.

Cllr Passmore volunteered to continue as the KCRP representative. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

Cllr Gooch proposed Cllr Passmore continues as the police representative. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour.

5 **DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS**

Cllr Gooch declared a pecuniary interest in item 10 (Finances)

**PUBLIC SESSION**

No members of the public present

6. **MINUTES of the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026**

The minutes were then **Agreed** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman

**MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

The minutes were then **Agreed** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman

**MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026**

The minutes were then **Agreed** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman

7. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

Kent County Cllr Bradshaw reported that from the Clerk's email that he had received, the requested 'deer warning' sign had been put to committee and hopefully it will be installed soon. He then went on to inform members that the cycle lane/cycle park KCC consultation is now open. Lastly, the Local Government Review report will be received in approximately 2 months' time, which is when we will know what plan Kent will follow.

Cllr Gooch reported that there had been nuisance bikers in the area and the police will be patrolling to try and catch the culprits. Cllr Gooch had not received any further news regarding this matter, but the Clerk reported that she had received two complaints. The police had confirmed that from the recent footage provided, they had been able to ID one of the males and are putting a robust plan in place to deal with him. The police have asked residents to continue to report further incidents and send footage if possible; they have assured the Clerk that they will be carrying out unmarked patrols in the area to deter this behaviour.

Cllr Pepper informed members of fly tipping in North Pole Road and will report online via MBC website.

**ACTION: Cllr Pepper**

Cllr Pepper asked whether there should be a barrier/railing at the bottom of the Banky Meadow footpath as recently some children on bikes rode straight out of the footpath in front of her car without stopping. Thankfully, no one was hurt on this occasion, but it is a concern. This item will be added to the June agenda for members to discuss.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Passmore informed members that he will be looking at the emergency plan now that Cllr Vizzard has left.

**ACTION: Cllr Passmore**

Cllr Passmore requested that the Abingdon land is added to the next agenda as residents have approached him regarding the village green application. Now that BPC own the land, members will need to be in agreement for the application to proceed.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Passmore reported that there had been an accident on private land and the contractor would like to give a copy of the accident report to the parish council. BPC is happy for him to send in a copy, but as it was on private property it has nothing to do with the parish council and is outside of our remit.

Cllr Passmore is still trying to make contact with the landowner regarding the possible creation of a footpath towards East Farleigh station.

**ACTION: Cllr Passmore**

Cllr Porter reported that there had been great support from the residents on the Beverley Estate regarding the purchase of the land at Abingdon Road. Unfortunately, there was one resident who felt that the parish council acted too quickly and residents should have clubbed together to purchase the land as it only is for those residents and not the wider community. The parish council feels that it is for the benefit of everyone to enjoy.

Cllr Browning has been contacting local developers (Taylor Wimpey, Redrow) for any available land for a home ground for Barming Youth Football Club and has also been enquiring about a possible community hall for the parish council as we deserve a larger hall for the community. Cllr Bradshaw suggested contacting the KCC assets team as they have 6 acres of land in Barming that they might wish to dispose of. Cllr Bradshaw will get the list of available land for the parish council to view. He also suggested contacting Gallaghers for community funding.

The Clerk reported that the audit had been carried out by Mr David Buckett and will circulate the report to all when she receives it. There has also been confirmation that a further £2,602.30 will be refunded from the National Non-Domestic Rates; minus the 30% LHL Property Auditors charge.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Gooch reported that the handyman has been watering the planters and the hedging on the Tonbridge Road. The Abingdon land purchase completed on the 8<sup>th</sup> May with final costings of £14,500 purchase price and £4,746.80 fees (land registry, buyer & sellers fees) Cllr Gooch has applied to the Oldham Trust for a grant towards the purchase cost.

Cllr Gooch was happy to report that the tree preservation order on the Abingdon Road land that Cllr Stuart Jeffery requested has been provisionally issued by MBC, the formal one will be issued after the formal consultation. Cllr Sweetman will pass on thanks to Cllr Jeffery. Cllr Gooch suggested that she speaks to KCC regarding the maintenance schedule for the Abingdon Road land. Cllr Bradshaw volunteered to speak to Highways and find out costings in time for the June meeting.

The Clerk will add this to the next agenda.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Pepper informed members of a massive hole in the stone wall on the Tonbridge Road by the orchard. Cllr Browning thinks that people have been kicking it through so that they can gain access when walking dogs in the area. Cllr Bradshaw is aware of it and it has been reported to Highways.

## **8. CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Gooch said it was a shame that Mr Constant could not make his interview in the end and hopes that he will be available for the next meeting. The Clerk confirmed that she had sent Mr Constant a list of the future meeting dates and he will be available for the June meeting to attend his interview.

## **9. Annual Report and Audit 2025/26**

### **A. To approve the Annual Governance Statement**

Cllr Brotherhood proposed for the Chairman to sign off the statement. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour. The paperwork was then duly signed.

