

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th JANUARY 2020 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD.

PRESENT: Cllr Gooch in Chair, Cllr Manser, Cllr Doe, Cllr Vizzard, Cllr Parker and Clerk Mrs N Attwood.

IN ATTENDANCE: Three members of the public present

PARISHIONERS OPEN SESSION:

Two members of the public had attended the meeting to discuss and hear updates on agenda items 5.6 Footpath between Wesley Close & Banky Meadow and 6.1 Planning - Taylor Wimpey Exhibition. These items were brought forward and discussed as minuted below. The residents also enquired about the possibility of a crossing being installed by the Robin on the Green public house and why a public rights of way path had been closed off. Cllr Vizzard confirmed that something is happening regarding the crossing and he believes that it is at the design stage. The delay is due to funding as regulations have tightened regarding spending of funds; he is optimistic that something should be in place during 2020.

The closed footpath being referred to was MR108 which is the path by the water tower. Cllr Gooch confirmed that Gallagher's were leaving it open over the Christmas period for residents to enjoy but would then be putting in place a detour due to quarry work. The residents confirmed that the whole area is fenced off; Cllr Doe will contact Gallagher's for further information.

The third member of the public had attended the meeting to inform members of an incident regarding litter pickers along the A26. He had requested that the volunteers stop the litter pick as he felt that they were putting themselves and other road users at risk. He feels that as MBC are not carrying out scheduled litter picks along this road, members of the public now feel that they have to do it instead. Cllr Gooch did not agree with the comments and confirmed that upon request, MBC do arrange litter picks. MBC, Highways and KCC all work together and no request had been put in. Members of BPC asked the Clerk to submit a request for litter to be cleared along the A26 from Barming parish up to Teston Lane.

Cllr Gooch confirmed that the volunteers had approached her in good community spirit and wanted to do a litter pick. Cllr Gooch had informed them of the normal protocol due to red tape and suggested that they approach MBC or BPC for safety reasons. The volunteers decided not to do this and Cllr Gooch reminded them that any work that was carried out was at their own risk and that they would not be covered by any insurance. It was suggested that they consider wearing hi-visibility workwear for their own safety. It was a real shame that they were stopped as it was all being done in good spirit and they were doing a great job.

After the open session and the relevant agenda items had been discussed, all members of the public left the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES:** None
2. **NOTIFICATION TO BE RECEIVED FOR INTENT TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS.**
No intent to record any items.
3. **COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**
Cllr Manser declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.3 (cheques to be signed)
Cllr Gooch declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.3 (cheques to be signed)
4. **MINUTES of the Meeting held on 20th November 2019**
The minutes were **Agreed** as an accurate record and the Chairman signed off the official copy
5. **RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

5.1 Parish Field Path Extension

Members ratified the previous decision of all in favour to accept the quotation from Whites Landscaping. Due to no meeting being held in December the decision was made via email so was formally noted.

5.2 Parish Field Play Area Surfacing

The Clerk has accepted the quotation from Safe Play and they will make contact when the ground conditions improve to inform her when the work will commence. Cllr Gooch and the Clerk were happy to inform members that funding has been received from the Parks Projects Department at Maidstone Borough Council; we were lucky enough to be given 50% towards the total cost of the project which is fantastic. Cllr Gooch has also approached Paulina Stockell (KCC), Golding Homes and the Kent County Playing Fields Association. Unfortunately, Golding Homes cannot give further funding in the same financial year and Cllr Gooch is yet to receive a response from KCC. The Kent County Playing Fields are considering our request and will hopefully reach a decision by February.

5.3 Parish Field & Play Area Signage

Cllr Gooch presented examples and suggestions for signage of both areas. Members agreed on designs and it was decided that Cllr Gooch will contact Maidstone Signs regarding the cost and then send proofs and details to members once received.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch

5.4 Parish Hall: Replacement Heaters

Cllr Manser has brought to the Clerks attention that two of the heaters in the hall are only working on half power. Although the third one is working at the moment, Cllr Manser feels that it would be prudent to replace all three. At the beginning of December one faulty heater was replaced and the other three were working perfectly. The replacement heater in December cost £120.10 to supply and fit so based on this price the total cost for three heaters would be £360.30. All Members were in favour to replace the three remaining heaters.

