

Minutes of the Barham Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 01 December 2022 in Barham Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr Diane Tatt (Chairman), Carolyn Hunt (Vice Chair), Andreas Tatt, Ernie Mullet, Stephen Manning, Gary Graham and David Wood.

KCC and CCC Cllr Sole, Mr A Holland. to record the meeting due to the Clerk being unwell. No members of the public were present

111. The Chairman's opening remarks and apologies for absence

Cllr D. Tatt welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that apologies had been received from John Brooks, due to another engagement and the Clerk Joanne Pannell due to illness.

112. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

113. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last full parish council meeting held on 03 November 2022 were agreed by all Councillors present as a true record of the meeting, the Chairman duly signed them at the meeting.

114. Adjournment of the meeting

There were no members of the public present.

115. KCC and CCC Cllr Mike Sole's report

Cllr Sole's report was presented as follows:

As this is my final report for 2022, may I first wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and thank you all for the support and friendship during the last year.

The Canterbury draft Local Plan consultation runs until 16 January 2023. Please do take the time to let the council know what you think, I have continued with **Adisham** and **Womenswold** residents in opposing the new town at Cooting Farm and further expansion of Aylesham, by attending the public meeting of around 200 people in Addisham church and also a meeting of several local parish councils working to fight these developments.

I attended a meeting with representatives of the Association of Canterbury Residents Associations (ACRA) and Corinthian who are the developers for **Mountfield Park** in order to clarify several issues arising from that huge development that will see 4,000 homes built between Canterbury and the outskirts of Bridge.

On highway issues I am very pleased to have been able to sign off on the grants for the 30mph limit in **Woolage Village and the 40mph limit on Stone Street, Petham**. I look forward to seeing these both implemented next year.

I attended the parish council meetings at **Bridge, Upper Hardes and Petham** in November.

I am taking up with KCC the issue of the large number of bus stops that are not wheelchair accessible, and I will be pushing for improvements, not only in our area, but around the county.

Bus capacity issues continue to be an issue and I have passed on many complaints that I have received to KCC so that they can take these up with Stagecoach – I am still waiting for a response but have chased this up.

The recent rain has highlighted a number of drainage issues, and I have been addressing these with the KCC drainage team to get work either carried out or programmed in **Bekesbourne, Kingston, Petham and Pett Bottom**. I have also reported a number of potholes and met on site with KCC to review the poor condition of Valley Road, **Barham**.

I attended the **KCC Flood Risk Management Committee** and **Growth, Economic and Development Cabinet Committee**. Once again, I raised issues with **Southern Water** about their discharges of sewerage

into the sea and their plans to reduce this. I also attended a meeting of the **Internal Drainage Board** and **Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue Authority**.

At Canterbury City Council Scrutiny Sub-Committee, I raised the questions about the performance of **Canenco's** waste collection service and the council's housing service. I also attended the **Joint Transportation Board** and continue to work with residents and businesses opposed to the **Wincheap Gyrotory scheme**.

I am pleased to see that the City Council and Parish Councils has ow agreed the Parish Charter. A lot of work has been put into this by the parishes and it should set a framework for how the parishes and city council work together.

Other issues covered include local PCSO provision, fire hydrant maintenance, planning enforcement and housing.

Cllr D. Tatt asked if there were any questions for Cllr Sole? Cllr A. Tatt asked about the resurfacing being carried out on the A2, the 50mph signs have been up for some four months and no more resurfacing appears to have been carried out so why have they not been removed? Cllr Sole replied that the signs were put in situ by Highways England, so it was down to them to remove them. Cllr Sole mentioned that there were no other City Councillors present at the recent meeting to sign off the Parish Charter, noting that many CCC Cllrs do not go to Parish Council meeting's on a regular basis and do not provide Parishes with a monthly report, he has recommended training for all new City Cllrs to understand the role that Parishes play in their respective work. Cllr Hunt explained that the Charter was a two-way document and Parishes could hold City Cllrs to account if things are not being adhered to. Cllr D. Tatt asked what the thought process had been behind the proposed gyrotory system in Wincheap? Cllr Sole explained that it was to make more resident's use the buses rather than driving into the city, he continued that CCC had failed to consult the public on the scheme which had been agreed by the City Council some six years ago and KCC were committed to delivering it. Cllr D. Tatt explained that CCC had rescinded on some initiatives on previous occasions' so this may happen again.