## B. To approve Accounting Statements 2025/26

Cllr Browning proposed to approve the accounting statements. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour. The paperwork was then duly signed.

## C. To note the date for the exercise of public rights

The Clerk confirmed that the date of the announcement would be 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 and the period will commence on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 and end on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026. Members were all in favour to formally note these dates.

The Clerk will now submit the AGAR to the external auditor (Mazars)

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Gooch requested formal thanks to be given to the Clerk for all of her hard work towards the audit; all members were in favour.

## 10. FINANCES

Cllr Gooch proposed to formally note the receipt of the finance paperwork that was circulated by the Clerk on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and to authorise the finances. This was seconded by Cllr Browning with all members in favour.

### 10.1 Budget Monitoring

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

### 10.2 Income & Expenditure

#### Income: Unity Trust

Pavilion Hiring £611.90  
Parish hall Hiring £729.08  
Hiring Deposits £100.00  
Barming News Adverts £500.00  
MBC Precept 26/27 £84,131.45  
North Pole Site Allotment Plot Income £1,558.18

#### Expenditure: Unity Trust

Wellers Law Group fees & Abingdon Land Purchase £12,096.80  
Glebe Fencing for Glebe Lane Allotments £945.00  
Shires Heating Allotment tap replacement £132.00  
Barming Village Hall Hire £30.00  
Commercial Services Landscape Services £566.10  
Dusters Cleaning £300.00  
KCS Global Consumables £29.99  
Expenses Cllr Pepper £15.38  
Expenses Cllr Gooch £14.10  
Expenses Clerk £71.24 (Ink, Mileage, Paper)

#### Direct Debits:

BT wifi parish hall £34.99  
Clear it away - £43.30  
Pavilion wifi £10.80  
Hugo Fox website and gov. £53.98  
Castle Water Parish Hall £42.58  
Unity Trust Service £14.65  
EDF Pavilion £25.79  
EDF Parish Hall £62.82  
O2 BPC Mobile Phone £21.05

**Staff Costings:** £3,141.12

**Natwest Income:** Interest £51.33

HMRC VAT Refund £5375.82

**Natwest Expenditure:** £0.00

## 11. PLANNING

**26/501194/FULL 6 Plumtrees ME16 9JH** – Cllr Gooch proposed no objections to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all in favour.

**26/500797/FULL Westways North Pole Road ME16 9HH** - Cllr Gooch proposed no objections to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all in favour.

**26/501260/PNEXT 27 Fountain Lane ME16 9AR** – Cllr Gooch proposed no objections to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all in favour.

**26/501510/SUB 37 Banky Meadow ME16 9LA** - Cllr Gooch proposed no objections to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all in favour.

**26/501550/FULL 6 Long Rede Lane ME16 9LB** – Cllr Browning proposed no objections to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Gooch with all in favour.

**26/501395/LBC 36 South Street ME16 9EY** - Cllr Gooch proposed no comment to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all in favour.

**26/501465/FULL 103 Heath Road** - Cllr Gooch proposed no objections to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all in favour.

The Clerk will submit all comments on the MBC portal.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **12. Resignation of Cllr Bryan Vizzard**

Members of BPC noted the resignation of Mr Bryan Vizzard who had joined BPC back in 2013. Cllr Porter suggested that a letter to convey thanks for the years of service is sent by the Clerk. All members were in favour of this course of action.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **13. Authorise Banking Arrangements**

Members formally authorised the removal of Mr Byran Vizzard from both the Natwest bank accounts and the Unity Trust Bank account and to add Mrs Cara Pepper to the Natwest Bank accounts and the Unity Trust Bank account. This was proposed by Cllr Gooch, seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour. The Clerk will contact both banks.

Members also felt that it would be beneficial if the Clerk's access was increased to authorise transactions in the event of holidays or Councillor change overs; this would not include any transactions for her own expenses. Cllr Passmore proposed to proceed with the bank access increase for authorisations. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **14. Annual Parish Meeting: Outcome and Recommendations from the NHP Working Group**

Members felt that the annual parish meeting had been a very good evening with excellent public participation. There was a lot of feedback to go through which the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had collated and a report was circulated to all members.

The NHP Working Group (Cllrs Brotherwood, Gooch, Judd, Passmore, and Pepper) concluded that residents views should be the guiding factor as to whether BPC should embark on such a daunting task as the preparation of a NHP. Hence much effort was put into a meaningful Annual Parish Meeting, the outcome of which would help us to decide whether or not to proceed.

