

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY
6 SEPTEMBER 2017

Present: Councillor Newton (Chairman), and
Councillors Boughton, Cox, Fissenden, Hemsley,
Lewins, Newton, Perry, Mrs Ring and Vizzard

Also Present: Councillors Garten and Mrs Gooch

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Fermor and Mrs Hinder.

20. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

The following Substitute Members were noted:

Councillor Cox for Councillor Fermor
Councillor Perry for Councillor Mrs Hinder

21. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

22. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Gooch indicated her wish to speak on the report of the Head of Policy, Communications and Governance relating to the proposal to change Barming Ward name. She also advised the Committee that she had brought along the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Teston Parish Council to speak on this matter as well.

Councillor Garten indicated his wish to speak on the report of the Head of Policy, Communications and Governance relating to the Review of Outside Bodies.

23. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor Vizzard declared an interest in the report of the Head of Policy, Communications and Governance relating to the proposal to change the name of Barming Ward as he was a Parish Councillor for Barming.

24. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

25. EXEMPT ITEMS

RESOLVED: That the items of the agenda be taken in public as proposed.

26. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 JULY 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

27. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

28. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

29. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the draft Committee Work Programme and requested that a Community Governance Review into Parish Boundaries be inserted for November.

RESOLVED: That the Committee Work Programme be noted.

30. PROPOSAL TO CHANGE BARMING WARD NAME

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Policy, Communications and Governance relating to the proposal to change the name of Barming Ward.

Councillor Mrs Gooch and representatives from Teston Parish Council addressed the Committee in support of the name change.

It was noted that the Parish of Teston was one of the two parishes that make up the ward of Barming. To give clarity to the make-up of the electoral area i.e. that the ward comprises the two distinct parishes of Barming and Teston it was proposed that the name of the ward be changed from Barming to Barming and Teston.

In response to questions from Members, the Head of Policy, Communications and Governance advised that the Council had a duty to consult with persons that it considered appropriate on the proposed name change. The timetable would allow for a consultation to be carried out during October to every household affected and a report would be presented to Democracy Committee at its meeting in November before a recommendation is made to Council at a special meeting towards the end of November.

The name change would be from the date of the revised Register of Electors.

Members were of the opinion that there should be a Community Governance Review into Parish boundaries across the borough as there were others where a similar problem existed and that it should be added to the Committee Work Programme for later in the year.

RESOLVED:

1. That a consultation exercise for changing the name of Barming Ward to become Barming and Teston Ward be agreed.
2. That a Community Governance Review be undertaken for Parish Boundaries in the borough.

31. **REVIEW OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Policy, Communications and Governance relating to the Review of Outside Bodies.

It was noted that the report followed a culmination of work to review all the outside bodies that Councillors were appointed to. The Outside Bodies Working Group had met on 24 July 2017 and had made suggested recommendations which were set out in the Appendix to the report.

Following a suggestion from a Member the Committee reviewed all the outside bodies that met 'no' under the following criterion:-

1. Is this an appointment to a strategic body and/or is there a statutory requirement?
2. Does the Council provide funding to this body – is it of a significant level, is a member appointment essential to oversee the funding?
3. Is there a legal requirement for a council appointment if a charitable trust?

The results of the exercise were as follows:-

Collis Millennium Green Trust – Recommended that this is added to recommendation 4 for deletion:

Voting: For: 4 Against: 1 Abstentions: 4

Kent Community Rail Partnership – Recommended that this is added to recommendation 4 for deletion:

Voting: For: 6 Against: 0 Abstentions: 3

Kent Downs AONB Joint Advisory Committee – Recommended that this be deferred following further investigation:

Voting: For: unanimous

Maidstone Area Arts Partnership – Recommended that this be retained under recommendation 2:

Voting: For: 4 Against: 3 Abstentions: 2

Maidstone Cycling Forum – Recommended that this be retained on recommendation 2.

