

BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Barling Magna Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 11th April, 2013 held in the Village Hall, Little Wakering Road, Barling Magna, Essex commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors J. Edmunds, R. Gardiner (Chairman), A. Jones, I. Knight, T. Norman (part) and M. Steptoe.

In attendance:- J. Watson (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public:- P. Bulman

- 1. The Chairman to declare the meeting open.**
 - a. The Chairman declared the meeting open.
- 2. To receive apologies for absence.**
 - a. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Allen, J. Bulman, and M. Pearmain.
- 3. To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and with section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**
 - a. A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Steptoe in respect of general matters relating to planning.
- 4. To receive the Chairman's report.**
 - a. The Chairman welcomed the new Clerk.
- 5. The meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners of Barling Magna to address the Council.**
 - a. Councillor Steptoe declared a prejudicial interest in respect of the planning application 13/00076/FUL (Land to Rear of 181 to 341 Little Wakering Road) and requested permission to address the meeting as a member of the public and spoke on various issues which concerned him about this application.
- 6. To receive reports from the County Councillor and the District Councillor for the area on any matters of interest.**
 - a. District Councillor Steptoe reported that an agreement had been reached between Rochford District Council and Southend Borough Council that, as from 1st April, 2013, residents of Rochford District Council who lived in the area from Hawkwell in the west to Foulness in the east could use the Stock Road waste disposal site on production of a Council Tax or utilities bill. Southend Borough Council would be charging Rochford District Council for this.
 - b. The work on the ditch adjacent to Kingsmead Cottage had been done and the contractors would be returning to finish off. A phone call of thanks had been received from Mr Perryman. It was agreed the Clerk should procure a map of the drainage ditches in the Parish.
 - c. Peter Bulman commented that a number of recycling banks had disappeared. Councillor Steptoe pointed out that there were recycling

- banks by the now defunct Recreation Centre in Great Wakering.
- d. Councillor Steptoe further reported that discussions were ongoing about a possible amalgamation of Rochford District Council, Southend Borough Council and Castle Point. Comments were required. The meeting expressed serious concerns at the proposal

7. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14th March, 2013 (*minutes circulated previously*).

- a. Proposed Councillor Knight, seconded Councillor Edmunds that, subject to minute 277 ii being amended to read "in the absence of an elected representative at County Council level, Councillor Steptoe had taken the matter of the blocked drainage ditch up with Essex Highways direct", the minutes be approved. Carried unanimously.

Councillor Norman joined the meeting

8. To discuss any matters arising from the Minutes at Agenda Item 7 not included on the agenda.

- a. Newsletter – Councillor Jones would provide a proof for the forthcoming newsletter.
- b. The first Farmers' market would be postponed until 18th May, 2013. The date would be confirmed once it is certain that the Hall is available.
- c. The Clerk would liaise with Marcus Hotten RDC in respect of his forthcoming visit to the Wildlife Reserve and inform Councillors when this was to take place.
- d. Noted that the potholes in Mucking Hall Road had been filled with loose chippings but were again deteriorating. The Clerk would report this on the Essex CC Website.
- e. The Clerk would follow up on the status of Grant Applications with the previous Clerk.

9. To receive verbal reports from those persons representing the Council on outside bodies and to receive reports on seminars and conferences attended, to include,

- a. Monthly Crime report – Councillor Steptoe reported that he had attended the meeting held by Mick Ashton, Police and Crime Commissioner. It had been very informative and he recommended Councillors to attend future events.
- b. RHALC – The next meeting would be held in Great Wakering on 25th April, 2013. Councillors Knight and Norman would attend.
- c. East Area Committee – Councillor Steptoe reported that the format of this would be changing.
- d. Parish Plan – Councillor Knight reported that she was working on a draft to be discussed at a meeting in approximately three weeks.
- e. Projector – Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Edmunds that the Clerk investigate the possible purchase of a projector for an amount up to £500.00.

10. To consider and approve:-

- a. Payment requests for March/April, 2013 – Proposed Councillor Gardiner, seconded Councillor Knight that the payments as circulated before the meeting together with the payments to I. Knight (tablecloths) of £462.89, Cater Kwick (oven and warmer cabinet) of £1,791.60 and R. Cook

- (repairs) of £35.00 be approved and that the cheques be signed after the meeting. Carried unanimously.
- b. Bank Summary to 31st March, 2013 - Noted.

11. To consider Planning Applications received since last meeting.

- a. The schedule of planning applications circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting was noted.
1. Application 13/00076/FUL – Land Rear of 181 to 341 Little Wakering Road. Councillor Steptoe declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting. Agreed that the Clerk should write to Rochford District Council objecting to the application on the grounds that,
 - i. The proposed development would adversely impact those people living in the vicinity,
 - ii. The proposed development is on Green Belt Land,
 - iii. There would be problems of access,
 - iv. The access is on a bus route and
 - v. The lighting of the property was intrusive to surrounding properties.
 - vi. The Clerk was asked to confirm whether the premises had a licence to operate as stables.

Councillor Steptoe re-joined the meeting

2. Application 13/00122/FUL – 41 Kimberly Rd. No comments.
3. Application 13/00143/FUL – New Buildings Farm Mucking Hall Road – Councillor Steptoe tabled a letter from Mr Michael Bell and the Clerk was asked to circulate this to all Councillors who would then let the Clerk know their thoughts.

12. Correspondence.

- a. The schedule of correspondence circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting was noted.
1. Essex Highways – No action
 2. Shaun Scrutton – Councillors Knight and Norman would attend the Town/Parish Council Forum. The Clerk would supply them with details.
 3. Councillor Derrick Louis – No action

13. Villager Hall/Wildlife Reserve.

- a. Councillor Knight gave a short verbal report on the wildlife reserve. No action required.

14. Playspace

- a. Agreed the Clerk should go out to tender to a minimum of three potential contractors in respect of the extension to the fencing.
- b. Agreed the Clerk should make enquiries as to whether the proposed height required planning permission.

15. At the Chairman's discretion to exchange information during any other business.

- a. Councillor Steptoe suggested that the Parish Council should look at the possibility of introducing permitted routes for horse riders. Agreed that this should be put on a future agenda.

- b. The Clerk would make enquiries as to what had happened re the Citizen of the Year competition. Unanimously agreed that the closing date of the competition would be extended to allow further nominations to be considered.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and the public be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

16. Village Hall.

- a. The Clerk was requested to follow up with the Parish Council Solicitors as to the situation regarding the purchase of the village hall.
- b. The Clerk was requested to process the Contract of Employment for Mrs G. Gates and report back to the Council.

17. Wildlife Reserve.

- a. Agreed to carry forward to the next meeting all matters relating to the Wildlife Reserve.
- b. Agreed the Clerk should obtain an update on the contract with Bob Pitts from the Retiring Clerk

18. Gratuity for Retiring Clerk.

- a. Agreed the Clerk would clarify the date of employment and report back to the Council. The Clerk would check whether the retiring Clerk's "self-employed" service prior to his employment under PAYE in 2010 would form part of the qualifying period.

The Clerk left the meeting

19. Contract for New Clerk.

- a. Proposed John Edmunds, seconded by Adam Jones that the contract as previously circulated be agreed subject to the following being added to the last paragraph of Section 5, "Place of Work", namely "The Computer shall remain the property of Barling Magna Parish Council" Carried unanimously.

Meeting Closed 10.30 pm

14th May, 2013 – Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Full Council Meeting.