

BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held Thursday 8th June 2023, in the Barling Magna Parish Hall, Barling Magna, Essex.

Present: Councillors Ashdown, Bright, Edmunds, Efde, Glover, McKillop (Vice Chair), McPherson, Myers, and Steptoe (Chair)

Attending: County and District Councillor Steptoe,
District Councillors Efde, McPherson and Myers
Interim Clerk Sally Faulkner
Administrator Steph Rochester

MINUTES

- 18/23 The Chairman to declare the meeting open.**
The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.00 pm.
- 19/23 To receive apologies for absence.**
Apologies were received from District Councillors Gooding and Williams
- 20/23 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.**
20/23.1 Cllr Steptoe declared an interest in any matters relating to the County or District Councils. In any planning matter, he reserved the right to change his mind when the matter was considered by the County and District Councils. He also declared an interest in St Mary's Church CIC, to which he has been appointed chairman.
20/23.2 Cllrs Efde and McPherson declared an interest in any matters relating to District Council. In any planning matter, they reserve the right to change their mind when the matter is considered by the District Council.
- 21/23 To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11th May 2023**
21/23.1 It was proposed by Cllr Ashdown, seconded by Cllr Edmunds, and agreed unanimously, that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2023 be approved.
- 22/23 General Power of Competence**
22/23.1 It was resolved that the parish meets the conditions to enable the council to use the General Power of Competence. Following a proposal by Cllr McPherson and seconded by Cllr Efde, and a unanimous vote.
- 23/23 The meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners of Barling Magna to address the Council.**
23/23.1 Council enquired as to whether any enforcement action was being taken at Barling Lodge and were advised that RDC is dealing with the issue.

23/23.2 District Cllr Myers advised that RDC will be moving to a committee system from April 2024.

24/23 Financial matters

24/23.1 Admin Assistant explained where we were with Audit and that extra time had been requested from the External Auditor.

24/23.2 The payment requests for June 2023 were received and proposed by Cllr Ashdown and seconded by Cllr Glover, agreed by all for chair to sign, subject to the payment to Does not being included.

	Payee	Description	£
Direct Debit	E.on	Parish Hall electricity (June 23)	48.51
Direct Debit	E.on	Parish Hall gas (June 23)	67.22
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Combined broadband and mobile (June 23)	46.74
Direct Debit	N Power	Street Lighting	264.74
BACS	HMRC	PAYE	550.69
BACS	Staff	April Salaries	1,852.30
BACS	Brunel	Website and 365	334.56
BACS	Essex County Gardens	Grounds Maintenance March	308.68
BACS	MPE Alarms	Hall and Wildlife annual maintenance	72.00
BACS	EuroLube	Gas Oil	31.50
BACS	Elbon Blinds	Vertical Blinds committee room	395.00
		Total payments	3971.94

24/23.3 It was agreed to pay the CAMEO payment to MB subject to receipts being provided. Proposed by Cllr McKillop, seconded by Cllr Efde and agreed by all.

24/23.4 Councillors confirm who wished to claim allowances and that they will be paid in July, Oct, Jan and April.

24523 Clerks Report

25/23.1 Council had received an offer from Mandy Cohen to restock the boat with bedding plants, Clerk was asked to accept with thanks.

25/23.2 Clerk has been advised that one of the Defibrillators need new parts, she has asked them to confirm location and it was unanimously agreed for parts to be purchased.

25/23.3 Essex Highways update was noted and salt bins to be checked, to ascertain if salt required.

25/23.4 It was agreed that Council will meet in the meeting room at 5pm on 26th June to sort through the cupboard.

25/23.5 RDC update was received regarding the committee system being introduced from 2024.

25/23.6 The Great Wakering Community Association autumn newsletter - copy is due by the end of June. It was agreed to update the Councillors information where applicable and include the Halloween Quiz on 28th October 2023. Cllr McKillop will work with Clerk to forward to the editor.

26/23 Committee Reports

26/23.1 Wildlife Reserve Committee Meeting held on 5th June 2023, Cllr Myers (Chair of Committee) gave a verbal report including:

- A request for a new Cyle Rack and for it to be moved inside. Agreed.
- Two new dog waste bins – quotes to be brought to next meeting.
- New cutting blades (3) and Tractor Service to be arranged via Does.
- Clerk to obtain quotes for CCTV.
- To consider possible income on CCTV (YouTube).
- It was agreed to hold a Thank You BBQ for the volunteers on site at either 3 or 4 pm on 15th July 2023.
- It was mentioned that the suggested map is too “busy” there was discussion about this and agreed to consult with public.

26/23.2 Council have been offered either a Pendant or a Flag if they are successful in their Green Flag Award submission. Clerk to ask if we could have one of each if we pay for one of them.

26/23.3 The RDC filming event will take place on Sunday 11th June, after it had to be cancelled due to flooding earlier in year.

27/23 Parish Hall

27/23.1 GG gave the annual update on Hall Matters. Which included:

- Men’s toilet has a leak, Clerk to arrange repair.
- Reminder to ensure that Hall Manager advised prior to works being undertaken.
- It was agreed that the office will update the Terms & Conditions, bring them to Council and Hall Committee for agreement.
- S Bond has advised that the Hall Floor Buffer needs a new battery. This was discussed and it was agreed that this item is purchased.

27/23.2 It was suggested that all keyholders have a WhatsApp group to arrange cover if required at short notice. Cllr McPherson to set up once Clerk confirms who holds keys.

27/23.3 Clerk received email from Hall Secretary requesting Annual payment be resumed, all agreed. Also invite Hall volunteers to archive sorting.

21:02 Hall Manager and District Cllr Myers left the meeting.

28/23 Planning Matters

28/23.1 23/00469/FUL 365 Little Wakering Road Change of Use and rear extension.

This application was discussed and agreed to object on the following grounds:

- Overdevelopment of site
- Not able to leave the property in forward gear, when driving.
- Loss of a residential family property
- For the requested property class change three parking space will not be sufficient.
- Concern that the window locations may cause overlooking to neighbours.

29/23 Reports from outside bodies

29/23.1 No meetings have been held.

30/23 Street Lighting

30/23.1 Cllrs were asked to email Clerk/Admin the locations to assist while they get to know the area.

31/23 Reports from District and County Councillors

31/23.1 Reports from District Cllrs were received including, how the Committee System might work, following the hung council and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties.

31/23.2 Report from County Cllr was received including, Barling Hall Road, general road resurfacing and that a Disabled Parking Bay has been agreed outside Barling Church.

32/23 At the Chairs discretion, to exchange information and items for future meetings.

32/23.1 Finance and Staffing meeting are on 22nd June 2023 – apologies from Cllr Efde

32/23.2 Next meeting is on 13th July 2023 at 7pm

32/23.3 Items for next meeting to include update on the Parry, phone contract, purchase of hall banner for parties.

Exclusion of the Press and the Public.

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.

33/23 To consider legal advise and take action as may be required.

33/23.1 The Solicitors advise was received and Clerk outlined the minimal risk should MP's Will be challenged.

33/23.2 Cllr McPherson proposed that council pay the outstanding monies.

33/23.3 Cllr Steptoe amended the proposal to include subject to the indemnity being signed by both Executors. This was agreed and seconded by Cllr McPherson.

33/23.4 It was unanimously carried.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.55.

* * * * *