

BARMING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th JANUARY 2019 at 7.30pm

AT THE PARISH HALL, TONBRIDGE ROAD.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Nine members of the public.

PARISHIONERS OPEN SESSION: Representatives from the 'give peas a chance' action group, along with local residents attended the meeting to voice their concerns over the Horse Field site application. The traffic issues were discussed including concerns with the gridlock along Hermitage Lane, the safety of the children attending the local primary school and the disappointment that BPC had not mentioned any traffic concerns in their recent response, but had in their original comments. Cllr Gooch explained that as outline permission had already been granted for the development, objecting to traffic at this stage would not help but agreed that pollution was a valid point as the MBC air quality policy had recently been reviewed.

Residents are extremely anxious regarding the top of Broomshaw Road and the emergency secondary access; they feel that no one can give assurance that this access will not be opened up to any vehicle in the future. The streets are narrow and cannot cope with two way traffic and sinkholes have already occurred within the area. One of the residents believes that in the original planning conditions only Fullingpits and Oakapple Road were listed and Broomshaw Road was never mentioned; Cllr Gooch will seek clarification on this point.

Cllr Gooch clarified that BPC would not support vehicular access at Broomshaw Road and this will be discussed at the planning committee meeting where all of the conditions will be made clear and tight. Taylor Wimpey could at any point apply for changes to MBC in the future, but for now the secondary emergency access would be managed by a barrier/ key system.

Cllr Gooch thanked everyone for attending the open session and felt that it had demonstrated the value of separate action groups as it emphasised local concerns and asked if all comments had been logged with MBC. Representatives of the action group confirmed that comments had been logged and numerous requests for meetings with the planning officer had been requested, to which Cllr Gooch was invited to attend if this could be organised. Cllr Gooch will speak to the planning officer to see if some form of a meeting with the group could be arranged.

Cllr Vizzard could not comment on the open session of the meeting as he is on the MBC planning committee.

The open session of the meeting was closed at 7.55pm.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr Doe
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 14th November 2018**
The minutes were **Agreed** as an accurate record and the Vice Chairman signed off the official copy

5. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

5.1 Draft Budget 2019/20

The Clerk informed the council of the 2019/20 base rate provided by Maidstone Borough Council; maintaining the current precept 2018/19 of £27,460.00 would decrease the charge to each band D taxpayer in 2019/20 by £0.09. Members had previously viewed the budget report and accompanying notes and Cllr Vizzard proposed to keep the precept at the same rate as the previous year, this was seconded by Cllr Manser with all in favour. The precept amount for 2019/20 will be £27,460; the paperwork was duly signed and will be submitted by the Clerk. The Clerk was thanked for all of the hard work that she had done to produce the budget. Copies of the signed paperwork will be sent to the Chairman.

ACTION: Clerk

5.2 Parish Field Play Equipment Upgrade

After careful consideration of all three companies, site visits and research by Barming Parish Council, Cllr Gooch proposed to proceed with Creative Play and work with them to choose new equipment which will be of interest to a varied age range. This was seconded by Cllr Vizzard with all in favour. The Clerk will inform all of the companies who submitted quotes and thank them for their time and efforts. A formal acceptance letter will also be sent to Creative Play and a request for a meeting to discuss the finer details.

Cllr Manser will have a look at the different equipment that Creative Play can provide and email members with possible suggestions to consider. Cllr Manser has had the opportunity to speak with local resident's so is aware of what some of the local children would like to see installed in the area.

The Parish Council has received a donation of £200.00 from a local resident and the Clerk has also had an email with an offer of £50.00 from a regular user of the play area; we would like to sincerely thank both residents for their generous and kind donations. Several people have been in contact with the parish council to suggest that a dedication to Mrs Grice, the former Chairman of Barming Parish Council and local teacher is considered at the new play area; Cllr Gooch proposed to accept the idea and to discuss the details of the dedication at a later date. This was seconded by Cllr Manser with all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

5.3 Parish Field

At the beginning of December a vehicle caused damage to the grassed area by the pavilion; the depth of the churn was enough to cause a safety /trip hazard and needed to be reinstated. Cllr Gooch asked members to discuss a winter month's vehicle ban to protect the field or to think of other suggestions.

Cllr Manser highlighted to members that a total vehicle ban would disrupt current hirers, future hirers, workmen and cleaners. Cllr Gooch suggested adding 'not to drive on the field in poor weather conditions' to the terms and conditions of hire. Cllr Willson added that BPC should be explicit when ordering goods or services and to also inform companies of the policy.

A future possibility is to widen the path, Cllr Manser suggested meeting down the field to assess this suggestion and to measure up at some point in the future. For the time being, Cllr Manser will continue to advise hirers to keep one set of wheels on the path as they drive up the field. The Clerk was asked to remind the grounds maintenance company to unload their equipment in the carpark and not on the hard standing area due to the conditions of the field, as previously done.

ACTION: Cllr Gooch, Manser and Clerk

5.4 Grounds Maintenance Quotations

The three quotations that had been received were discussed by members. Cllr Vizzard proposed to accept the quotation from the present contractor, Land scape Services, which was seconded by Cllr Manser with all in favour.

