

BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Barling Magna Parish Council held on Thursday 29th October, 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: J. Watson (Parish Clerk).

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. There were no declarations of interest.
- 4. To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October, 2015.**
 - a. Proposed Councillor Cohen, seconded Councillor Edmunds that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October, 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. No Parishioners were present at the meeting.
- 6. To receive a report from the District and County Councillors for the area on any matters of interest.**
 - a. District Councillor Steptoe had nothing to report.
 - b. No County Councillor was present at the meeting.
- 7. Financial Matters.**
 - a. Proposed Councillor Ashdown, seconded Councillor Edmunds that the payment requests for October, 2015 be approved. Councillor Knight declared a pecuniary interest and did not take part in the discussions or the voting. 5 for, 1 abstention. 1 non vote. Carried.
 - b. Proposed Councillor Ashdown, seconded Councillor Edmunds that this Bank Reconciliation as at 31st August, 2015 and as at 30th September, 2015 be approved. Carried unanimously.

- c. Proposed Councillor Cohen, seconded Councillor Street that the Financial Statements for the six months to 30th September, 2015 be approved. Carried unanimously.

8. Annual Return

- a. The completed Annual Return for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 2015 was noted. It was pointed out that the external auditors had completed their section of the Annual Return without any qualifying comments and the Chair proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk. This was seconded by Councillor Ashdown and carried unanimously.

9. Village Hall

- a. The Clerk reported that ten expressions of interest had been received following the details of the tender being loaded on the Government Contract Finder Website. The closing date for tenders was 7th November, 2015. The Chair, Vice Chair and the Clerk together with the Surveyor running the tender process would be opening the tenders after that date and would be making recommendations to Council at the next Council meeting scheduled for 10th December, 2015.
- b. The Clerk reported that the application to CIF had been acknowledged and he understood that decisions as to allocation of the grant funds would be made in November, He was working with a member of Rochford District Council to find other sources of grant funding. He had also made enquiries with the Public Works Loan Board.

10. Special Motion.

- a. The Special Motion previously submitted by Councillors Knight, Gardiner and Ashdown was considered. It was noted that, at a previous meeting, it had been agreed that this motion should only be considered when all Councillors were present at a meeting. It was agreed that discussion on this item be deferred.
- b. The Clerk pointed out that the six month rule regarding discussion on this matter would have expired by the time of the meeting scheduled for 10th December, 2015 and it would require a request from a Councillor for this matter to be added to the agenda of a future meeting.

11. Frequency of Council Meetings.

- a. Proposed Councillor Cohen, seconded Councillor Steptoe that the Parish Council revert to holding monthly Council meetings to be held on the second Thursday in each month. Carried unanimously.

12. Jubilee Bench.

- a. The proposal that a ceremony be held to mark the installation of the Jubilee Bench was considered and it was agreed that the Chair and the Clerk would make appropriate recommendations to Council at a future meeting.

13. Speedwatch.

- a. It was noted that the training on how to operate speed guns had been postponed.
- b. Proposed Councillor Cohen, seconded Councillor Edmunds and carried unanimously that,

- i. The Clerk approach the Community Safety Partnership to ascertain the possibility of funding to purchase a speed gun and,
 - ii. The Clerk obtain posters for affixing to wheelie bins and,
 - iii. Councillors advise the Clerk of anyone who would be interested in receiving training in operating a speed gun. It was noted that this was open to members of the public.
- c. The Clerk would approach Great Wakering and Sutton Parish Councils to ask whether they would be willing to participate in any of the above initiatives.

14. Traffic Calming Measures.

- a. The proposal that the Parish Council purchase traffic calming equipment for use in the Parish was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries as to the cost of such equipment and would also ascertain whether Great Wakering and Sutton Parish Councils would be interested in joining such an initiative.

15. Christmas Hampers.

- a. Councillor Steptoe reported that he would be working with Mrs Dulcie Dobson regarding the distribution of Christmas Hampers. He would ask Mrs Dobson for a list of the current recipients.

16. Christmas Lights.

- a. Councillor Bond reported that Phillip Splett had offered to sponsor a presentation Shield to be awarded to the winner of the Christmas Lights competition. Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Bond and unanimously agreed that the very kind offer be accepted. Councillor Bond would work with Mr Splett to have the shield ready in time for the presentation ceremony.
- b. Proposes Councillor Cohen, seconded Councillor Edmunds and carried unanimously that Councillor Steptoe organise the judging of the Christmas Lights with a sub-committee to be chosen by him.
- c.

17. Citizen of the Year

- a. The Clerk had received two nominations in respect of the Citizen of the Year award. These nominations were for the same couple who were in the Over 65 category.
- b. Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Ashdown and carried unanimously that that the local Vicar, Rev Kim Kepley, the landlord of the Castle Public House and the Headmistress of Barling Magna Primary School be asked to judge the applications.
- c. It was unanimously agreed that, if possible, the presentation ceremony should take place at the Annual Carol Concert which had previously been arranged by the Rev Alun Hurd and held at the Castle. The Clerk would make enquiries.
- d. Councillor Knight offered to prepare the presentation certificates.

18. All Saints Church, Barling.

- a. The Clerk read out an e-mail received from Lynda Edmunds, Churchwarden of All Saints' Church PCC. Proposed Councillor Steptoe, seconded Councillor Ashdown that the Parish Council make a donation of

£250.00 towards the cost of providing gardening equipment and fuel to the All Saints' Church PCC.

- b. Councillor Edmunds declared a non-pecuniary interest and did not take part in the voting. 6 for, 1 non vote. Carried.

19. Wildlife Reserve.

- a. Councillor Knight gave a brief verbal report in respect of the Wildlife Reserve.
 - i. She would be meeting with a representative from CEETEC regarding the possibility of them providing labour to work in the Reserve. She would prepare a written report after the meeting.
 - ii. She was currently working on refurbishing the notice boards at the Reserve.
 - iii. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting of the Wildlife Reserve Committee.

20. Parish Plan.

- a. Councillor Ashdown reported that there had not been any progress in respect of the Parish Plan.

21. Meetings of Outside Bodies

- a. Councillors Cohen and Ashdown had attended a meeting of the RHALC and reported on various issues covered at that meeting. The minutes would be circulated to Councillors when available.
- b. Councillors Ashdown and Cohen had attended the celebration in respect of District Councillor Heather Glyn's twenty five years as a Councillor

22. Planning Matters.

- a. No Planning Applications had been received.

23. Correspondence.

- a. The Clerk tabled a letter from the Wyvern Community Trust re their Annual general meeting.

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

- a. No issues were raised.

Meeting closed at 8.17 pm

Date of next meeting – 10th December, 2015 – Full Council Meeting.

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