BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 11th November 2026 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

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

IN ATTENDANCE: None
Public: None

1 APOLOGIES – Cllr Doe, Cllr Porter, Cllr Constant, Kent County Councillor Jeffery, Maidstone Borough Councillor Sweetman.
Members also accepted Cllr Doe's extended apologies for the January meeting.

2 NOTIFICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED FOR INTENT TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS.
None

3 DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS
Cllr Gooch declared a pecuniary interest in item 6 (Finances)
Cllr Passmore declared a pecuniary interest in Item 6 (Finances)

PUBLIC SESSION
No members of the public were present.

4 MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held on 14th October 2026
The minutes were then **Agreed** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman

5 MATTERS OF REPORT
Cllr Gooch informed members that the Christmas tree will be put up on 1st December.
Cllr Gooch has approached neighbouring local parish councils to see if they wish to form an alliance for the protection of the Medway Valley. Cllr Passmore suggested that Tovil Parish Council is also added to the communication. This will then mean that a joint representation can be submitted to Maidstone Borough Council for the Local Plan scoping document. It will begin as an informal meeting and Cllr Gooch will keep BPC up to date with progression. Cllr Passmore suggested that the Medway River Users Society who meet with the Environmental Agency are also included. Cllr Gooch felt that this could be very useful and will let Cllr Passmore know.

Cllr Brotherwood confirmed that the water has now been switched off at the allotments. Shires Heating will be attending the allotments to carry out the work on the water tanks/ float chambers around the 18th November. The tree work has been delayed due to the contractor being unwell. Four people will definitely not be continuing with their plots for next year so it would be good if we could advertise plots in the next Barming News. The Clerk did remind members that there were still people on the waiting list. **ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

Cllr Pepper will contact the planning consultant to see if she will be sending in monthly invoices going forward for the hours spent on the NHP and will request the invoice for the recent 2 hours. **ACTION: Cllr Pepper**

Cllr Pepper will find out what dates are available for the BPC members Christmas social event. **ACTION: Cllr Pepper**

Cllr Gooch thanked members who attended for their help at the Remembrance Service. Cllr Pepper felt that there were fewer service sheets to hand out with the Clerk, Cllr Brotherwood and Cllr Pepper all running out of sheets with people still approaching them requesting one. Cllr Gooch will inform the church of this feedback. **ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

Cllr Browning confirmed that he had ensured that BYFC teams who were playing on the Remembrance Service Day observed the silence, so that no sound travelled during the service.

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Cllr Passmore asked if we had heard back from the landowner regarding the East Farleigh Station footpath project. Unfortunately, there has been no further correspondence. Cllr Gooch suggested that the Clerk waits until the New Year to chase this matter. **ACTION: Clerk**

The Clerk confirmed that the Christmas tree at the parish hall will be installed by Gala Lights on 1st December and will be securely anchored down. They will also carry out a risk assessment and switch it on before they leave. The tree has been added to the BPC insurance policy with no extra charge.

The Clerk reported that BPC will be receiving another CIL payment of £57,459.65 which should be in the account within the next 14 days and will be transferred to the new Unity Trust savings account.

The Clerk has received an email from KCC Highways to see if BPC would like a salt bag delivered. Unfortunately, as there is nowhere to store the salt bag, members declined.

6. FINANCES

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

6.1Budget Monitoring

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

6.2 Income & Expenditure

Income: **Unity**
Pavilion Hiring £1,170.38
Parish hall Hiring £539.60
Hiring Deposits £100.00
Barming News £45.00
Allotment Rent £10.00
MBC PSS Payment £1,809.50
Expenditure: Dusters Cleaning £300.00
Shires Heating Services £138.00 - fix for handwash heater spout parish hall
Mr Passmore expenses £21.77 – name badges
Mrs Gooch expenses £61.87 – Power cable and cover for projector & mileage
Mrs Attwood expenses £55.55 – Office supplies and mileage
Direct Debits: BT wifi parish hall £42.66
BPC O2 Mobile Contract £22.67
Castle Water Allotments £341.76 to clear account
Castle Water Allotments £170.88 new monthly Direct Debit
Clear it away - £43.30
Pavilion wifi £10.80
Hugo Fox website and gov. £53.98
Castle Water Parish Hall £20.05
Unity Trust Service £16.15
Staff Costings: £3,295.09
Natwest Income: £1,745.00 vat refund, £57.35 interest
Natwest Expenditure: £0.00

6.3 Draft Budget 2027-2028

Following on from the October meeting, the figures had been re-adjusted taking into account the approved decisions. The precept figure will be £87,778.00; this calculates as an increase of £3,647.00 against last year (4.3% increase) The Council Tax Base for 2026-27 was 1727.9 (precept £84,131 = £48.69 Band D) Working on these figures (which are subject to change) the precept of £87,778.00 = £50.80 Band D. This works out to be an annual increase of £2.11 per household (4.3% increase)

The exact figure will be confirmed at the January meeting when the new Council Tax Base has been received.

