

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 2026 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Jeffery, Cllr Ford, Cllr Bradshaw

Public: 3 members of the public were present and Kris Browning for co-option

1 APOLOGIES – Cllr Doe, Cllr Sweetman

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Cllr Kimmance to advise him if he did not attend the January meeting, then the 6-month rule would come into effect – no response had been received.

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 7 (Finances)

PUBLIC SESSION

Two members of the public attended the meeting to inform BPC of their intentions to submit planning permission for a property within the parish. They went on to give some history of the building and show BPC some photos of their plans. BPC welcomed the residents approaching them to keep them up to speed with their plans and will contact them if they need any clarification when the time comes to consult on the planning application.

A resident attended the meeting to inform BPC of issues he is experiencing with a land dispute, and to ask BPC's views about a new access on to the main road that he now needs. He understood that BPC cannot get involved with civil disputes, and was advised by the Chairman to seek permission from KCC.

4. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 12th November 2025

The minutes were then **Agreed** as an accurate record with all members in favour.

5. CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR

The interview for Kris Browning took place and members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Cllr Porter proposed to co-opt Kris Browning. This was seconded by Cllr Gooch with one abstention and four members in favour. The Clerk will send a welcome pack out and arrange for the relevant paperwork to be completed. **ACTION: Clerk**

6. MATTERS OF REPORT

County Cllr Jeffery reported that the pedestrian crossing on Hermitage Lane had been agreed and work will commence imminently. Cllr Morgan asked whether they could consider extending the path down by the train station; Cllr Jeffery could not answer that as the area falls under Tonbridge & Malling Council.

Cllr Jeffery went on to report that the drains on the Tonbridge Road at the beginning of the one-way system are due to be pumped out and that the County Council budget had been published.

County Cllr Bradshaw informed members that extra sites for water distribution had been requested. Cllr Passmore confirmed that approximately 3 years ago, the Beverley stores area, East Farleigh train station and the Bull Inn public house car park had all been suggested as possible sites. Cllr Bradshaw will request the KCC Scrutiny Committee consider the recommendations. Unfortunately, on this occasion South East Water refused to use any other sites.

Cllr Passmore wished to inform everyone that the MBC Landscape Character Assessment Consultation has been extended. It is important that people highlight areas and complete the consultation, so that there is greater influence to protect areas of Barming.

Cllr Porter reported that there had been a dead fox at the top of Farleigh Lane and it had taken a week for MBC to remove it. This was unacceptable as young school children had to witness this for a number of days, which was not nice for them to see. Cllr Porter could not understand why it had taken so long for it to be cleared when it had been reported accurately

a number of times. Cllr Gooch will check that the MBC systems are working correctly. Cllr Jeffery added that the Street Cleaning Teams work incredibly hard, but things can get missed. He asked for issues like this to be escalated to himself or to Cllr Gooch to investigate.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch

Cllr Porter attended the Glebe Lane Allotments Christmas event and reported that GLAA appreciate all of the help that BPC have given them with the opportunity to go independent; they think BPC are amazing! Cllr Passmore thanked Cllr Porter for his help and for being the Glebe Lane Representative.

The Clerk reported that she had managed to arrange a 3-year contract with EDF for the pavilion and parish hall electricity. BPC were due to start paying £146.475 per day with a unit price of 40.530p, this has now been reduced to 0.60p day rate and a 25.1p unit rate.

Cllr Jeffery left the meeting at 8.14pm.

7. FINANCES

Cllr Passmore proposed to authorise the finances which 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

Pavilion Hiring £420.50

Parish hall Hiring £741.39

Hiring Deposits £100.00

Barming News Adverts £80.00

Wayleave from Openreach £630.00

Expenditure January:

Hadlums Barming News Print £485.00

Mazars Audit fee £504.00

N Attwood expenses (Inc Ink x2, paper, diary) £69.42

Hiring Cancelled Refund £155.00 (Saju)

Mr P Gooch – Handyman invoice £577.83

Dusters Cleaning £300.00

Mrs F Gooch – Expenses £190.35 (includes the whips for the Tonbridge Rd)

Expenditure December:

Kent County Playing Fields Subscription £20.00

Jacksons fencing deposit for play area £7,337.96

Dusters Cleaning £240.00

F Gooch expenses £59.62

Hiring deposit refund Massey £50.00

KCS Consumables £59.92

KALC Course £36.00

Arbour Tree Surgery allotments £900.00

Hiring Deposits x2 £100.00

Direct Debits:

BT wifi parish hall £34.99

O2 Mobile Phone Contract £21.05

Clear it away - £43.30

Pavilion wifi £10.20

Hugo Fox website and gov. £53.98

Castle Water Parish Hall £18.05

Castle Water Allotments £3.48

Unity Trust Service £11.70

Itrust £60.00

O2 Mobile Phone Contract £21.05

Business Stream Pavilion Water £116.05

Staff Costings: £2,863.75

£3,479.72 HMRC employer payment

Natwest Income: Interest £48.96

Natwest Expenditure: National Non-Domestic Rates £294.00

8. PLANNING

25/505269/SUB Merrybrow, North Pole Rd – Cllr Passmore proposed no objections to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Gooch with all members in favour.

25/505116/FULL Mingulay, North Pole Rd – Cllr Gooch proposed no objections to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour. Members requested that bio-diversity comments were added, to include 7Kw car charging point, green roofs, bat boxes and hedgehog fencing.