Cllr Sole confirmed that he is continuing to work with KCC Highways regarding the resurfacing of Valley Road, but the officers remain adamant that this is not a critical piece of work, Cllr Sole will continue to lobby KCC about this issue.

116. Use of S101 delegation to the Clerk since the last meeting: None

117. Financial matters

The online payments since the last meeting were noted.

Payments for December to be made as follows:

- Clerks December salary
- HMRC NI - £26.98
- KCC Pension - £274.63
- Grass Cutting for late November - £1,105.00
- Canterbury City Council – design and print 2x no dog signs for Brickfield - £24.00
- Cllr Hunt purchase of Tree guards - £270.00
- Colin Parsons – two loads of plannings for Brickfield Recreation entrance - £1105.00
- Dynamix Q3 to end December - £25.20
- S Miles – Hedge cutting in Brickfield Recreation ground - £179.00
- Cantina Arboricultural Services – Site survey & Tree work recommendations - £595.00

All payments above were agreed to be paid by all Cllrs present.

○ Other financial matters

- The bank statements and bank reconciliation for October had been posted to Cllr Graham for scrutinising and signing. He had duly returned these to the Clerk.
- Following the precept working group held on 24 November 2022 to set the 2023-2024, the figures had been updated and recirculated to Cllrs. Cllr Graham had a preference not to uplift next year's

precept and have it remain at the previous year's level which was a 1.5% increase, given the current economic situation. Cllr Wood explained that the Parish Council had previously held the figure at the previous year's amount but in the subsequent year the % had risen quite sharply to compensate which had upset some residents. Cllr Wood thought to avoid this happening again the 4.3% increase for the next financial year should be accepted which amounted to 28 pence a month increase for a Band D property. It was agreed that the increase would be posted on the website and Facebook to make the public aware of this and which may encourage more residents to attend the meetings in future. Cllr Wood proposed to accept the increase and Cllr Hunt seconded, all members present agreed with the uplift and precept proposed.

- A quote had been received by a local company Wolf Services to rub down and treat the 10 wooden benches in the Village at a cost of £70 per bench. This quote was agreed and accepted by all present. The Clerk will inform Wolf Services of the decision.

118. Publicity & Communications including website

Cllr A. Tatt explained that at the previous meeting it was agreed to post on Facebook details of the CCC Local Plan consultation running from 24 October 2023 closing on 16 January 2023 to encourage residents to go online to submit any comments on the plan. Cllr A. Tatt explained that he had also posted the reduction of speed limits by KCC from 05 December 2022 to 16th January 2023 on the Old Dover Road and Canterbury Road from the National speed limit to 40mph during this period.

Cllr D. Tatt explained that she had received an email from the head teacher at the school expressing concern that parents dropping off and picking up children at the school were parking on double yellow lines and grass verges. The head teacher had written letters to parents and posted on their website asking parents to be mindful of where they were parking, but it appears these requests had been ignored so had asked the Parish Council if more could be done. The local PCSO had been asked to attend during busy periods to talk to parents about their parking, but the response from the PCSO was that she was too busy to attend at present.

