

BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Barling Magna Parish Council held on Thursday 24th September, 2015, in St Mary's Church, Little Wakering Road, Little Wakering, Essex commencing at 7.00 p.m.

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

In attendance: County and District Councillor Seagers, J. Watson (Parish Clerk).

Members of the Public: District Councillor Mrs J. McPherson.

MINUTES

- 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 Gardiner and 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 non-pecuniary declaration of interest was received from Councillor Steptoe in respect of Agenda Item 14 (Planning Matters).
- 4. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Co-option meeting and the Extra-ordinary meeting held on 3rd September, 2015.**
 - a. Proposed Councillor Street, seconded Councillor Ashdown that the minutes of the Co-option Meeting held on 3rd September, 2015 be signed as a correct record. 6 for, 1 abstention. Carried.
 - b. Proposed Councillor Cohen, seconded Councillor Knight that the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting held on 3rd September, 2015 be signed as a correct record. Carried unanimously.
- 5. The meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners of Barling Magna to address the Council.**
 - a. Mrs McPherson reported on the Speedwatch initiative and mentioned that volunteers were being sought to be involved in this. The Clerk was asked to put this on the agenda of the next meeting.
- 6. To receive a report from the District and County Councillors for the area on any matters of interest.**

- a. County Councillor Seagers reported on,
 - i. The Local Highways Panel initiative. Parish Councils would be asked to detail the items they would like under this initiative.
 - ii. The new “Quiet Lane” initiative. The Clerk should be receiving literature on this matter.
- b. District Councillor Steptoe reported,
 - i. It was hoped that the new footpath/chevrons would soon be installed at the corner by the Shoulderstick.
 - ii. Consideration is being given to the junction of Shopland/Barling Roads.
 - iii. He would be distributing details of the new “Quiet Lane” initiative. He asked that the Clerk put this on the agenda of the next Full Council Meeting.
 - iv. He suggested that the Parish Council look at the installation of temporary “Smiley/sad” face equipment as a means of highlighting speeding. This could be done as a joint initiative with other Parish Councils. He asked that the Clerk put this on the agenda of the next meeting.

7. Financial Matters.

- a. Proposed Councillor Street, seconded Councillor Knight that the payment requests for September, 2015 be approved. Carried unanimously.
- b. It was agreed that the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st August, 2015, the Financial Statements for the five months to 31st August, 2015 be carried forward to the next meeting.
- c. The Clerk reported that the cost of a temporary repair to the Bus Shelter in Mucking Hall Road would be £140.00 plus VAT. Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Knight that this work be carried out. Carried unanimously.
- d. The Clerk reported that carrying out that the required repairs in the Parish Council Playspace would cost £206.00 plus Vat. Proposed Councillor Edmunds, seconded Councillor Cohen that this work be carried out. Carried unanimously.
- e. The Clerk reported that the current contract with E-on for the supply of power to the street lights owned by the Parish Council expired shortly. He had been supplied with figures for new one, two and three year contracts and he recommended that the Parish Council accepted the two year contract. Councillor Bond proposed that alternative quotes should be obtained from some of the smaller suppliers. The Clerk explained that the supply was unmetered and, when he had carried out this exercise previously, he had found that the smaller companies were not able to quote for an unmetered supply. This was discussed and Councillor Bond’s proposal was seconded by Councillor Ashdown and carried unanimously.

8. Special Motion.

- a. The Special Motion submitted by Councillors Knight, Gardiner and Ashdown that “The decision made under Minute 19.a. of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st May, 2015 that “Parish Councillors may claim an annual allowance in the amount of £212.50 per annum as recommended by Rochford District Council. This would take the place of claims by Councillors for mileage other than attending

meetings on behalf of the Council and sundry items such as stationery and printer cartridges” be amended to read “Parish Councillors may claim an annual allowance in the amount of £212.50 per annum as recommended by Rochford District Council. This would be as an alternative to claims by Councillors for mileage other than attending meetings on behalf of the Council.” Was considered.

