

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2016

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD

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

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public present

1. APOLOGIES

2. NOTIFICATION TO BE RECEIVED FOR INTENT TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS.
No intent declared

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

Cllr Manser declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.3 (cheques to be signed)
Cllr Gooch declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.3 (cheques to be signed)

4. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 13th January 2016

The minutes were Agreed as an accurate record and the Chairman signed off the official copies.

5. POLICE MATTERS

No PCSO's present

It was reported that Cllr Manser, representing Barming Parish Council and Cllr Gooch as Borough Councillor attended PCSO Frank Woollett's funeral; It was a very moving service and a lovely tribute to Frank.

6. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

6.1 Pavilion Maintenance

It was reported that the new heater had been installed at the pavilion by Austin Electrical and the damaged Cedral weatherboard had been fixed back into place by Gavin Lawrence. Gavin will be looking into the options of mesh/ netting to protect the cladding but is not convinced that this will solve the problem, and it will then look unsightly.

Cllr Manser has been investigating prices of folding tables for the pavilion. The price of the tables worked out at £74.40 each with free delivery. Cllr Manser proposed for 5 tables to be purchased; this was not seconded as members felt they could not warrant the unnecessary spend, it was agreed to review this later on in next year's budget.

The PAT testing has now been completed and on receipt of payment the relevant paperwork will be issued.

The curtains have now been installed and thanks were given to Peter Gooch for completing this work free of charge.

6.2 Football Kick Boards for Hard Standing Play Area

Due to the recent damage of the Cedral weather board at the pavilion, all members are in favour of having some form of kick board installed. The Clerk had picked up some brochures from the recent Society of Local Council Clerks Conference which members viewed.

Cllr Gooch informed members that Sy Cattel from the youth club would like to be involved with any committee meetings regarding the kick boards. Members agreed that it was a good idea to have Sy present at site visits to guide us with decision making.

Cllr Gooch will contact Playdale to find out more information and the possibilities of funding from them. Cllr Hyndman will investigate any other avenues of funding; feedback to be circulated in two weeks.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Cllr Hyndman

6.3 Parish Hall Maintenance

Gavin Lawrence has eased the fire exit door and solved the issue with the push bar; he also looked at the rainwater soak away which is blocked. Unfortunately tree roots are causing the problem and the gulley will have to be dug up for access to clear. Gavin has given a provisional quote of £250; it is difficult to give a fixed price to remedy as it is all hidden below ground. Cllr Gooch proposed to proceed with the work and this was seconded by Cllr Doe. Clerk to contact Gavin.

ACTION: Clerk

Cllr Gooch informed members that the pointing work had now been completed at the front of the building and also underneath the back door. The builder will return to site to remove the support once the cement is dry but the front door can now be used. Peter Gooch has shaved some of the wood from the bottom of the doors as they have been sticking and will move the door plate so that it lines up correctly; Unfortunately this will continue to be a problem as they are natural wooden doors, therefore will continue to swell or shrink with certain weather conditions.

The Clerk made members aware of the fact that Cllr Gooch had been opening and closing the hall whilst the building work was in progress, thus ensuring hirers could gain access; members thanked Cllr Gooch.

Cllr Gooch is keen to get the invoice paid for the pointing work as soon as possible, this is due to the original confusion over the start date; all were in favour for the Clerk to arrange payment once the invoice has been received.

ACTION: Clerk

6.4 Campaign to Protect Rural England

All members were in favour of continuing the membership at the same rate as previous years and the cheque was written.

6.5 Pensions/ Auto Enrolment

The staging date for auto enrolment is 1st July 2016 and a pension scheme must now be chosen. The Clerk recently attended the Local Government Pension Scheme event which was the Kent County Council scheme; the set up costs for this scheme are in the region of £2000-£3000. Although this scheme looked good for employees, the extra charges for support and possible fines for employers were a concern.