The working group had met to discuss the feedback sheets from April's Annual Parish Meeting and Cllr Pepper circulated them to all members of the parish council, and they are summarised as follows:

- Significant concern on the impact of future development on Barming's identity and the need to protect our green spaces in particular south of A26 and around the church.
- If development must happen, it should enhance not detract, with more green spaces, additional facilities based around local needs, walkable neighbourhoods and for it all to be part of the village and not a separate estate.
- Want to understand landowners' intentions and what our options are to try to influence decisions, recognising we need to be proactive. Some support for an NHP, questions on how it works and if it will actually make a difference.
- Want more cohesion in the community, more local events, a history trail, community orchard, better communication and engagement through BPC social media.
- Overall, residents calling for the right development in the right place, with the right infrastructure, while protecting what makes Barming special.

The NHP working group recommended a 'twin track' approach to break down the challenges ahead:

**ACTION 1:** Begin the NHP process:

- formal application to MBC to designate a Neighbourhood area i.e. the area contained within Barming Parish Council.
- Set up a steering group comprising parish councillors and other members of the community
- Set aside a budget of £40,000 for professional advice (planning consultant)

Cllr Porter felt that there was public expectation for BPC to proceed with a NHP. Cllr Gooch proposed to proceed with Action 1 and begin the NHP process by registering with the Borough Council for the whole of the parish. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

**ACTION 2:** Meanwhile the NHP Working Group keeps the momentum going:

Cllr Passmore to tidy up the history presentation and transfer to pdf format to enable the Clerk to put on the BPC website - The Clerk will send Cllr Passmore details on how documents should be laid out to be accessible on the website

- Cllr Judd to plot the historic maps showing how Barming has changed/expanded over past decades and to show where it might be going; also try to distinguish what aspects of Barming are distinctly 'Barming' in order to recognise the importance of maintaining such within a setting.
- Revisit how all this is reflected on our website and reconsider our communications
- Cllr Gooch and Cllr Passmore to informally approach developers and local landowners to engage with their ambitions and seek a shared commonality
- and see how we go from there.

Cllr Pepper proposed to proceed with Action 2; this was seconded by Cllr Brotherwood with all members in favour.

#### **15. Disused Allotment Entrance in Glebe Lane: Installation of Fencing Quotation Clarification**

McGlynn Groundworks had sent in clarification of his fencing quotation and also given a discount (£500.00) due to both the groundworks and the fencing being able to be carried out at the same time. This made the overall quotation for both jobs £11,995.00. Cllr Porter proposed to accept the clarified quotation; this was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour. The Clerk will send Mr McGlynn confirmation of acceptance and ask him to continue to liaise with Cllr Gooch regarding dates for the work to commence.

**ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk**

#### **16. BPC Insurance Quotations**

The Clerk had approached four companies for quotations (Clear Councils, Came & Company, James Hallam and Zurich) Cllr Porter proposed to proceed with the 3-year Long Term Agreement from Zurich costing £1,734.96 for the first year. The premiums may go up or down over the 3 years as the rates change or BPC buy more or less cover, but BPC will still receive a long-term agreement discount. This was seconded by Cllr Browning with all members in favour.

#### **17. Heart of Kent Hospice Grant Request**

Cllr Passmore proposed a grant of £200. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with one abstention and 5 in favour

#### **18. Kent ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) Grant/Pledge Request**

Cllr Passmore proposed no donation. This was seconded by Cllr Gooch with all members in favour.

#### **19. Road Safety Concerns: North Street & Tonbridge Road**

As previously discussed, KCC will be looking into installing signage on the Tonbridge Road to warn drivers of deer in the area.

Members felt that there is a perception of vehicles speeding up North Street, but due to the narrowing of the road vehicles tend to slow down. Cllr Passmore reminded members of the speed test that had been carried out on the Tonbridge Road which showed no evidence of speeding and felt that this area would also come back negative. Members felt that they could not justify the cost of a speed survey as the majority of road users comply with the speed limit.

#### **20. Abingdon Road Land: Removal of Unofficial Rope Tyre Swing & Installation of Compliant Swing**

Cllr Gooch informed members that the person who had installed the rope swing has been asked to remove it. If it has not been removed within a week Cllr Gooch proposed that a clearance company is contacted to remove it and dispose of it. This would probably be the same company who we have the parish field waste collection with and a suggested amount to authorise for this work was £50 to £100. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

Cllr Porter suggested installing a compliant swing with a timber frame and natural bark chippings. Cllr Passmore will consult with the residents in the surrounding properties. Cllr Bradshaw is happy to contribute some funding from his KCC members money towards a swing or bench.

This item will be added to the June agenda.

**ACTION: Cllr Passmore, Clerk**

#### **21. Purchase of BPC Owned Projector for use at Future Meetings/Events**

Cllr Passmore circulated details of a Epson projector costing approximately £400-£550. Cllr Gooch proposed to proceed with the purchase, along with a case to protect it whilst stored in the hall. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour. Cllr Bradshaw will find out if he can provide some funding towards the projector.

#### **22. Meeting Close**

The meeting was closed at 21.06pm. The next Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026 in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road.