

# **BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of the Barling Magna Parish Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, in the Barling Magna Village Hall, Barling Magna, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Edmunds, Knight (Chair), Pearmain and Steptoe.

In attendance: J. Watson (Parish Clerk).

- 1. The Chairman to declare the meeting open.**
  - a. The Chair declared the meeting open.
  
- 2. To receive apologies for absence.**
  - a. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, Gardiner and Norman.
  
- 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. Councillor Steptoe declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 – Planning.
  
- 4. The meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners of Barling Magna to address the Council.**
  - a. No parishioners addressed the Council.
  
- 5. To receive reports from the County Councillor and the District Councillor for the area on any matters of interest.**
  - a. Councillor Steptoe reported,
    - i. He had copies of both the Rochford and Rayleigh Local Plans available if any Councillor wished to look at them.
    - ii. He had attended the CAB Annual Meeting.
    - iii. Some Parishioners had complained to him about overflying aircraft.
    - iv. A Parishioner had raise a query about a raised kerbstone in the centre of the road in Havenside. It wasn't certain whether this was an adopted road.
    - v. He would be attending a Highways Panel meeting on the next evening. Items relating to Barling were the erection of a Village Gate at Stonebridge, the location of speed advisory signs in Mucking Hall Road and challenge received in respect of a proposal to have the speed limit in Barling Road reduced to 40 mph.
    - vi. His portfolio had changed from Environment to New Business, economic liaison and tourism.
  
- 6. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.**
  - a. It was noted under item 3.b. that Councillor Edmunds declared an interest in planning application 13/00386/HFUL – 2 Church Road and

not in planning application 13/00265/NMA – 52 Kimberly Road.

- b. It was noted under item 8.d that this report should have read that the Parish Plan is proceeding satisfactorily.
- c. It was noted with reference to the Schedule of Committees that Councillor Adams should be added to Finance Committee, that all Councillors are Members of the Village Hall Committee, that all Councillors except Councillor Steptoe are members of the Planning Committee and that the Charity Status Committee consist of Councillors Allen, Knight, Jones and Steptoe.
- d. Subject to the above it was proposed by Councillor Knight and seconded by Councillor Edmunds that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13th June, 2013 be approved. 3 for, 1 abstention. Carried.

**7. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.**

- a. Only one of the Councillors at this meeting being present, this item was deferred to the next Council Meeting.

**8. 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 – No meeting had been held.
- b. RHALC – A meeting had been arranged for the following week.
- c. East Area Committee – The East Area Committee was still being re-formed.
- d. Parish Plan – Councillor Knight reported that that the Parish Plan was making good progress.

**9. Financial Matters - To consider and approve:-**

- a. Payment requests for June/July, 2013.
  - i. Noted that cheque 022251 had been cancelled and replaced by cheque 022254. Proposed Councillor Edmunds, seconded Councillor Steptoe that the payment requests for June/July 2013 be approved. Carried Unanimously.
- b. Bank Reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.
  - i. Proposed Councillor Knight, seconded Councillor Steptoe that the bank reconciliation as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 be approved. Carried unanimously.
- c. Provisional Budget for 2013/2014.
  - i. It was agreed that this should be passed to the Finance Committee for them to make recommendations to the Council.

**10. To consider Planning Applications received since last meeting.**

- a. No planning applications had been received since the last meeting.

**11. Correspondence.**

- a. To consider any correspondence received since the last meeting.
  - i. The Clerk tabled the RoSPA Play Area Safety Inspection Report.
  - ii. Agreed the Clerk should take any necessary action following receipt of this report.

**12. Wildlife Reserve**

- a. Councillor Knight that the recent inspection of the Wildlife Reserve had

- resulted in a good report.
- b. The Clerk reported that Councillor Pearmain had measured the pond overall and it was over the permitted development limit. The Clerk would be applying for retrospective planning permission. Councillor Pearmain was thanked for the time he had spent on this.
  - c. Councillor Steptoe asked that it be recorded on the minutes that he would like to congratulate Councillor Knight and her team for the hard work that had gone in to creating something of which the Council could be proud and which was of great benefit to the village.

**16. At the Chairman's discretion to exchange information.**

- a. The Clerk reported that he had dealt with the Freedom of Information request from Mr Sterry.
- b. The Clerk was asked to research the process for choosing the Citizen of the Year.
- c. The Clerk was instructed to invite District Councillor Wilkins to invite her to the Teddy Bears Picnic.
- d. Councillor Knight reported that the recently held Farmers' Market had raised £129.00

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.

**17. Village Hall.**

- a. The Clerk reported that it had been confirmed that the Women's Institute constitution decreed that the hall should be sold to a charity.
- b. Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Knight that the Clerk should instruct Solicitors to move to completion and that the documentation should be signed by Councillors Knight and Jones.

**18. Wildlife Reserve.**

- a. The Clerk reported that the necessary permission had been received from Natural England and that Solicitors were ready to complete. It was noted that no plan was attached to the contract and the Clerk was asked to obtain a copy. Additionally the Clerk was asked to
  - i. clarify whether the Parish Council would be responsible for the maintenance of the sea wall
  - ii. question why the initial request for permission to place one end of the footbridge on the land belonging to Anglian Water had become a purchase of 1.55 ha,
  - iii. ask whether we could put steps up the sea wall and
  - iv. whether there was a footpath on the land it was proposed should be purchased by the Parish Council.
- b. Proposed Councillor Knight, seconded Councillor Edmunds that, subject to satisfactory answers being received in respect of the questions raised at 18.a. above the Clerk should instruct Solicitors to move to completion and that the documentation should be signed by Councillors Knight and Jones

**19. Gratuity for Retiring Clerk.**

- a. The Clerk reported that he was still waiting to hear from EALC regarding this matter. He had sent them a reminder.

**20. Formal Complaint re Financial Matters.**

- a. The Clerk reported that nothing further had been heard from Littlejohn LLP.

Meeting closed at 21.45

**Date of next meeting - 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 – Full Council Meeting.**