The Clerk also attended the Society of Local Council Clerks conference and found that the NEST pension scheme seemed popular with other councils. NEST (National Employers Savings Trust) is free to join, with free ongoing support. It works with leading payroll providers to develop a seamless way of sending data to NEST, this mean employers can manage NEST through payroll software. It is a government scheme, sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions, so any future changes or legal requirements will be kept up to date.

Cllr Gooch proposed for the council to proceed with NEST, seconded by Cllr Greenwood, with all in favour.

6.6 Fire Extinguisher Maintenance

After discussion, it was decided that a one year contract would be signed and the Clerk would seek clarification as to the benefits of signing a longer term agreement. This was proposed by Cllr Greenwood and seconded by Cllr Hyndman.

Cllr Manser asked if her details could be given to the company as she arranges the date and times to meet the inspector at the hall and pavilion. Cllr Manser will discuss the fire extinguisher holders with the company; the Clerk will not order the plastic holder that had been discussed previously until she has heard back from Cllr Manser.

ACTION: Clerk, Cllr Manser

6.7 Clean for the Queen & Love Kent, Hate Litter

Members declined joining this initiative but would like local businesses and members of the public, who wish to get involved, to contact Maidstone Borough Council for further information.

7 PLANNING.

7.1 16/500254/FULL – 39 South Street ME16 9EX – Proposed new dwelling

Barming Parish Council feels that this is an extensive development, not a minor dwelling and will be totally out of keeping with the current street and out of context with nearby listed buildings. The existing property is in line with the adjacent cottages whereas the proposed development will be set back; the Council regards this as back garden development not 'infilling' or 'ribbon' development and is therefore contrary to the provisions of the NPPF.

Barming Parish Council is also extremely concerned about the highway aspect to this proposal. It is located at the busy junction with Church Lane which is the main access to St Margarets Church, to the parish field and to the "pavilion" which are all in regular use by the local community and outside hirers. South Street is very narrow with limited on street parking which reaches

along the front of this site. This proposal will exacerbate an already serious parking problem and will cause additional highway safety issues at the busy junction.

Barming Parish Council therefore recommends that this planning application be refused. Cllr Manser will attend in the event of the application going to committee.

7.2 Consultation – Publication Version of the Maidstone Borough Local Plan

The Local Plan documentation which includes economic, retail and transport strategies from now until 2031 was presented to members. Cllr Greenwood will read first and then circulate to other councillors; all views must be forwarded to the Clerk so that she can submit views on behalf of BPC. As Cllr Gooch and Cllr Vizzard are also borough councillors they will submit their views separately due to their involvement in the development of the Local Plan.

Cllr Gooch highlighted some of the integrated transport strategies which included the possible closure of North Pole Road, in order to become a walking and cycling route from Barming to Kings hill.

Cllr Gooch then informed members of an email that had been received from Teston Parish Council requesting views on creating another Medway River crossing west of Maidstone. Members are in total agreement to this idea. Most members suggested that a new modern bridge be built next to the old one at Teston; this would be the most cost effective solution due to the minor road improvements that would be required.

Members were against the idea of re-opening Barming Bridge due to concerns over the access from St Helens Lane and the extensive compulsory purchases needed to increase the width of South Street.

Another suggestion was to make Teston Bridge and East Farleigh Bridge both one way, but it was thought that this would not be seen as appropriate to members of the public.

Planning applications received prior to the meeting

16/500765/FULL – 5 Bell Farm Gardens ME16 9QA – Removal of conservatory and erection of single storey extension. Barming Parish Council raises no objections to this planning application.

8 FINANCE

8.1 Budget Monitoring

The Clerk circulated the monitoring sheet to all members prior to the meeting, also the 'BPC Reserves: Future Projects' sheet. It was noted that the reserves need to be built up before future projects can be started. The need for funding for the kick boards to protect the pavilion was top priority. The Clerk will amend the projected costings of the tables for the pavilion to £425.00 and remove the cost of the chairs as these have since been acquired.

