

# **BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL**

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

**Minutes** of the meeting of the Barling Magna Parish Council held on Thursday 19th March, 2015, in Chadwicks House, Barling Magna County Primary School, Little Wakering Road, Barling Magna, Essex, SS3 0LN commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Ashdown, Cohen (Vice Chair), Edmunds, Gardiner, Knight, Pearmain, Steptoe (Chair) and Street.

In attendance: J. Watson (Parish Clerk).

Members of the public: Mr Bach, Mr Benham, Mr Bulman, Mrs Chambers.

### **MINUTES**

**1. The Chair to declare the meeting open.**

- a. The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.10 pm and welcomed the members of the public.

**2. To receive apologies for absence.**

- a. There were no apologies for absence.

**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. There were no Declarations of Interest.

**4. The meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners of Barling Magna to address the Council.**

- a. Mrs Chambers expressed concern about parking outside the primary school. People were parking on the pavement which was very dangerous. Councillor Steptoe reported that parking in the District was policed by Chelmsford City Council. Mr Bach complained that parents collecting children from the school were parking across his driveway and were being abusive when he asked them to move. Councillor Steptoe asked Mr Bach to e-mail him and he would then take this up with Rochford District Council.
- b. Mrs Chambers asked whether the Parish Council could invest in more equipment for the play areas behind the Castle Pub (the Parry) and behind Rascals. Councillor Steptoe pointed out that the Parry belonged to Rochford District Council. The Clerk was asked to put the play area behind Rascals on the agenda for the next meeting. Mrs Chambers was asked to e-mail the Clerk with suggestions as to what extra

equipment could be installed. It was also felt that the Parish Council would be prepared to work with Rochford District Council in updating the equipment in the Parry.

- c. Mr Bulman pointed out that there were not any signs advertising either the play area or the Wildlife reserve. The Clerk was asked to put this on the agenda of the next meeting.
- d. Mrs Chambers asked whether more dog poo bins and signs could be provided. The Clerk reported that he would be writing to Rochford District Council to see whether they would be prepared to supply these.
- e. Mrs Chambers asked whether the rumours regarding a dog being poisoned in the Wildlife Reserve were true. It was confirmed that this was not true. It was noted that there had been some instances of dog poisoning in the District.
- f. Mr Bach remarked on the poor state of the pavements outside the school. Councillor Steptoe told the meeting that this had been reported to Essex County 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 that the report on the Boundary changes would be issued after the elections.

**6. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 19th February, 2015 and 12th March, 2015.**

- a. Proposed Councillor Pearmain, seconded Councillor Ashdown that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2th March, 2015 be signed as a correct record. 6 for, 2 abstentions. Carried.

**7. Financial Matters**

- a. Proposed Councillor Gardiner, seconded Councillor Pearmain that the payment requests for February, 2015, the Bank Reconciliation as at 28th February, 2015 and the Financial Statement for the eleven months to 28th February, 2015 be approved. Carried unanimously.

**8. Wildlife Reserve.**

- a. Councillor Knight reported that 130 hedgerow plants had been received and were being planted. There would be a further 480 plants to plant. We had been invited to join the Green Flag Association.
- b. The possibility of opening a café/tea room on the Wildlife Reserve was considered. It was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries as to planning requirements and the provision of power to the site.
- c. It was noted that the primary school would visit the Reserve if toilet facilities were made available for them. It was suggested that a key to the toilet be given to the school. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting.

**9. Memorial Benches.**

- a. The special motion dated 9th March, 2015 that the decision made under Minute 11.a.ii. of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th February, 2015 that “the Parish Council install a 2 seated Park Garden Seat supplied by Realise Futures Eco Furniture at a cost of £119.00 plus VAT in the Barling Magna Wildlife Reserve” be rescinded was considered.

Proposed Councillor Pearmain, seconded Councillor Gardiner that the decision be rescinded. 7 for, 1 abstention. Carried.

**10. Creation of Charitable Trusts.**

- a. It was agreed that the proposal that Charitable Trusts be created in respect of the Wildlife Reserve and the Play Space be carried forward to the next meeting.

**11. Risk Assessment Report.**

- a. The Risk Assessment Report as circulated prior to the meeting was noted.
- b. Proposed Councillor Edmunds, seconded Councillor Ashdown that the report be approved. Carried unanimously.

**12. Local Highways Panel**

- a. Councillors Knight and Cohen reported that they were working on a schedule of proposed Bridleways in the Parish.

**13. Parish Council Emergency Response Plan.**

- a. The Draft Parish Council Emergency Response Plan as circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The Clerk would continue to work on this.

**14. Clerk's Report.**

- a. Appointment of Arboriculturist – A quote had been received which would be put before the next meeting.
- b. Street Lights – The Clerk was in discussion with the Clerk at Sutton regarding entering a joint tender process.
- c. Social Media – No progress had been made on this.
- d. Parish Council elections – the elections were being held on 7th May and Councillors were reminded to ensure that they submitted their nomination forms on time.
- e. Repairs to Village Hall – Quotes for preparing the specification for the repairs were being obtained.
- f. Retrospective Planning Application re the pond in the Wildlife Reserve – The site specific flood risk assessment as required by Rochford District Council was being carried out.
- g. Books in Village Hall – A key would be provided to Councillor Gardiner who would arrange to have the books removed.
- h. Rubbish and Dog Bins – Rochford District Council had been approached.
- i. Purchase of Notice Boards – The notice boards for the bus shelters had been ordered.

**15. Attendance at Meetings**

- a. Councillors had not attended any meetings since the last Parish Council meeting.

**16. Planning Applications.**

- a. No Planning Applications had been received.

**17. Meeting Dates.**

- a. The schedule of proposed meeting dates for the 2015/2016 Council Year was noted. This would be put to the May 2015 Parish Council meeting for approval by the newly elected Council.

**18. Correspondence.**

- a. The Chair had received a letter from Albert Bugeja regarding his forthcoming retirement. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Bugeja on behalf of the parish Council to thank him for his help over the years and to wish him well for the future.

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

- a. Councillor Street reported that he had cut back the brambles covering the salt bin in Barling Road. It was noted that the notices in these bins needed updating.
- b. Councillor Street reported that the Methodist Church in Great Wakering had opened a food bank which was open from noon until 3.00 pm on a Thursday.
- c. Councillor Steptoe reported that fly tipping could now be reported by an APP available from Rochford District Council.

Meeting Closed 8.34 pm

**Date of next meeting – 16th April, 2015 – Full Council Meeting.**

**Issued 26th March, 2015.**