

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th JULY 2026 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Bradshaw and Borough Councillor Sweetman

Public: No members of the public were present.

1 APOLOGIES – Cllr Constant

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

No Members of the public were present.

4. MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th June 2026

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

5. MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Bradshaw and Cllr Sweetman both confirmed that they had attended the economic growth meeting where the Oaken Wood quarry was discussed. This will now go to the KCC full council meeting where the decision will be made on whether or not to agree the Kent Minerals Plan. Cllr Bradshaw said that if it is approved, for community relations there could be a request for some of the land to be used for community purposes; this could be a possible football club if Gallaghers agree. Once the decision has been made by KCC it will be sent to the Secretary of State as part of the Local Plan process.

Cllr Gooch thanked all of the Barming News delivery volunteers. She then went on to inform members that the clearance work in Glebe Lane would commence on Monday 13th July. Cllr Porter confirmed that the scaffolding is still on site and will need to be removed prior to Monday. Cllr Gooch will contact the neighbour and copy in the Clerk. **ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

Cllr Gooch reported that the monitoring form for the KCC Member Community Grant for the play area fence had been completed and she has applied for funding for the projector and case.

Cllr Passmore reported that he and the Clerk had been liaising about the East Farleigh Lane footpath project and a chase up email has been sent from the Clerk to the landowner to find out if there are any updates and to request a site visit with BPC. The Clerk will place this item on the September agenda. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Porter informed members that he had attended the recent Glebe Lane Allotments Association Annual Meeting along with approximately 40 other people. The progress that GLAA have achieved so far was celebrated and they asked for Cllr Porter to relay to BPC how much they really appreciate all of the support that the parish council has given them.

Cllr Porter has had contact from a resident to praise the recent service that they received from the KCC contractor Medequip. They had experienced issues with their mobility aid and within 2 hours they attended the home address and fixed the equipment. The resident requested that Cllr Porter informed BPC of the good service. Cllr Porter and Cllr Gooch agreed that it is a big tick for KCC Social Services.

Cllr Browning reported that there is a large DPD van that is parking at the top of Barning Court. This is causing issues as it is obscuring the view for road users and making it rather difficult for people to pull out of the road. Cllr Gooch is happy to report the problem to the local beat officer and requested that Cllr Browning emails over a photo of the van and registration.

ACTION: Cllr Browning, Cllr Gooch

Cllr Browning reported that the bin on Beverley Road by the shops has been moved and placed outside the houses opposite. It is also currently overflowing; Cllr Gooch will report this to MBC. **ACTION: Cllr Gooch**

The recent Barming Youth Football Club presentation at the school went really well. Cllr Browning added that the noise was not BYFC, there was a 50th birthday celebration at the Redstart pub. Unfortunately, BYFC have lost 3 teams due to not having any available pitches to use. The girl's section of the club is getting bigger though, which is good news.

Cllr Porter proposed to accept the report from the Neighbourhood Plan working group- shown below. This was seconded by Cllr Passmore with all members in favour.

" Since its recommendations were agreed at the previous BPC meeting on 10th June, the NHP working group held a follow up meeting on 30th June. Cllr Josh Constant joined us with his web / communication / management skills to help sharpen our focus and make progress, now that MBC has formally approved the designation of the BPC area as the NHP area.

Cllr Constant and Cllr Judd are working together to form the basis of a draft plan so that BPC has something to approach planning consultants with when seeking quotes.

The NHP working group will attempt to engage in preliminary discussions with local landowners who are known to be interested in selling land for development; also, to engage with potential developers who may register interest following the MBC Call for Sites which is due to conclude on 23rd August.

We feel it will be helpful to engage with other parish councils and parties who have been through similar processes, in order to gain valuable knowledge and avoid pitfalls; also, to see how they dealt with confidentiality / transparency issues.

Work continues with Cllr Passmore attending MBC's briefing on the Landscape Character Assessment on 13th July and Cllr Gooch attending NALC's NHP Training Seminar on 16th December.

The NHP working group's next meeting will take place on 2nd September when it is planned to set ourselves up formally as a structured Steering Group + Chair + Comms/Media + project leader + (eventually) Planning consultants (for which BPC has allocated a budget). From there to find out where the skills gaps are.

Communication and how we communicate is fundamental to the success of the NHP and will be a work stream."

The Clerk reported that due to someone trying to dismantle the swinging log play equipment, an order for replacement parts has had to be placed due to health and safety risks. The handyman has cordoned off the area and will be on site to accept the delivery.

