

BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Wildlife Reserve Committee Meeting held on Monday 16th November, 2015 held in St Mary's Church, Little Wakering Road, Little Wakering, Essex commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: - Councillors M. Cohen (Vice Chair of Council and ex-officio Members of the Committee, R. Gardiner (Vice Chair of Committee), I. Knight (Chair of Committee), M. Pearmain, M. Steptoe (Chair of Council and ex-officio Member of the Committee) and L. Street.

In attendance: - A. Golab (Head Volunteer), J. Watson (Parish Clerk).

MINUTES

- 1. The Chair to declare the meeting open.**
 - a. The Chair declared the meeting open.
- 2. To elect a Vice Chair of the Barling Magna Parish Council Wildlife Reserve Committee for the 2015/2016 term of office.**
 - a. Proposed Councillor Knight, seconded Councillor Pearmain that Councillor Gardiner be elected as Vice Chairman of the Wildlife Reserve Committee.
- 3. To receive apologies for absence.**
 - a. There were no apologies for absence.
- 4. 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.
- 5. To agree the Minutes of the Wildlife Reserve Committee held on 30th July, 2015.**
 - a. Proposed Councillor Knight, seconded by Councillor Gardiner that the Minutes of the Wildlife Reserve Committee held on 30th July, 2015 be agreed. 4 for, 2 abstentions, Carried.
- 6. The meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners of Barling Magna to address the Meeting.**
 - a. No Parishioners addressed the Meeting.
- 7. Purchase of Additional Mower.**

- a. The proposal that the Wildlife Reserve Committee recommend to the Parish Council that they purchase an additional mower was discussed and the synopsis of mowers available for use at the Wildlife Reserve as prepared by Councillor Street was considered,
- b. Proposed Councillor Pearmain, seconded Councillor Gardiner that it be recommended to the Parish Council that a Torro 22188 21inch recycler, aluminium deck professional model be purchased from Ernest Doe at a price of £795.00 excluding VAT. 3 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions. Carried.

8. "Brown" Signs.

- a. The proposal that enquiries should be made as to the possibility of erecting "Brown" signs in the locality of the Wildlife Reserve was considered.
- b. It was agreed that Councillors Pearmain and Gardiner would prepare a list of possible locations to be presented to Council.

9. Reimbursement Process.

- a. The Clerk reported that the reimbursement process in respect of purchases for the Wildlife Reserve was that Councillors and Volunteers would be reimbursed by cheque signed at a normal Council Meeting on receipt of purchase invoices.

10. Wildlife Reserve Gate.

- a. The action taken by the "Friends of the Barling Magna Wildlife Reserve" in respect of locking and unlocking the gate to the Wildlife Reserve was considered.
- b. Councillor Steptoe felt that the Parish Council required answers to the following questions, namely,
 - i. Who authorised the "Friends of Barling Magna Wildlife Reserve" to take this action?
 - ii. Was a meeting held at which this action was agreed?
 - iii. Has a Health & Safety Assessment been carried out in respect of locking and unlocking the gates?
 - iv. Are the "Friends" covered by the Parish Council's insurance policy?
 - v. Who holds the keys?
 - vi. What happens if access is required by the emergency services?
 - vii. Who would be liable if someone was locked in to the reserve?
- c. It was noted that the lock at question v. was actually a combination lock and therefore keys were not required. It was also noted that the police were aware of the combination number of the lock.
- d. It was also noted that no answers were forthcoming in respect of items i., ii., iii., iv., vi. and vii.
- e. Proposed Councillor Knight, seconded Councillor Gardiner that the matter be referred to the Parish Council. Carried unanimously.
- f. The Parish Clerk was asked to place an appropriate article on the Parish Website thanking the "Friends" for the thought behind their action.

11. Footbridges.

- a. The purchase and installation of wire on the footbridges at the Wildlife Reserve was discussed. Councillor Steptoe agreed to supply details of

the action taken by Rochford District Council.

12. “Friends of Barling Magna Wildlife Reserve” Facebook Page.

- a. The recent postings to the “Friends of Barling Magna Wildlife Reserve” Facebook page were noted.

13. Visit by Seetec.

- a. Councillor Knight reported on the recent visit to the Wildlife Reserve by a representative from Seetec with a view to them providing labour at the Reserve.
- b. Unfortunately, due to the requirement to commit to a minimum number of hour per person per week, it would not be possible to commit to this.

14. Signage.

- a. Councillor Knight tabled the proposed wording to go on the entrance board to the Wildlife Reserve. Subject to certain minor amendments this was agreed.
- b. The Clerk asked that she add some wording relating to the retrospective planning permission relating to the extension to the pond, He would supply this wording to her.

15. Exchange of Information.

- a. Councillor Steptoe asked whether the fencing in the Wildlife Reserve had been completed. Councillor Ashdown expected this to be completed in January.

Meeting closed 9.03 pm

Issued 19th January, 2016.