

**Meeting of the Barham Picnic Site Sub-committee held Wednesday 13th
October 2010**

Present: T. Girling (Chair), J Hindle (SCC) N Dickson (SCC), C.Stokes, D Milward, C Curtis (SNT) C Howard PCSO, J Field (County Councillor), R Farrow (Clerk)

Apologies: M Redbond (District Councillor),. G Musson

Trevor welcomed everyone and invited Jerry.Hindle to update the meeting on the current situation regarding the picnic site.

Jerry confirmed that the budget has been cut as he predicted at the last meeting. Most of the budget will be allocated to the 3 larger countryside parks but with regard to the 20 or so smaller sites, the way forward will be to transfer these sites to interested parties to be managed as seen fit for the area. Barham falls into this category.

The first phase of the divestment programme will be from now till September 2011 with things moving forward from April.

Trevor Girling at this point explained that there is interest in the site as a sports field. Kevin Kitchen, Vice Chairman of the Junior Football club has inspected the site and expressed real interest in developing this idea. Aerial photographs were circulated showing the whole area with pitches super-imposed.

Jerry Hindle considered there is certainly potential in this idea. He would need to get back to SCC to establish the process for transferring the land to the parish council and as landlords, the parish council could have a long term lease with the football club. He considered there would be a lot of hoops to go through in the first place to examine all aspects of asset transfer and it might be that some would see the site as having a commercial interest. He said that the workshops and sheds are in their own compound, but would be part of the transfer also.

Jerry indicated that if transfer was agreed, the site would need to be closed until such time as the Football Group had secured their funding. If nothing came of the football, then parish council would be lumbered with the site..

After some general discussion Jerry summarized the situation by saying SCC would like to move fairly quickly, but these things take a lot of time. It is however conceivable that the asset can be transferred to the Parish Council. He will keep us informed as information becomes available.

Trevor thanked everyone for attending.