ACTION: Clerk

5.5 Grounds Maintenance 2020 Price Review

The annual price review has been received which is a saving of £196.85 against last year's price. Members were all in favour of accepting the review. Cllr Manser asked for a reminder to be sent regarding the trimming of the east side hedge of the parish field.

ACTION: Clerk

5.6 Footpath between Wesley Close & Banky Meadow: Aggregate Quotations

Cllr Gooch has met with a contractor on site to discuss the work needed and a quotation will be sent to the Clerk. The Clerk has contacted Gallagher's to see if they can assist in any way. This item is in hand and hopefully aggregate will be placed down soon. Cllr Doe and Cllr Parker will be working together to complete the necessary paperwork for the rights of way application.

ACTION: Cllr Doe, Cllr Parker

5.7 Annual Parish Meeting

Members agreed for the annual meeting to be held at 7.30pm after the full council meeting on Wednesday 15th April 2020 at 6.30pm. It was suggested that Taylor Wimpey are invited as the guest speaker to give local residents the opportunity to ask questions regarding future development plans; part one North Street and part two Pea Field. The Clerk will contact Taylor Wimpey and also check availability of Barming Primary School for the date required.

ACTION: Clerk

5.8 KALC Community Awards Adoption & Nomination

Members agreed not to adopt the community awards this year.

5.9 Annual Subscription Renewal: Campaign to Protect Rural England

The annual renewal was authorised with all members in favour.

5.10 Funding Request: Heart of Kent Hospice

Cllr Parker proposed £50.00 of funding which was seconded by Cllr Manser carried by a majority vote.

5.11 Funding Request: Kent Community Railway Partnership

Cllr Gooch proposed £100.00 of funding which was seconded by Cllr Doe with four members in favour and Cllr Manser abstaining.

5.12 WI Centenary Celebrations

The WI is celebrating its centenary this year and the local Barming WI has approached Cllr Gooch with the suggestion of planting 100 bulbs in the parish for everyone to enjoy in the future. Members were all in favour to let the WI plant the bulbs and agreed that they should be planted either side of the Jubilee seat on the Tonbridge Road.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Applications received prior to the meeting

5 Bull Orchard 19/506411/LAWPRO – Lawful Certificate for erection of proposed single storey side extension – No objection.

Comments submitted over the Christmas period:

The Basin Riverside 19/505598 – No Objections

Ellisfield North Pole Rd 19/505665 – No Objections

1 Hop Garden 19/505991 – Wish to see condition imposed to ensure the annexe remains ancillary to the main house to prevent it becoming a separate dwelling, to protect the design and character of the street scene and in the interest of local amenity.

38 South Street 19/505992 – No Objections – Cllr Manser wished to record a 'no comment' on this application.

TPO South Street 19/506060 – No Objections to the crown lifting but BPC Objects to the Scotts Pine being removed as it is a healthy tree.

Taylor Wimpey Public Exhibition: Members were reminded of the exhibition that will take place at Oakwood House, Oakwood Road, ME16 8AE on Tuesday 28th January 2020 regarding the proposed housing development at the 'Pea Field'. Cllr Manser will attend the private viewing in the afternoon and Cllr Doe & Cllr Parker will attend the public viewing that evening between 4pm and 8pm. Cllr Vizzard declared an interest as he is a member of the planning committee so will not be involved in any discussions. Taylor Wimpey are proposing to open up Broomshaw Road for access as Kent Highways are requesting a secondary vehicular access. This will inevitably lead to a 'rat run' through Heath Road, North Street and causes concerns regarding the narrow residential streets around Barming. There will be a huge amount of backlash regarding the secondary access as it was previously promised to be emergency access only. The Parish Council urges all residents to attend the exhibition.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Budget Monitoring

The Clerk circulated prior to the meeting.