Cllr Sole offered to ask parking enforcement at CCC to visit the school at peak times to remind parents that it was an offence to park on double yellow lines. Cllr Sole asked if the issues were worse in the morning or afternoons, Cllr Hunt responded that both times were busy and even more so if it was raining. Cllr Hunt explained that during this time of year parking on the grass verges left tyre tracks and made the areas very muddy, parking was also bad along Valley Road in general. Cllr Wood explained that KCC did not appear to be interested in protecting their assets in terms of the verges in question. Cllr D. Tatt asked for a note to be put out saying to be aware that if you are parking on a grass verge you may get a ticket for the offence. The Clerk was asked to add the protection of the grass verges onto the HIP document. Cllr Sole informed the meeting that the proposed double yellow lines requested in Valley Road outside the Village Hall / shop will be put to the next JTB and painted on the road during March 2023.

119. Queens Green Canopy update

Cllr Hunt explained that the commemorative trees were now in situ, with two Silver Birches, one apple, one flowering cherry and an oak tree. It had been planned to collect the remaining seventy trees this week from Charing, but conditions were too wet to dig them up, so the collection is now planned for early next week with planting due to be started weekend commencing 10 December, however this is to be confirmed. Once confirmed posters will be displayed encouraging residents to bring a spade and come along to assist in planting some trees.

120. Highways

Cllr D. Tatt explained that correspondence had been received from UKPN seeking permission to supply a new electricity supply to Sparrow Court, Gravel Castle Road and to do this UKPN will need to upgrade the box that is on the pole in the field next door and excavate into an existing trench to lay a cable. Cllr Hunt explained that the previous supply had been an overhead supply and this request related to permission to lay the cable underground which would not cause any problems if the work was carried out in the local vicinity. All Cllrs present agreed that this work should go ahead.

To report any road issues OR resurfacing requests please report them online to KCC Highways using this link - <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

121. Open Spaces

Basketball court in the Village. The Clerk had forwarded the young man's contact details to Cllr Graham who had contacted him via email, but he had not had a response. The meeting agreed to park this item for the time being, unless they hear from the young man again.

Outdoor gym equipment – Cllr Hunt read out the research carried out by the Clerk, noting the likely cost to be between £20K to 25K. Cllr D. Tatt stated that it was very expensive, and Cllr Wood explained that any such a large project would require a capital grant from the City Council with the Parish Council funding over half of this amount. Cllr D. Tatt asked where it was proposed to install the equipment, Cllr Wood replied that it would either be the recreation ground or the Village green, but there are limits to what you can put on a Village Green and the Clerk was going to investigate if this would be allowed.

Cllr D. Tatt asked if there was any consensus for going ahead with such a project? Cllr Hunt thought that it was unnecessary with all that is already in the Village for people to enjoy. Cllr Wood explained that some people travel to the Bridge site specifically to use their outdoor equipment but was unsure of the number of people who did so. Cllr Graham explained that he had recently visited friends in Essex who had an outside table tennis table which was weather resistant so this maybe a cheaper alternative. Cllr D. Tatt explained that the Parish Council were already committed to the maintenance of the play equipment, the zip wire etc, so do we need to add another maintenance cost to the list that we already have? Cllr D. Tatt asked the meeting if this item should be parked given the current costs for maintenance of external equipment, Cllr Hunt agreed. Cllr D. Tatt agreed that in the current financial climate this was not an appropriate use of Parish Council funds. All Cllrs present agreed to park this idea for the moment.

Cllr D. Tatt asked the meeting if the Parish Council would like to purchase a Christmas tree this year? Cllr Mullet replied that Mr Clough had already asked this question and Cllr Mullet had agreed that the Parish Council would want one, so it should be delivered next week. Cllr Wood explained that a new piece of rubber matting would need to be purchased to protect the cables, Cllr D. Tatt will look at the width required on leaving the evening meeting. Cllr Hunt explained that volunteers will be needed to put the lights on, ideally the top lights need to be put on the tree before it is erected, Cllr Hunt also explained that this needed to be co-ordinated so that when the tree arrives this can be done. Cllr D. Tatt asked for notice to be given before the tree is due to arrive so that this can be organised.

