

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2020 at 7.30pm

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public present.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Muthana
2. **NOTIFICATION TO BE RECEIVED FOR INTENT TO FILM, PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD ANY ITEMS.**
The Clerk recorded the meeting through the Zoom application for security purposes.
3. **COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS**
The Clerk asked each member in turn and no declarations were recorded.
4. **MINUTES of the Meeting held on 16th July 2020**
The minutes were **Agreed** as an accurate record.
5. **RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS**

5.1 Continued Delegated Powers for the Clerk

Due to the current pandemic it was recommended that delegated powers continue for the Clerk. Cllr Gooch proposed to continue with the current arrangement which was seconded by Cllr Vizzard with all members in favour.

5.2 Covid-19 Decision and Payment Log 007

The Clerk has kept a log of all payments and decisions that have been made during the pandemic. Members have been updated on other news as well. This was purely done for peace of mind and so that there is an audit trail for future reference. It also has given the Clerk the opportunity to ensure everyone is fully aware of everything that is being done whilst we cope with this challenging time. Members formally noted the receipt of log number 007. The Clerk will continue to produce the log until physical meetings resume. This was proposed by Cllr Gooch, seconded by Cllr Manser with all members in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

5.3 Re-Opening of the Halls and Play Area

Members were pleased to note that the play area finally re-opened in July; it is great news that the children can use the area again.

Cllr Gooch and Cllr Manser will visit the pavilion to clear some of the rooms prior to the deep clean and re-opening. BPC would love to see the halls re-opened but due to the current restrictions, it has been decided that both premises will remain closed. This was proposed by Cllr Doe and seconded by Cllr Parker with all in favour. BPC will closely monitor the situation and in the meantime the damp remedial work, replacement windows and re-decorating at the parish hall will commence. BPC will be working towards ensuring that the halls are 'Covid Secure' and ready to re-open as soon as possible. The Clerk reminded members that all hirers will need to send in their own risk assessments and detail their track and trace policy for their individual groups.

Gooch, Manser

ACTION: Cllr

5.4 Parish Hall: Damp Problem in Toilet Area

Cllr Gooch thanked Cllr Manser and Cllr Vizzard for meeting at the parish hall to view and discuss the damp issue. Cllr Gooch has since been back to the hall and is happy to report that it is starting to dry out. Heaters will be purchased and installed as soon as possible. The hall will need to be re-decorated due to the damp; we will monitor the damp situation and look to re-decorate when we can.

5.5 Parish Hall: Replacement Flooring

BPC hope that by the end of September the flooring can be scheduled to be installed. The damp will be monitored and dates will be circulated to all.

5.6 Parish Hall: Replacement Windows

Cllr Gooch has requested a revised quotation from Apollo Windows. As soon as the new quotation has been received, it will be circulated to members and the work booked in.

5.7 Government Consultation: Reforming the Planning System

Cllr Gooch informed members that Maidstone Borough Council will be submitting their views on this consultation. All members were in favour to wait and discuss the Borough Council's comments before submitting a response. Both consultations suggest significant changes to the present and future planning system and to the Local Plan process, including Increasing the method for calculating housing need which would increase MBC's figure of 1,214 housing units per annum, to 1,569 units per annum. There is a risk that this higher 1,569 figure might be adopted by the government before MBC completes its current review of the Local Plan.

5.8 Government Consultation: Planning for the future

Cllr Gooch informed members that Maidstone Borough Council will be submitting their views on this consultation. All members were in favour to wait and discuss the Borough Council's comments before submitting a response.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Budget Monitoring

The Clerk circulated prior to the meeting and all members confirmed safe receipt of the documentation for July. As the statements have not arrived yet for August, the Clerk will circulate to all members once the finances are completed

6.2 Income received and any unpaid invoices

There are no outstanding invoices.

Confirmation of payments made

There have been no payments made

6.3 Cheques for signature

Payments were previously confirmed on the Covid-19 log sheets circulated by the Clerk.

Cllr Vizzard was not involved with comments due to his position on the MBC Planning Committee.

7. PLANNING

7.1 Applications received prior to the meeting

20/503428/FULL 56 Beverley Road – BPC has no objections to this planning application.

20/503728/FULL 7 Barned Court - BPC has no objections to this planning application.

20/501773/FULL Land off Oakapple Lane – Taylor Wimpey have responded to KCC's holding objections; Cllr Gooch will circulate information to members should they wish to submit further comments.

Street Trading Application renewal Barnjet Layby - "The parish council supports this application and makes the following comments:

1. That the immediate area is kept tidy and free of rubbish, particularly at busy times and in windy weather.
2. Any plastic chairs and tables put out for use by customers, are kept as close as possible to the vicinity of the van and as close as possible to the field boundary, to protect the safety of customers and in the interest of highway safety.
3. The parish council is concerned about insanitary conditions at the lay-by caused by overnight lorry parking, which must surely have an environmental health impact on the sale and consumption of food, and which is totally unfair on the van's business. As KCC Highways are also consultees on this application, please can they be requested to install the appropriate signage preventing overnight parking.
4. The parish council is concerned about the extent and depth of pot holes in the lay-by. As KCC Highways are also consultees on this application, can they please be requested to fill them in the interests of highway safety and to protect the safety of business customers. "

Cllr Vizzard re-joined the meeting.

8. MATTERS OF REPORT

8.1 County Councillor

Cllr Stockell was not present.

8.2 Borough Councillor/ Chairman

Cllr Gooch reported that the garden waste service has increased by nearly 2,000 properties in Maidstone largely due to the closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centres and then the booking system. The additional subscribers are spread across three Boroughs and so providing one or two additional vehicles is not enough to cover the extra mileage. Therefore, Biffa need to implement a re-routing exercise from Monday 21 September 2020 and a letter and leaflet is due to be sent out this week.

This will NOT affect the refuse, recycling or food waste collections. Residents affected will be notified of their new collection day and the additional interim collection day on a leaflet accompanying the attached letter. MBC website will be updated next week. Cllr Gooch has liaised with St Margaret's Church and Barming Guides & Scouts, and will apply for road closures to enable a reduced Remembrance Event on Sunday 8th November.

Cllr Gooch has applied to Cllr Stockell for a grant from the KCC Combined Member Grants Scheme to replace the Ash Tree at Bull Orchard.

8.3 Individual Councillors Report

Cllr Vizzard asked for comments on the recent emails that were circulated by the Clerk regarding the Kent Resilience and the Re-building of Communities. Cllr Gooch suggested that members view both documents and circulate comments via email.

8.4 Clerk Report

The Clerk informed members that work was continuing towards the new website and the Accessibility Audit will be carried out this week.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

As agreed, all future meetings will be arranged depending on Government guidelines. The next meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 14th October 2020 at 7.30pm but the Clerk will confirm the details nearer the time.

The meeting was closed at 8.04pm.