25/505232/LAWPRO 39 Glebe Lane – Cllr Gooch proposed no comment from BPC. This was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour.

26/500008/FULL 7 Beechwood – Cllr Gooch proposed no objections to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Passmore who requested that bio-diversity comments were added (7Kw car charging point, bat boxes etc) also if the pine tree is removed, a deciduous tree is planted adjacent to the junction. All members were in favour.

25/505079/LBC 2 Half Yoke, Half Yoke Farm House, Farleigh Lane – Cllr Gooch proposed no objections to this application. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

9. Resignation of Cllr Stuart Ilsley

Members formally noted the resignation.

10. Finalised Budget Figures

The Clerk had now received the Base Rate Figure for 2026-27, which now meant there was a slight change to the precept figure. Working on the agreed 5% increase, this would mean a precept of £84,131.45. This equates to Band D charge of £48.69 which will be an increase of £2.32 per Band D property for the year (5% increase against last year) Cllr Gooch proposed to proceed with the £84,131.45 precept figure. This was seconded by Cllr Vizzard with all members in favour. The relevant paperwork was then signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

ACTION: Clerk

11. Broomshaw Road/Stables End Bollards Removal

i) KCC response to THaT Consultancy Report

Cllr Bradshaw had been unable to arrange a meeting and was trying to organise availability, he then went on to explain that there was nothing that KCC could do until the removal of the bollards as they are currently on private land. KCC will usually get a few months' notice when a road is ready for adoption. KCC will then arrange dates for the road to be inspected as they will not adopt and maintain a road that is not acceptable. Therefore, with this in mind, Cllr Gooch proposed that she would contact Taylor Wimpey to find out when they would be looking to ask KCC to adopt the road, so that BPC have a rough timeframe to work with. This was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour. At present the meeting with Cllr Bradshaw and the Highways Improvement Plan team will be put on hold, as it seems pointless to organise at this moment in time.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch

ii) Potential addition to the Highway Improvement Plan (HIP)

This item will be deferred to a later meeting.

12. Business Rates Refund

As agreed at the November meeting, the Clerk provided feedback from KALC and references for LHL Property Auditors from other parish councils who had used their service. Unfortunately, Holloway Bond had not previously worked for any other parish councils. Cllr Porter proposed to proceed with the services of LHL Property Auditors on the strict understanding that it is on a no win, no fee basis. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with two members abstaining and three in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

13. Annual Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30pm to 9pm at the village hall. The Clerk will arrange the hall booking from 7pm -9.30pm and the Neighbourhood Plan will be the presentation. The Annual Meeting of the Council will take place prior to the full council meeting on Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 7pm. **ACTION: Clerk**

14. Lack of Footpath to East Farleigh Station

A letter has been sent to the landowner and Cllr Passmore is trying his best to liaise with him. BPC are fully committed, but need the co-operation of the landowner. The whole process is taking longer than BPC anticipated; BPC will continue to follow up over the coming months.

15. Parking Concerns along Heath Road

Cllr Gooch proposed to leave this item for the time being as the parish council are unable to come up with alternative suggestions at this time. Cllr Browning added that we will continue to encourage people to walk whilst doing the school drop off and collections. Cllr Porter seconded this motion, with all members in favour.

16. Kent Community Rail Partnership Grant Request

Cllr Passmore proposed a donation of £120.00. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour. The Clerk will process the payment.

ACTION: Clerk

17. Marie Curie Grant Request

Cllr Gooch proposed no donation as BPC had not been given any information regarding any of the residents in the parish using the services and the request was not personal to BPC. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour.

18. Play Area Fencing

Cllr Doe had submitted a quotation of £150.00 to the Clerk for the tree maintenance work that is required prior to the fence installation. Cllr Porter proposed to accept the quotation and proceed with the work. This was seconded by Cllr Pepper with all members in favour.

ACTION: Cllr Doe, Clerk

19. Play Area Grass Matting: Trip Hazard Resolution

The Handyman had sent the Clerk some information regarding a system that will create a sloped edge to the grass matting and resolve the trip hazard issue. The cost would be £145 ex vat for the system and it would be no more than two hours of the handyman's time. Cllr Passmore proposed to authorise the expenditure and proceed with the work. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with one abstention and four members in favour.

ACTION: Handyman, Clerk

20. KCC Consultation on Yellow Box Junction Enforcement

Cllr Gooch proposed for the Clerk to submit BPC's support to the yellow box junction enforcement consultation. This was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Gooch informed members that an extension to the meeting might be required as there were still a number of items that needed to be discussed. Cllr Passmore proposed to extend the meeting to 10pm. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

21. GLAA Request for Small Steel Storage Container at Glebe Lane Allotments

Cllr Pepper proposed to give consent for GLAA to purchase the container from their funds and place it on BPC land. This was seconded by Cllr Gooch with all members in favour. The Clerk will inform GLAA of the decision.

ACTION: Clerk

22. Disused Allotment Entrance in Glebe Lane

All members were in favour of Cllr Gooch obtaining quotations for the tree stumps to be ground out. This item will be added to the February agenda.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk

23. Barming Parish Field: Review of Gate Locking Up Times

Cllr Porter requested that this item was added to the agenda. Members will consider what times the gate should be locked during the winter months and any suggestions will be considered at the February meeting.

ACTION: All

24. Meeting Close

The meeting was closed at 9.35pm. The next Full Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road.