- b. Proposed Councillor Ashdown, seconded Councillor Steptoe and unanimously agreed that this matter should be carried forward until all Councillors were present at a meeting.

9. Wildlife Reserve.

- a. Councillor Knight reported that she had made further enquiries about the necessary specification of a mower to replace the existing one. She had not brought the paperwork with her but believed that a replacement would cost approximately £850.
- b. Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Ashdown that the Wildlife reserve Committee be authorised to spend up to £850.00 on the purchase of a new mower. 6 for, 1 abstention. Carried.

10. Christmas Hampers.

- a. Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Knight that the Parish Council fund the distribution of Christmas Hampers at a maximum cost of £450.00. Carried unanimously.
- b. Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Knight that Mrs Dulcie Dobson be asked to distribute the hampers on behalf of the Council. Carried unanimously. Councillor Steptoe offered to assist Mrs Dobson.

11. Christmas Lights.

- a. Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Ashdown that the Parish Council hold a Christmas Light competition at a maximum cost of £100.00. Carried unanimously.
- b. Proposed Councillor Bond, seconded Councillor Knight that a shield inscribed with the winner’s name be presented to the winner on an annual basis and that a budget of £150.00 be provided for this expenditure. Carried unanimously. It was noted that it might be possible to find a sponsor to pay for the shield.

12. Citizen of the Year

- a. The Clerk reported that he had received two nominations for the same persons in the “Over 65” category. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

13. Essex Air Ambulance.

- a. Proposed Councillor Edmunds, seconded Councillor Cohen that the Parish Council make a donation of £100.00 to the Essex Air Ambulance. This would be under Section 106.

14. Planning Matters.

- a. Planning Application 15/00623/FUL relating to 50 Kimberley Rd was considered. It was agreed that the parish Council did not have any comment to make on this matter.
- b. The report dated 11th September, 2015 from Rochford District Council in

- respect of Playstalls, Little Wakering was noted.
- c. The Appeal Decision dated 15th September, 2015 in respect of the proposed development to the rear of The Evergreens was noted.
 - d. The Clerk reported that no other Planning Applications had been received.

15. Rochford Hundred Vintage Tractor & Engine Club.

- b. Councillor Ashdown reported on the presentation evening held by the Rochford Hundred Vintage Tractor & Engine Club at which she was presented with a cheque for £500.00 to be used in the refurbishment of the Village Hall. The Clerk would write thanking them.

16. Parish Plan

- a. Councillor Ashdown reported that the Parish Plan Group had held a workshop. The various subjects discussed were speeding, parking at the school, congestion at the school and rats.

17. Correspondence.

- a. The Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been signed off by the external auditors without comment. He would distribute this to Councillors for consideration at the next meeting and would also display this on the notice boards as required by law.

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

- a. A leaflet was tabled in respect of Rochford Districts Community Older Persons Event (C.O.P.E) to be held on 1st October, 2015. The Clerk would endeavour to put this on the Parish Council notice boards.
- b. Councillor Bond mentioned possibly providing a strimmer to the volunteer who cuts the grass at All Saints Church, Barling. The Clerk was asked to put this on the agenda of the next meeting. Councillor Edmunds declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter.
- c. Councillor Street reported that he had attended an exhibition by Cogent Land in respect of the development in Great Wakering a very small part of which would be in Barling Parish.
- d. Councillor Street reported that he had attended a Chairman Training Day organised by the EALC.
- e. Councillor Street reported that he was expecting several flood alerts over the next few days.
- f. The Clerk reminded Councillors that there was a great deal to do in respect of the Parish Council and he only had a limited amount of time to deal with these matters, He asked that Councillors be patient with their demands.

19. Exclusion of the Press and the Public.

- a. 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.

20. Village Hall.

- a. The Clerk reported that, due to recent legislation, it was a requirement to post the details of the contract in respect of the refurbishment to the

Village Hall on the Government "Contract tender" website. He would be doing this shortly. This would push back the final date for receipt of tenders.

Meeting closed 8.52

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