Play Areas Rubber Matting Replacement – Cllr D. Tatt asked why there was such a difference in the two proposals, Cllr Hunt explained that the most expensive quote was to provide all the ground works and relay new matting under the equipment whereas the cheaper quote was just to repair the current matting and the ground works need to be carried out by the PC. The Clerk was asked to seek alternative quotes and to ask the contractor who provided the cheaper quote for an updated quote to include the ground works required. This matter will be included on the February agenda. Cllr Wood asked for the Clerk to ascertain who conducted the last repairs and contact them for a quote.

122. Footpaths & Rights of Way

Cllr A. Tatt explained that there was a post on Facebook about a PROW issue, but he was unable to pinpoint the location of the fault.

Cllr Mullet explained that the road surface to the entrance of Brickfield Road recreation ground was breaking up. Cllr Hunt explained the issue to Cllr Sole and highlighted that it may need some sort of edging at the edge of the road to prevent Brickfield Road breaking up further. Cllr Sole explained that the rain may have caused this, washing away the soft edge at the side of the surfaced road. Cllr D. Tatt asked if KCC may consider installing a low kerb stone along this section? Cllr Sole explained that it should be reported to KCC as an issue in the usual way and if you do not hear back, he will follow it up. Cllr Hunt will report this fault on the KCC portal and upload some photographs. Cllr Sole explained that if the fault was not safety critical, they may not do anything, so this could be added to the HIP. Thanks were noted to Cllr Mullet for obtaining the plannings, which he explained are very scarce right now.

Cllr Hunt explained that the wooden gate in and out of Brickfield alongside Rabbit Hole is not fully functional, there was a suggestion about getting a gate of the type used by the PROW team. The Clerk

had not heard back from KCC PROW on this issue but Cllr Hunt had found a website with similar galvanised gates. Initially the ground will need to be levelled due to the build up of mud. Cllr Hunt has sent the Clerk a website link so that she can investigate a new gate.

123. Village Clubs and Societies

Cllr Hunt explained that a farmer friend had reduced the allotment hedge height by another foot or so to allow more sun into the allotment space. Cllr Mullet explained that the permissive footpath sign as you come out of Valley Road has been knocked off and missing where it says do not turn left. It was concluded that the Parish Council purchased replacement signs. Cllr Hunt will visit the site and report her findings to the Clerk to order another sign to replace the missing one.

124. External organisations

Highland Court Farm visit, Cllr D. Tatt explained that four Cllrs attended the site on 21 November. Cllr D. Tatt continued that they had some interesting plans with a potential that Chapel Down wine blending and offices will be sited here in the future and there is a proposal for a new build site on the old pumpkin field. Although this does not affect Barham directly, it may have ripple effects to the village in terms of employment potential. The existing vineyards are staying and there is a proposal to incorporate a wine visitor centre. Cllr Hunt noted that there was good road access to the site.

125. Clerk report including correspondence

The Chairman noted that EDF energy had confirmed that the Governments Energy Bill Relief scheme will discount business electricity prices for six months, from 01 October to 31 March 2023. Following communication Charities Buying Group to ascertain if they could assist in reducing the street lighting costs, they responded saying that they could not assist the Parish Council because it was on an unmetered supply. The streetlight out in The Street has been reported to the maintenance contractor and the street lights in Valley Road were reported to the contractor because they were not coming on at the correct times. This was a BT infrastructure failure.

Overgrown tree in The Causeway, the UKPN contractor could not find the tree with power lines growing through them, the clerk requested for the exact location so that she could confirm with UKPN. Cllr Hunt agreed to highlight on a map for the Clerk to forward to UKPN. The Chairman explained that following Cllr Hunts assessment of the gates to PROW footpaths the Clerk had reported the issues on the PROW portal requesting some prices for replacement gates but had not received a reply to date. Cllr Hunt confirmed that she had sent a link to the Clerk, as earlier noted, with a link to a website for replacement gates. The Clerk had written a letter of complaint to Nat West bank enquiring how we could access the monies held in the reserve account and close it down. The Chairman asked the meeting if they agreed to the Clerk making an appointment at the Canterbury Nat West branch with a signatory to the account to ask for both the current and reserve account to be closed. All Councillors present agreed to this course of action.