8.2 Income received

The following payments received since the last meeting were noted:

Parish Hall Rent – Jan	£ 686.00
Pavilion Rent – Jan	£ 563.50

Confirmation of payments made

The following payments were agreed

DD – South East Water – Pavilion - Jan	£ 15.00
DD – South East Water – Parish Hall - Jan	£ 1.00
DD – South East Water – Allotments – Jan	£ 28.00
DD – EDF Energy – Pavilion Electricity – Jan	£ 43.00
DD – EDF Energy – Parish Hall – Jan	£ 64.00

8.3 Cheques for signature

All Councillors were in favour **"that the Council approve the following payments"**. This was **Agreed** and the following cheques were signed

2754 – Sustrans – Kent Community Rail Partnership Donation	£ 75.00
2755 – Julie King – Hire Deposit Refund	£ 50.00
2756 – E Whitehouse – Gate Duties	£ 60.00
2757 – N Attwood – Feb Salary & Office Allowance	£ 970.78
2758 – Austin Electrical – Pavilion Heater	£ 240.00
2759 – N Wright – PAT Testing	£ 45.00
2760 – SLCC – Clerk Conference	£ 41.40
2761 – S Manser – Expenses	£ 12.45
2762 – Dusters – Cleaning Services	£ 144.00
2763 – Austin Electrical Ltd – Parish Hall Heater	£ 120.00

2764 – N Attwood – Expenses	£ 25.26
2765 – G Lawrence – Fire exit @ hall & Cladding @ pavilion	£ 45.00
2766 – F Gooch – Expenses Curtains @ pavilion	£ 180.68
2767 – CPRE Membership	£ 36.00

9 MATTERS OF REPORT

9.1 County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Stockell was not present.

9.2 Borough Councillors/Chairman's Report

Cllr Gooch has sought advice from Chris Terry at Prime Building Consultants regarding ongoing asbestos checks in the undercroft at the pavilion. The detailed asbestos report states that the cement panel would stay in situ as it was not possible to remove. The panel had been sprayed and is trapped between brickwork, therefore rates as low grade and the risk of exposure is low to none. In view of this, Chris advised that a yearly visual check by Barming Parish Council will suffice, with photographic evidence to support a year on year comparison. The Chairman and Clerk agreed to undertake this responsibility and it will be added to the Council's Risk Register.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Clerk

Cllr Gooch informed the council that she will be attending the Kent Association of Local Councils Chairmanship Conference 2016.

9.3 Individual Councillors Report

Cllr Manser asked members if they would like to send any donations to charity for PCSO Frank Woollett, members agreed that the previous letter of sympathy that had been sent was sufficient.

Cllr Manser reported that since increasing the rent at the parish hall and pavilion, we had lost £85.00 per month due to hirers leaving.

Cllr Manser has asked for the Clerk to find out whether Councillors are individually insured for any work that they carry out, on a professional capacity for the council; the Clerk will contact Zurich and circulate the response.

ACTION: Clerk

9.4 Clerk's Reports

The Clerk informed members that Natwest Bank are planning to change the date that the statements will be sent out. This would not be helpful and so the Clerk asked the signatories to sign the form to refuse the change.

A letter has been received from EDF explaining that they are installing smart meters in the surrounding area and have offered to install one at the parish hall free of charge. No meter readings will be required in future as the smart meter can tell how much energy you are using at any time of the day. All members were in favour and the Clerk will ask about this type of meter being installed at the pavilion as well.

ACTION: Clerk

Oakwood Park Grammar School has offered a community volunteering initiative to Barming Parish Council; members suggested litter picking along Marlborough Parade and Beverley Road. It was also suggested that they contact Maidstone Borough Council for the Clean for the Queen & Love Kent, Hate Litter Campaign; the Clerk will contact the school.

ACTION: Clerk

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Reflections Heart of Kent Hospice – Winter 2016

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 9th March 2016 at 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall, Tonbridge Road.

With nothing further to be discussed, the meeting was closed at 9.35pm