

BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Barling Magna Parish Council held on Thursday 12th September, 2013, in the Barling Magna Village Hall, Barling Magna, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

In attendance: County & District Councillor C. Seagers. J. Watson (Parish Clerk).

- 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 Allen, Jones 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. Declarations of Interest were received from Councillor Steptoe in respect of Planning Matters, Wyvern Transport and as a Member of the Highways Panel of Rochford District Council.
- 4. Presentation by Wyvern Transport.**
 - a. Andrew Woodley of Wyvern Community Transport gave a brief presentation on the services provided by Wyvern Transport.
- 5. The meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners of Barling Magna to address the Council.**
 - a. No Parishioner addressed the Council.
- 6. To receive reports from the County Councillor and the District Councillor for the area on any matters of interest.**
 - a. County and District Councillor Seagers gave a comprehensive report on the difficulties facing Essex Highways Committee in view of the current and expected future cuts to the amount available to spend on maintaining the highways. Priority would be given to safety issues and it was hoped to keep costs down by doing "blocks" of work rather than doing work at random.
 - b. District Councillor Steptoe gave a comprehensive report re lighting, the "Parry", the Airport Liaison Committee and certain Highways matters. He had asked Essex County Council for a status report on outstanding Highways matters. He had also toured the village with County Councillor Seagers and he had prepared a list of nineteen maintenance items. A copy of this list was handed to the Clerk.

7. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 8th August, 2013.

- a. Proposed Councillor Gardiner, seconded Councillor that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 8th August, 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record. 4 for, 1 abstention. Carried.

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
 - i. The Clerk reported that a new community policeman had been appointed and he would be arranging a NAP meeting as soon as he was able.
- b. RHALC.
 - i. No meeting had been held.
- c. Parish Plan.
 - i. Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Gardiner that the Parish Plan website be housed as a separate page on the Parish Council website. Carried unanimously.

9. Financial Matters.

- a. Proposed Councillor Knight, seconded Councillor Gardiner that the payment requests for August/September, 2013 be approved. Carried unanimously.
- b. Proposed Councillor Knight, seconded Councillor Gardiner that the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st August, 2013 be approved. Carried unanimously.
- c. Proposed Councillor Knight, seconded Councillor Gardiner that the Financial Statement for the five months to 31st August, 2013 be approved.
- d. Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Gardiner that the Parish Council purchase an annual licence for a Computer Accounting System in the amount of £195.00. Carried unanimously.
- e. Proposed Councillor Gardiner, seconded Councillor Pearmain that a donation of £100.00 be made to the Citizens Advice Bureau. Carried unanimously.
- f. Proposed Councillor Pearmain, seconded Councillor Edmunds that a donation of £100.00 be made to Essex Air Ambulance. Carried unanimously.
- g. Proposed Councillor Edmunds, seconded Councillor Steptoe that the parish Council purchase two Notice Board for the Council Offices and for outside the shops in Little Wakering for the approximate costs as detailed in the Clerk's note dated 8th September, 2013. 4 for, 1 against. Carried.

10. Election/Co-option Process.

- a. Proposed Councillor Knight, seconded Councillor Pearmain that the Clerk be authorised to commence the election/co-option process. Carried unanimously.

11. Street Lighting

- a. The proposal from Essex County Council that certain street lights be turned off overnight was considered and the Clerk was instructed to write to Essex County Council to point out that, at a public meeting

held previously, it was unanimously recommended that the lights should not be turned off. The Clerk was asked to keep James Duddridge informed of this response.

12. Environment Agency

- a. The schedule of questions being submitted to the Environment Agency for the meeting in Great Wakering Parish Council Offices on 17th September, 2013 was considered. No action was deemed necessary.

13. Farmers Market.

- a. It was agreed to carry the verbal report about the Farmers Market held on 31st August, 2013 over to the next meeting.

14. "Citizen of the Year" Award.

- a. The Clerk was instructed to commence the procedure for electing the 2013/2014 "Citizens of the Year".

15. Planning Applications.

- a. The Clerk reported that all Planning applications received since the last meeting had been dealt with by e-mail.

16. Correspondence.

- a. The correspondence from Rochford District Council re sandbags was noted. Agreed no action need be taken.
- b. The letter re the Wyvern Transport AGM was noted.

17. Wildlife Reserve.

- a. Councillor Knight gave a brief verbal report on the Wildlife reserve pending completion of the full report.

18. At the Chairman's discretion to exchange information.

- a. It was noted that District Councillor Cutmore was dealing with local flooding issues.
- b. The stream taking the run-off of excess waters from Hamstel Road was discussed and it was noted that Rochford had no control in this matter as Hemstel Road was in the Southend Borough Council area. Councillor Steptoe would enquire as to the mechanism in place in respect of this.
- c. Road signage in the area was discussed.

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.

19. Wildlife Reserve – Purchase of Land.

- a. The Clerk reported that there continued to be an issue as to who was responsible for repairing the Sea Wall. He would continue to investigate this with the Environment Agency.

20. Village Hall.

- a. To Clerk reported that he had been given to understand that the Parish Council's Solicitors had not done any searches in respect of this matter. He had now instructed the Solicitors to do these searches.

- b. The Clerk had received draft documents from the Parish Council Solicitors but the purchaser was shown as the Parish Council whereas he understood that the vendors could only sell the property to a charitable trust. He had asked the Solicitors for clarification.
- c. The Clerk's actions were unanimously approved.

21. Formal Complaint re Financial Matters.

- a. The Clerk reported that he had not received any communication in respect of the complaint received by Littlejohn LLP.

Meeting closed 9.24 pm

Date of next meeting – 10th October, 2013 – Full Council Meeting.

Issued 2nd October, 2013