5.5 Information Board: Barming Bridge

Cllr Gooch has contacted a local carpenter to quote for the repair of the information board frame. Once the quote has been received it will be circulated to members.

5.6 Parish Hall Outer Doors

The outer doors have now been fixed by a local carpenter and we await the invoice.

5.7 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the 17th April 2019 in the parish hall at 7.30pm with the Full Council Meeting being held at 7pm prior to it. Cllr Gooch proposed to invite Gallagher's to attend and do a presentation for the local residents; this was seconded by Cllr Willson with all in favour. Cllr Gooch will send the new contact details of the new Chief Executive for the Clerk to invite them.

The Annual Meeting of the Council will be held at 7pm on the 8th May 2019 prior to the Full Council Meeting at the parish hall.

5.8 KALC Community Awards 2019

No nominations have been suggested by members therefore no awards will be given at this year's annual meeting.

5.9 Annual Subscription Renewal: Campaign to Protect Rural England

Cllr Gooch proposed to authorise the renewal at the cost of £36.00 which was seconded by Cllr Vizzard with all in favour.

5.10 Funding Requests: Kent Community Rail Partnership : Citizens Advice Maidstone

Cllr Gooch proposed to continue with the funding for the KCRP; this was seconded by Cllr Vizzard with Cllr Manser's abstention noted. Cllr Gooch then proposed that the donation was increased to £100.00 to support sustainable transport; Cllr Vizzard seconded with one against and with Cllr Manser's abstention noted. The motion was passed and the cheque was written.

Cllr Gooch proposed to donate £30.00 to the Citizens Advice Maidstone as they provide a wealth of support to local people. This was seconded by Cllr Willson with three in favour and Cllr Vizzard's abstention noted; the cheque was then written.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Applications received prior to the meeting

18/506541/FULL – The Basin, East Farleigh: Retrospective change of use for a permanent mooring of a boat for residential use, associated with a tourism facility – Members have no objections to this planning application.

6.2 18/506212 – Land Adjacent Oakapple Lane – Boundary, landscaping and ecological management – The previously submitted comments were ratified with all members in favour

6.3 18/506068 – Land South West of Hermitage Lane/Oakapple Lane – Access, Appearance and Landscaping Layout – The previously submitted comments were ratified with all members in favour.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Budget Monitoring

The Clerk circulated prior to the meeting.

7.2 Income received

Parish Hall Rent	£ 1,091.50
Pavilion Rent	£ 788.57
Natwest Interest	£ 15.66
Barming News Adverts	£ 224.60

Confirmation of payments made

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

DD – EDF Electric Pavilion	£ 58.00
DD – EDF Electric Parish Hall	£ 62.00
DD – Castle Water – Parish Hall	£ 10.89
DD – Castle Water – Allotments	£ 30.53
DD – MBC Parish Field Bin Collection	£ 19.50
CHQ & DD - Wage payments	£1254.25

7.3 Cheques for signature

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

3125 – John Sedge – Drain Clearance @ Pavilion	£ 120.00
3126 – KALC – Chairman's Conference Event	£ 72.00
3127 – Dusters – Cleaning Services	£ 210.00
3128 – David J Hadlum Printers – Barming News	£ 268.00
3129 – Commercial Services – Grounds Maintenance 2 nd half payment	£ 729.50
3130 – S Manser – Expenses Nov & Dec	£ 45.46
3131 – Mrs F Gooch – Expenses Nov & Dec	£ 33.45
3134 – Mrs N Attwood – Expenses	£ 28.19

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 had just returned from the KCC/MBC Joint Transport Board meeting where she attended to voice local residents concerns regarding the delay in implementing Hermitage Lane, Fountain Lane, Heath Road and the Tonbridge Road improvements. KCC responded that it is because they are looking in to alternative schemes.

Cllr Gooch has been informed that KCC will be upgrading the signs and road markings at East Farleigh Bridge soon.

There have been complaints received regarding the sudden car park charges at the East Farleigh train station. Cllr Gooch contacted South Eastern who sent apologies for the mistake and hope to rectify the matter as soon as possible.

8.3 Individual Councillors Report

Cllr Vizzard informed members that the Rotary Club Maidstone will be planting the crocus blubs on Thursday 17th January at 9am, as agreed at the November meeting.

Cllr Manser reminded members that the terms and conditions of hire for the pavilion (item 23 BBQ's & bouncy castles) needs to be updated; Cllr Gooch will check her copies and circulate the amended copies.

Cllr Manser has received another telephone call from the Valuation Office regarding the business rates for the pavilion; we are still waiting for a final decision to be made on whether future payments are due.

8.4 Clerk's Report

There have been no reported crimes this calendar month but PCSO Chivers wanted to remind residents of Barming to always be vigilant with regards to their security and safety.

The Clerk informed members that the re-enrolment window for the pension scheme starts on the 1st April where the whole process must be re-visited for the third year anniversary of auto enrolment. This is in preparation to complete the re-declaration by the deadline of 3rd December 2019.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

Countryside Voice – winter 2018
CPRE Field Work – winter 2018

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th February 2019 at 7.30pm in the parish hall on the Tonbridge Road.

The meeting was closed at 21.34pm