The Clerk has received an email from a company who supply dog waste bags that attach to lampposts and asked if members wished for the item to be added to the September agenda for consideration. Members declined the offer as this would be an ongoing expense for BPC and responsible dog owners should already be prepared when they take their pets out for a walk.

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 will be circulated to all members when the Nat West statements have arrived.

6.2 Income & Expenditure

Income: Unity Trust

Pavilion Hiring £814.88
Parish hall Hiring £778.60
Hiring Deposits £50.00
Barming News Adverts £510.00
S106 Money for Glebe Lane Clearance and Fencing £11,995.00

Expenditure: Unity Trust

Hiring – Part deposit refund £27.20
Mrs N Attwood expenses – Ink, mileage & office supplies £33.64
Dusters Cleaning £240.00
KALC Course for Clerk £18.00
A Doe Emergency Tree Work Clearing fallen branches Abingdon Land £70.00
A Doe tree work identified as urgent from tree survey £430.00
Hadlum Printing Barming News £485.00

Mr P Gooch Handyman invoice £646.99
Mrs F Gooch expenses £20.00
Hadlums printers Barming News print £485.00
McGlynn Contractors 1st Invoice for materials for Glebe Lane Clearance £2,988.75

Direct Debits:

BT wifi parish hall £37.99
Clear it away - £43.30
Pavilion wifi £10.80
Hugo Fox website and gov. £53.98
Castle Water Parish Hall £31.93
Unity Trust Service £15.25
O2 BPC Mobile Phone £22.67
EDF Electric Parish Hall £15.97
Business Stream Pavilion Water & Waste £147.25

Staff Costings: £3,171.99

Natwest Income: £22.50 allotment income
£60.26 interest

Natwest Expenditure: none

7. PLANNING

There were no planning applications to discuss.

Cllr Gooch reported that she had attended the MBC committee meeting for the Period Barn planning application where members of the committee approved the application subject to extensive planning conditions.

8. Broomshaw Road/ Stables End Bollards

Cllr Gooch proposed that herself, Cllr Passmore and Cllr Porter meet with KCC to continue the thread from the previous consultants meeting to discuss the mitigation ideas. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour. The meeting will hopefully be held on 16th July. Cllr Porter suggested that Cllr Gooch and Cllr Passmore arrange the times and he will confirm if he can attend. Cllr Bradshaw added that the deadline for the Local Government Review is also 16th July.

The mitigation points to be discussed are as follows:

1. Stop lines and a stop sign at the junction of Broomshaw Road and Rede Wood Road to ensure traffic looks right before emerging, because these residential streets are narrow, sight lines aren't that good, and it is a tight corner.
2. Stop lines and a stop sign at the junction of Rede Wood Road with Heath Road to prevent traffic sailing out of Rede Wood Road without looking – which it does already!
3. Highways advice/guidance as to what road signage / signage could deter through traffic at either end of the potential rat run between Fullingpits Avenue and Heath Road.
4. Highways advice/guidance as to how to stop sat navs and lorry sat navs showing the above rat run
5. Highways advice/guidance for discussing with Kent Fire and Rescue the need for secondary access, bearing in mind the frequency and number of emergencies such as house fires has reduced dramatically over past years
6. Highways serious consideration of an alternative secondary access via St Lawrence Drive
7. Could a Low Traffic Neighbourhood be realised between, say, Stables End and Broke Wood Way?

Cllr Passmore also requested that point 7 includes build outs.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Cllr Passmore, Cllr Porter

9. Abingdon Road Land: Swing Installation or Bench Installation

Cllr Porter intends to investigate the feasibility of this item over the summer period therefore, requested that it is added to the September agenda. Cllr Doe suggested that if a swing is not appropriate, members may wish to consider adding a bench to the land. Cllr Gooch asked the Clerk to obtain advice from the insurance company. **ACTION: Cllr Porter, Clerk**

Cllr Bradshaw added that as the village green application was submitted when the land was owned by the previous land owner, it will now automatically be rejected by KCC and suggested that BPC may wish to ask the residents to withdraw the application. He was advised that such an application is not now proceeding.

10. Abingdon Road Land: KCC Highways Maintenance Costings

Cllr Bradshaw informed BPC that he would chase up highways if BPC had not heard anything regarding costings by the following week.