Cllr Gooch proposed to accept the provisional draft budget/precept until the new Council Tax Base is received. This was seconded by Cllr Judd with all members in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**

7. PLANNING

26/504218/TPOA Matterdale Gardens – Members were all in favour of no objections for this application

26/504020/FULL 1 Rectory Lane - Members were all in favour of no objections for this application

26/504196/FULL 39 North Street ME16 9HE – Cllr Gooch proposed no objections on this application and hopes that the previous application is withdrawn. This was seconded by Cllr Judd with all members in favour. The Clerk will submit this comment. **ACTION: Clerk**

8. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

8.1 Meeting with BPC Planning Consultant/MBC Officers

Cllr Gooch reported on the meeting with the BPC planning consultant and MBC officers. Maidstone Borough Council no longer has a 5-year housing land supply and the New Local Plan should be delivered within the next 30 months. The next

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stage will be the scoping consultation. No one will know where the housing sites will be until the Call for Sites have been thoroughly assessed. As the Neighbourhood Plan is a 2-year process, and it has to comply with the Local Plan, BPC need to consider pausing the NHP process. **ACTION: NHP Working Group**

8.2 Public Meeting held on 4th November 2026

Cllr Gooch felt that BPC put the case to residents well and thanked all who were involved. Although the feedback was not necessarily what we had hoped for, there was a good rapport with attendees. The bottom line is that residents do not want housing in Barming. Cllr Passmore highlighted that without housing, there would be no infrastructure improvements. One or two residents felt that BPC's communication was lacking regarding the meeting. It was advertised on 2 Facebook pages which one had over 1000 views and the other had over 900 views, it was advertised on the BPC website and in the Barming News which is delivered to all residents in the parish.

BPC's aim is to have the future 20 years ideas in hand for the NHP.

Cllr Browning confirmed that he had emailed Redrow Housing and Taylor Wimpey requesting suitable land for the new Barming Youth Football Club and also a new community centre. Cllr Gooch felt that the top of North Street would be ideal. Cllr Browning will highlight this area to Taylor Wimpey and contact them again. **ACTION: Cllr Browning**

The NHP steering group have not been able to meet and as the next full council meeting is after the MBC scoping consultation document response of 10th January, Cllr Gooch proposed that BPC hold an extra-ordinary meeting on Wednesday 6th January for members to discuss the response to be submitted. This was seconded by Cllr Browning with all members in favour. Cllr Gooch will ensure the agenda is placed on the noticeboard by Tuesday 29th December whilst the Clerk is on annual leave. **ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

9. North Pole Allotments: Shelter Project

Cllr Brotherwood explained to members that there are many options for this type of project, ranging from car port types to shed structures. He is still looking at the best option for the allotments and proposed that a provisional budget of £10,000 is accepted for the shelter. This was seconded by Cllr Gooch with all members in favour. This money will come out of the S106 money. Cllr Browning volunteered to help with collection if Cllr Brotherwood managed to find any appropriate shelters on any selling sites. Cllr Browning will also speak to one of his contacts regarding any disused horse stables as this could also be an option. Cllr Brotherwood reminded members that a base would also be required. This agenda item will be added to the January meeting for an update on the project.

ACTION: Cllr Brotherwood, Cllr Browning, Clerk

10. Abingdon Road Land: Village Green Application

Cllr Gooch had circulated a draft response to this consultation and Cllr Passmore had provided one amendment. Cllr Gooch proposed to proceed with the response. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour. The Clerk will submit by the cut off date of 30th November 2026. **ACTION: Clerk**

11. Highways Improvement Plan

11.1 Woodleas/Silverdale Footpath to Heath Road

Cllr Gooch proposed that she approaches KCC Highways to see what mitigation strategies can be put in place. This was seconded by Cllr Judd with all members in favour.

11.2 Belmont Close cul-de-sac area

Cllr Gooch has been in contact with the new MBC Parking Enforcement Manager and has requested that the enforcement team visits the area during school drop off/collection times. Cllr Gooch will proceed with discussing the idea of installing parking restrictions with KCC Highways. Even if there are parking restrictions, the problems will still increase each September. Cllr Passmore added that the Head Teacher feels that they are doing all that they can. The School Street Scheme would mean that 8 extra hours of staffing would be required and this is not something that they can facilitate.

12 Adoption of Policy:

Casual Vacancy by Co-Option Policy

Cllr Gooch proposed to adopt the document, this was seconded by Cllr Browning with all members in favour.

13. Kent Playing Fields Association

Cllr Gooch proposed to authorise the expenditure of £20.00 for the annual subscription. This was seconded by Cllr Sturrock with all members in favour. The Clerk will arrange payment. **ACTION: Clerk**

14. Parish Online Mapping Subscription

Cllr Passmore proposed to continue with the subscription after the free trail expires with an expenditure of £252.00 ex vat for the annual subscription. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour. Cllr Passmore will work with the Clerk to set up the system. **ACTION: Cllr Passmore, Clerk**

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15. BYFC: Additional Use of Playing Field

Cllr Gooch feels that it will be lovely for BYFC to return to the parish field permanently and proposed to allow the football club to install a small container in the corner of the car park. This was seconded by Cllr Sturrock with all members in favour. With regards to the use of the pavilion, as it is regularly used by hirers at the weekend, the toilets would not be available as there cannot be mixing of groups due to safe guarding. The Clerk suggested a porta-loo could possibly be installed at the football clubs' expense, but members were not keen on this idea. An alternative suggestion was to install permanent exterior toilets for BYFC use only. Cllr Judd proposed to look into the feasibility of the exterior toilet with a builder. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour. Cllr Browning suggested that BYFC could also apply for some grants to help pay towards the project from the Football Foundation Grant Scheme. **ACTION: Cllr Judd**

16. BPC Laptop Case

Cllr Gooch proposed a budget of no more than £45.00 for the purchase of a case for the Clerk's BPC owned laptop. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour. The Clerk will purchase the case. **ACTION: Clerk**

17. Meeting Desk Name Boards

Cllr Passmore proposed the expenditure of £28.99 for 20 name plates. This was seconded by Cllr Browning with all members in favour. The Clerk will place the order and Cllr Gooch will print the name cards.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk

18. Meeting Close

Cllr Gooch thanked the Clerk for her Christmas message to all members and wished her and her family a very Merry Christmas.

The meeting was closed at 8.45pm. The next Full Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th January 2027 in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road at 7.30pm.

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