7.2 Income received and any unpaid invoices

Hirer payments	£2090.67
Natwest Interest	£11.98
Barming News Advert	£239.50
MBC Grant for Mulch Surface	£2390.00

Unpaid Invoices

Cllr Manser reported three unpaid invoices from one hirer so the Clerk will now send out a demand letter for immediate payment.

ACTION: Clerk

Confirmation of payments made

To authorise the following payments, made since the last Meeting:

DD – EDF Electric Pavilion	£57.00
DD – EDF Electric Parish Hall	£59.00
DD – Castle Water – Parish Hall	£14.22
DD – Castle Water – Allotments	£26.79
DD – MBC Parish Field Bin Collection	£19.50
DD – BT Parish Hall WIFI	£24.99

7.3 Cheques for signature

To resolve that the following cheques in respect of payments due can be signed:

3246 – Kent Flooring 50% deposit for pavilion flooring - £780.00
3247 – Kent County Council Fire Extinguisher Fix - £62.10
3248 – Commercial Services – Grounds Maintenance - £212.36
3249 – JC Electrical – Pavilion Heater re-fix - £87.00
3250 – HM Revenues and Customs – Employer Payment - £920.33
3251 – Neil Wright – PAT Testing - £50.00
3252 – JC Electrical – New Heater Parish Hall - £120.10
3253 – Dusters – Cleaning Services - £168.00
3254 – Commercial Services – Grounds Maintenance - £172.80
3255 – Kent County Council – Consumables - £66.60
3256 – Kent Flooring – Final Payment with extra work included - £1020.00
3257 – Dusters – Cleaning Services - £210.00

******due to meeting date changes the cheques above have already been signed and posted off to ensure no late fees were added.**

3258 – David J Hadlum – Barming News Printing - £275.00
3259 – Mr Islam – Hire Deposit Refund - £100.00
3260 – R Borreto – Hire Deposit Refund - £50.00

3261 – S Manser – Expenses - £13.41
3262 – Mrs F Gooch – Expenses - £5.40
3263 – Drain King – Pavilion Drain Block - £157.50
3264 – S.A.S Property Maintenance – Parish Hall Wall Repair - £110.00
Employer Costs - £1,471.50

8 MATTERS OF REPORT

8.1 County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Stockell was not present.

8.2 Borough Councillors/Chairman's Report

Cllr Gooch reported on the polling station review and confirmed that there will not be any changes in the location for voting for the residents of Barming. This is due to the lack of privacy in the public house and the concerns over safety. Therefore, voting will continue to be held at the village hall.

Unfortunately, three properties at the Malthouses were flooded just before Christmas despite having flood defence barriers fitted. BPC had previously decided not to be part of the Joint Parishes Flood Group, but fortunately the issue has still been taken up by them and they are in talks with the Environment Agency.

Cllr Gooch has been in contact with the Valuation Office regarding the rates appeal and has provided proof of ownership for the parish hall.

Cllr Gooch wished to thank the volunteers who completed the recent litter pick; they collected 9 bags of rubbish so a big well done. Cllr Gooch has arranged for the bags to be collected by MBC.

8.3 Individual Councillors Report

Cllr Vizzard reported that a pre application meeting with the developers regarding the Pea Field had been held by MBC. There are ongoing discussions regarding layout as there are no open spaces for the benefit of residents.

Cllr Manser and Cllr Parker had spent an afternoon gardening and removing rubbish from around the parish hall and Cllr Parker reported that her husband had kindly sprayed the perimeter with weed killer as well; thanks was given for all of their hard work.

8.4 Clerk Report

Craigdene will no longer be offering annual inspections for the play equipment. New details have been sent through to the Clerk for a replacement company which the Clerk will be contacting.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

CPRE – Fieldwork Winter 2019

Countryside Voices – Winter 2019

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Rd. Cllr Gooch gave her apologies for the February meeting and Cllr Manser agreed to Chair the meeting in her absence.

The meeting was closed at 9.45pm