11. Abingdon Road Land & North Pole Road Allotments: Tree Maintenance

Cllr Gooch confirmed that the trees on the land at Abingdon Road are in practice still owned by KCC and are still shown on their asset register. The last tree survey for these trees was carried out in March 2024 and the next one is not due until March 2029. As Cllr Gooch has raised concerns, they will carry out an ad-hoc inspection. As the trees are still shown as their asset, it means that they are still maintainable by KCC Highways. Cllr Gooch proposed to wait for further instructions from KCC and to see if they carry out any work on the area. This was seconded by Cllr Browning with all members in favour. Cllr Porter was pleased that BPC now has confirmation that KCC are dealing with the matter.

Cllr Brotherwood confirmed that MBC or KCC had also inspected the 9-10 trees on the boundary of the North Pole allotment site in approximately March 2024. Cllr Pepper recommended that a map is produced to plot all of the trees at the allotment site. This was seconded by Cllr Gooch who will then speak to MBC to clarify ownership of all of the trees. Cllr Brotherwood will plot the trees actually in the allotment site. All members were in favour of this course of action.

ACTION: Cllr Pepper, Cllr Brotherwood, Cllr Gooch

12. BPC Highways Improvement Plan

Cllr Gooch was pleased to report that Cllr Pepper's suggestion for a barrier at the end of the footpath on Heath Road has been approved. Cllr Gooch proposed to consult with residents regarding extending the double yellow lines at the top of Farleigh Lane and the installation of double yellow lines on the A26 service road corners. These items are both on the BPC Highways Improvement Plan. Cllr Gooch and the Clerk will work together to send out letters to the relevant properties with reference numbers on the response forms. Cllr Porter suggested a 28-day response time to account for summer holidays and return stamped addressed envelopes to be included in each letter. This was seconded by Cllr Browning with all members in favour.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk

13. North Pole Road Allotments: Plot Clearance

Cllr Brotherwood confirmed that he had managed to have a site meeting with Cllr Doe and the Handyman to discuss the work required on the problematic overgrown plot. The Handyman will take a brush cutter to get the over growth down within the next week. There is also a large amount of weed suppressor over the plot which will need to be removed, so a skip will probably be required. Cllr Doe will then be able to get a mini digger in to scrape off the remaining weeds and suppressor. This item will be added to the September agenda for the quotation to be discussed and any expenditure to be authorised.

ACTION: Cllr Brotherwood, Cllr Doe, Clerk

14. Annual Allotments Inspections

Cllr Brotherwood informed members that a visit to the North Pole allotments would probably be best at the end of August or the beginning of September. Cllr Pepper volunteered to circulate possible dates to all members. Cllr Porter said that the best day to go to the Glebe Lane allotments would be a Sunday between 10am and 12. The Glebe Lane committee have also mentioned that they would like to visit the North Pole site to take a look around, which Cllr Brotherwood said they were more than welcome to do. Cllr Porter also informed members that the Glebe Lane committee were not planning to increase their fees for the second year running.

ACTION: Cllr Pepper

15. Parish Field Hedge Maintenance

Cllr Doe proposed to accept the quotation of 241.52 ex vat for the new hedge to be added to the existing contract. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

16. Maidstone Borough Council New Local Plan: Call for Sites

Cllr Gooch confirmed that there were only two pieces of land that BPC could consider. One is a pedestrian entrance to Glebe Lane Allotments opposite Beverly Road which is not sufficient to do anything with and the other is a building plot on Glebe Lane which members thought it was important to keep this access. Cllr Gooch added that as plots are required to be big enough to take 5 units, the proposal was not to proceed. This was seconded by Cllr Porter with all members in favour.

17. SLCC Annual Membership

Cllr Pepper proposed to authorise the expenditure of £379.00 for the annual subscription. This was seconded by Cllr Browning with all members in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

18. Christmas Light Project 2026

The Clerk had contacted three companies for quotations which included a tree at the parish hall and lamp post light decorations. Unfortunately, only one company (Gala Lights) had provided a quotation. Cllr Pepper felt that if BPC considered installing column lighting, they should run from the parish hall all the way up to the Fountain Lane junction, not just to the war memorial. The Clerk suggested that BPC could consider proceeding with just a tree on the gravel at the parish hall this year and she could investigate funding opportunities for column lighting for next year. Cllr Passmore

proposed to proceed with this course of action for the cone light tree 3-year contract and to look into installing column lights next year. Cllr Browning seconded with 7 in favour and 1 member against. **ACTION: Clerk**

19. Meeting Close

The meeting was closed at 20.45pm. The next Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th September 2026 in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road.

DRAFT