

BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Barling Magna Parish Council held on Thursday 14th November, 2013, in the Barling Magna Village Hall, Barling Magna, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Bines, Edmunds, Jones (Vice Chair), Knight (Chair), Norman and Steptoe.

In attendance: J. Watson (Parish Clerk).

- 1. The Chair 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 and Gardiner.
- 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 Items 10a, 12a, 15a and 16a.
 - b. Councillor Jones declared an interest in Agenda Item 12a.
 - c. All Councillors declared an interest in Agenda Item 10a.
- 4. The meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners of Barling Magna to address the Council.**
 - a. No Parishioners attended the meeting.
- 5. To receive reports from the County Councillor and the District Councillor for the area on any matters of interest.**
 - a. District Councillor Steptoe reported on,
 - i. Flooding at the Shoulder Stick,
 - ii. Topsoil that had been dumped in Barrow Hall Road,
 - iii. Park Maintenance,
 - iv. The ditch at Kingsmead Cottages,
 - v. Rochford District Council being no 1 at recycling,
 - vi. Land North of Ropers Farm,
 - vii. Funding being available for restoring War Memorials,
 - viii. The Allocation Document,
 - ix. The Hockley Area Action Plan,
- 6. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th October, 2013.**
 - a. Proposed Councillor Norman, seconded Councillor Edmunds that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th October, 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record. 5 for, 1 abstention. Carried.

7. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Co-option Meeting held on 10th October, 2013.

- a. Proposed Councillor Norman, seconded Councillor Edmunds that the Minutes of the Co-option Meeting held on 10th October, 2013 be approved and signed as a correct record. 5 for, 1 abstention.

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 – It was noted that the next meeting would be on 9th December, 2013.
- b. RHALC – It was noted that the Parish Council did not have a representative at the last meeting of the RHALC. The Clerk was asked to check that the Secretary of RHALC had the correct contact details for the Barling Magna Parish Council representatives.
- c. Rochford District Council Meeting with Parish/Town Councils – It was noted that the Parish Council did not have a representative at this meeting. The Clerk was asked to respond to Councillor McPherson in this regard.
- d. The Chair reported that this was just waiting for the availability of a map to be included.

9. Financial Matters - To consider and approve if appropriate:-

- a. Proposed Councillor Knight, seconded Councillor Norman that the Payment Requests for October/November, 2013, the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st October, 2013 and the Financial Statement for the seven months to 31st October, 2013 be approved. Carried unanimously.

10. Village Hall.

- a. It was proposed by Councillor Steptoe and seconded by Councillor Norman that, subject to the Charitable Trust "The Barling Magna Parish Hall Committee" agreeing to purchase the Village Hall, the Parish Council would make a donation of £4,500.00 plus costs and disbursements in the region of £3,600.00 (plus VAT) to the Trust to enable them to do so. Carried unanimously
- b. It was agreed that Councillor Bines and the Clerk would draw up a Project Plan for the remedial work required at the Village Hall.
- c. Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Knight that the Clerk should go out to tender to appoint a Structural Surveyor to give a report on the condition of the Village Hall.
- d. Councillor Knight reported that she had met with RRAVS regarding funding for the building of a new village hall.

11. Wildlife Reserve

- a. Councillor Knight gave a verbal report on the Wildlife Reserve.
- b. Proposal Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Norman that the Clerk should go out to tender to appoint a qualified arboriculturist to make a periodic inspection of the trees in the Wildlife Reserve and other properties owned by the Council.
- c. The proposal from Councillor Knight that the Parish Council purchase two rubbish bins at the discounted price of £200 per bin was withdrawn and it was agreed that the bins would be provided by sponsors.
- d. Councillor Steptoe asked whether the correct Health and Safety procedures were in place in respect of the new Tractor and the other

equipment at the Wildlife Reserve. It was pointed out that the Clerk should keep copies of all records.

12. London Southend Airport Airspace Change Proposal

- a. Agreed that the Clerk would seek the Public's opinion through an article on the Parish Council website.

13. "Citizen of the Year" Award.

- a. The nominations received in respect of the 2013/2014 "Citizens of the Year" were noted.
- b. It was agreed that the judging Panel would consist of the Landlady of the "Castle, Phil Splett, Shane Roach, Councillor Norman and Councillor Bines.
- c. Councillor Knight agreed to process this matter.

14. Farmers Market.

- a. Councillor Jones gave a verbal report on the Farmers Market held on 2nd November, 2013.
- b. The next Farmers' Market would be held on 21st December, 2013.

15. Planning Application

- a. The Planning Application received since the last meeting was considered. It was agreed that no action was necessary.

16. Correspondence.

- a. District Councillor Steptoe's letter dated 9th October, 2013 in respect of the list of informed walks initiative was noted. Councillor Knight agreed to be the Parish Council representative in this matter.

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

- a. Councillor Steptoe mentioned the village "Gates" at Stonebridge.
- b. Councillor Steptoe mentioned that Rochford District Council may be prepared to maintain the Wildlife Park. Further information would be obtained.
- c. Councillor Jones suggested that the Parish Council should investigate what "celebrations" were being considered for the anniversary of the start of the 1st World War and how the Parish Council could participate in proposed events.

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.

18. Formal Complaint re Financial Matters.

- a. The Clerk reported that Littlejohn LLP had ruled that there was no case to answer in respect of the complaint received.

Meeting Closed 9.45 pm

Issued 9h December, 2013