Voting: For: 5 Against: 4 Abstentions: 0

Maidstone Mind - Recommended to be deferred following further investigation:

Voting: For: unanimous

Maidstone Sea Cadets – Recommended that this be retained on recommendation 2.

Voting: For: unanimous

Maidstone Street Pastors - Recommended that this be retained under recommendation 1.

Voting: For: 7 Against: 2 Abstentions: 0

Maidstone Beauvais Twinning Association – Recommended that this be retained under recommendation 2.

Voting: For: 6 Against: 3 Abstentions: 0

Medway Valley Line Steering Group – Recommended that this be retained under recommendation 2. However, the motion was lost and is therefore recommended to be on the list of deletions under recommendation 4.

Voting: For: 1 Against: 6 Abstentions: 2

Quality Bus Partnership – Recommended that this be retained under recommendation 2. However, the motion was lost and is therefore recommended to be on the list of deletions under recommendation 4.

Voting: For: 2 Against: 5 Abstentions: 2

Relief in Need Charities – Recommended that this be retained under recommendation 1.

Voting: For: 8 Against: 1 Abstentions: 0

South East Rail Passenger Group – Recommended that this be retained on recommendation 2:

Voting: For: 5 Against: 4 Abstentions: 0

Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board – Recommended that this be retained on recommendation 2:

Voting: For: 8 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

Vinters Valley Park Trust – Recommended that this be retained on recommendation 2:

Voting: For: 7 Against: 1 Abstentions: 1

RESOLVED:

1. That the decision on the following outside bodies be deferred pending further investigation:-

Maidstone Mind
Kent Downs AONB Joint Advisory Committee

RESOLVED to **Recommend** to **Council** that:-

1. The following outside bodies be retained and appointed by the Democracy Committee:-

Allington Millennium Green Trust – Allington Ward Member
Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee – Headcorn Ward Member
Howard de Walden Centre – East and North Ward Members
Hayle Park Nature Reserve – South Ward Member
Maidstone Street Pastors – High Street Ward Member
Relief in Need Charity
Kent and Medway Crime Panel – Leader automatic appointment
Kent and Medway Economic Partnership – Leader automatic appointment
West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board – Leader automatic appointment

2. The following outside bodies be retained but appointed by the relevant Committees as listed:-

Action with Communities in Rural Kent – CHE Committee
Age UK – CHE Committee
Bentlif Wing Trust – HCL Committee
Brenchley Charity Trust – HCL Committee
Citizens Advice Bureau – CHE Committee
Cutbush and Corral – CHE Committee
KCC Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – CHE Committee (Chairman automatically appointed)

Local Government Association General Assembly – P&R Committee to appoint non-Voting Member (Leader automatically appointed as voting Member)

Maidstone Area Arts Partnership – HCL Committee

Maidstone Beauvais Twinning Association – HCL Committee

Maidstone Cycling Forum – SPS&T Committee

Maidstone Mediation – CHE Committee

Maidstone Sea Cadets – HCL Committee

One Maidstone – P&R Committee

PATROLAJC – SPS&T Committee

Relate West and Mid Kent – CHE Committee

Rochester Bridge Trust – SPS&T Committee

South East Employers – Employment Committee

South East Rail Passenger Group – SPS&T Committee

Upper Medway Internal Drainage Group – SPS&T Committee

Vinters Valley Park Trust – CHE Committee

3. That each outside body representative reports to the appointing Committee at least on an annual basis.
4. That the following organisations be deleted from the Council's list of outside bodies:-

Collis Millennium Green Trust

KCC Youth and Community Charity

KCC Youth and Community Management Committee

Kent Community Rail Partnership

Kent County Playing Fields Association

Maidstone YMCA

Medway Valley Line Steering Group

Mid Kent Downs Steering Group

Quality Bus Partnership

5. That the Monitoring Officer be delegated to make the necessary changes to the Constitution.
6. That the removal of funding for the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Project be referred to Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transportation Committee for reconsideration.

32. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 8.10 p.m.