126. Planning applications

New planning applications since the last meeting:	
38.	CA/22/02324 Proposal: First floor side extension Location: 10 Fox Way, Barham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6QJ – comments close on 9 th December CA/22/02478 Proposal: Detached 2 story dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling Location: Midways, Railway Hill, Barham, CT4 6PZ – comments close on 06 January 2023
	New planning decisions since the last meeting
	None

You can view and comment on applications online at https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/planningsearch

The Chairman was confused about application number CA/22/02478 that had been received today, Cllr Hunt thought that a mistake had been made on this because the application says demolition of the existing building on Railway Hill but this had been burnt down, however the remains of the previous house are in situ so this could require some demolition. The plans show what they are planning to build, not the building that had previously burnt down. The Chairman had looked at the plans and it appears to reflect building on the existing footprint containing a kitchen, diner, bedroom, toilet etc and would have a more modern feel to it. Cllr Hunt and the Chairman concluded that the Clerk should notify the City Council about the terminology used as this is not the current building but the proposed new build.

Local Plan comments: Cllr Hunt had some thoughts on the Barham Court Farm planning proposal which may be relevant to the adjacent Local Plan proposal. The Barham Court Farm planning proposal provides two sections under one development with half accessed by traffic through Church Lane and half through the Valley Road with only footpath access between the two sections. Similarly, the Local Plan proposal would be best served with traffic access only via the Valley Road and the connection to The Grove accessible only via footpath thus not increasing traffic through The Grove. Cllr Wood explained that residents in The Grove have always been opposed to increased traffic in the area. In addition, Cllr Hunt recommended that the lower section of the land should be designated as parking to reduce the challenges of school traffic and as overflow parking for the Village Hall and Shop. The Chairman enquired if these comments could be made now? Cllr Sole agreed that they could be. It was agreed that the Clerk would upload these comments to the Local Plan portal. The Chairman asked if there were any further comments in relation to the Local Plan and that Cllrs would like to think about any responses and send to the Clerk for uploading to the portal.

127. Councillors items

Cllr A. Tatt had reported again the flashing school lights on Valley Road being on during the evening to KCC, but this could take up to six weeks to action and we were at week four. Cllr Wood had seen a new Government Grant to purchase community assets, he will send a link to the Clerk to investigate. Cllr Hunt asked Cllr Mullet if the fence repair at the bottom of his garden that has been on the action report for some time had been repaired? Cllr Mullet replied that it had not been repaired to date. The Chairman suggested approaching Mr Clough again after Christmas.

Cllr Hunt asked if Cllr Wood would accompany her on a visit to the flint wall around the Church yard to ascertain which parts were made up of flint that needed repairing. Cllr Wood agreed to this. Cllr Sole explained that usually he had Christmas hampers to donate to residents of the Parishes he serves. This year a supermarket voucher scheme will be in operation for seven households to receive and he asked Cllrs to let him know of any families in the Village that may be struggling so that they could receive one. Cllr Wood suggested giving one to the Coffee Stop which happened on each Tuesday of the month. Cllr Sole did not know if he could award this to such a community organisation but will find out and let the Clerk know.

128. Date of next meeting

Cllr D. Tatt reminded Cllrs that the next Parish Council meeting will take place on 02 February 2023 at 7.30pm in Barham Village Hall. THERE IS NO MEETING IN JANUARY 2023.

Provisional dates for Full Council:

Proposed date and time of the parish council meetings (2022 - 2023):

To start at 7.30pm – no meeting in January 2023, 02 February 2023 and 02 March 2023.

And committee meeting dates *should these be required*: 19 January

The meeting closed at 8.48pm.

Signed:
Chairman, Cllr Diane Tatt

Date:

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until the parish council approves them at their next parish council meeting.