

BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on May 9 2012

Present:

Cllrs Fletcher (Chairman), Cooper, Day, Hardman, Potter, Rhodes-Kemp, Van de Weyer and Whybrow
Curator of the Green Brian Northrop
Mrs V Parkes, Independent Internal Auditor
County Cllr Sebastian Kindersley, District Cllr Ted Ridgway-Watt
14 members of the public

The Meeting opened at 7.35 pm. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

1 Apologies for absence:

Cllr Glover, Val Tookey and 2 residents.

2 Minutes of the last Meeting held on 26.04.11

The Minutes were approved by the Parish Council on 10.05.11 and had been printed in the Village Newsletter, circulated to all households.

3 Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Minutes of our Meetings, once confirmed, continued to be published in full in the Village Newsletter and displayed on the Parish Council Noticeboard at the Church Car Park. The Chairman's Report for 2011-2012 had been circulated to all residents in advance of the Meeting and covered the following items:

Responsibilities of Parish Councillors

During the period reported Tony Fletcher had been re-elected as Chairman and Aidan Van de Weyer as Vice-Chairman. Laura Cooper, Anne Day, Judy Hardman, Michael Monk and David Whybrow, completed the Council. Michael Monk resigned in September 2011. Beverley Glover was co-opted in August 2011. At present Barrington can have up to 9 Parish Councillors. Rosamund Rhodes-Kemp had been co-opted at the April Meeting of the Parish Council

Fiscal control of precept monies

The Council had continued to carry out its many tasks in accordance with its adopted "*Financial Regulations*". Use of a dedicated software package allowed monthly reviews of expenditure and income, and analysis of income and expenditure under all headings. Monthly cash flow charts were presented at most Council meetings together with projections of year-end figures. Audited Accounts for 2010-2011 and draft accounts for 2011-2012 had been circulated to all households and were discussed at the Meeting. Having considered our projected expenditure, the Chairman explained that the Council had decided to set the Precept for 2012-2013 at £26,000. Having received a donation of woodland near Challis Green, the Council wished to raise an additional £2,000.00 towards the costs of setting up the new area, see 20 below. On the recommendation of the District Auditor, we have targeted a Reserve of £6,000.00. During the year under review, Mrs Valerie Parkes served as Independent Internal Auditor.

Conservation of the Village Green

Currently your Council is responsible for the maintenance of the recreational areas of the Village Green. The grass in these areas is cut more regularly than the rest of the Village Green. Tree maintenance for safety and access for grass cutting reasons has been ongoing throughout the period. An isolated wild area has been continued and cut at the appropriate time.

Playgrounds

The Under 5s Play Area adjacent to the Church Car Park and the Adventure Play Area on Challis Green had been monitored monthly by Councillor Day and a Risk Assessment check sheet recorded. The annual ROSPA inspection was extremely positive. Litter, thanks to regular clearance by volunteers, had been markedly reduced but the Chairman urged parents to continue to encourage use of the litter bins provided. All the plastic benches are well used and thanks to their robust construction had suffered minimal vandalism. A Sub-Committee had revamped the Adventure

Playground. Children of the village had been consulted and a design established. Councillors Anne Day, Laura Cooper, Beverley Glover, Judy Hardman and David Whybrow combined with Rachel Daly, Amanda Davies and Hayley McCormick were thanked by the Chairman for their work which has given Barrington a modern play area. With support from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, fund raising from CEMEX, WREN, AmeyCespa Community Fund and The Green Charity had been sufficient to cover all costs. The official opening of the new Play area was scheduled for May 26th and would give the opportunity to residents to show their appreciation of the new facilities. Remedial works to the Green surface had been held back by the weather.

Ditches and ponds

The Parish Council continued to be responsible for maintaining the ditches and ponds on the Village Green. Efforts had been made to set up a volunteer group for each pond, to look after the pond and to maintain it. The Challis Green pond group failed to take action to clear and enhance and this pond was now a mess. Pumping from the CEMEX quarry further complicated the situation because of chalk deposition. The Parish Council had awaited completion of Heslerton Way housing before pressing ahead with this pond. CEMEX had been asked to build a settling pond on Haslingfield Road, to take the water from the quarry before it flowed into the village ditch system. The West Green pond had been cleared, replanted and looks most attractive. During the period under review, some ditches and culverts had been cleared or jetted. However, the Chairman stressed that many ditches had outlets above the bottom of the ditch, making further clearance pointless. During wet weather conditions, the ditches were regularly monitored. The Chairman highlighted the refurbished ditch adjacent the new Heslerton Way site. It had been designed to facilitate the removal of rainwater from the site. However, the ditch required clay to build the level to ensure that it did not become stagnant in drier weather.

Street furniture and road signs

Following the decision of the District Council, the Parish Council had continued to have financial responsibility for the energy and usage of street lighting in our village, although the County Council had made separate and different arrangements in the past few months. Street lights and signs have been repaired/replaced by the County Council when requested, although response time had been slow. Residents were urged to report defective lights and signage to the Parish Clerk.

Footpaths

Barrington had taken part in the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme since 1990, and was grateful for the grant which the County Council had provided by way of contribution towards the cost of our planned work. Similarly, the Parish Council acknowledged the support of the Ramblers Association in waymarking. Routine maintenance had continued to be important this year, including invaluable volunteer help with the area on and around Footpaths 5 and 6 at Little Rivers and the section of Footpath 10 closest to West Green. The Chairman acknowledged the importance of the Footpath Wardens who monitor and report to Cllr Day.

Planning

25 Planning Applications had been processed during the period. The Parish Council had tried to deal sympathetically with Applications within the constraints of local planning guidance and the need to preserve the appearance of the Conservation Area, together with the majority views of local residents. The Parish Council solicited opinions from neighbours to assist in its decisions. The fencing at Barrington Hall had now been removed, and the Parish Council awaited consultation on the Planning Application for the new permanent perimeter fencing.

Parking on the Village Green areas

The Parish Council had continued to discuss with the Green Charity the control of illegal parking on the Village Green. Many houses now needed parking spaces for more than one car and there was a need to reach a decision as to how to proceed. Reinforcement of selected areas may be a solution, but no decision had yet been made.

Roadways and footways where adopted by County Council Highways

Many footways/pavements had been repaired during the year, and thanks were due to Dennis Vacher from CCC South Highways Division for his support. Hopefully, the remaining damaged ones would be repaired in the near future. The Chairman stressed that the County Council had very little funding to support these projects. Potholes and poor road surfaces throughout the village remained a major problem; a new reporting system for potholes had been set up by Cambs CC, proving effective.

Liaison with District and County Councillors

The Parish Council wished to record its thanks to Ted Ridgway Watt (SCDC) and Sebastian

Kindersley (CCC) for their support and advice during this period.

Communications

The Parish Council continued to use the Village Newsletter to bring specific items to the attention of residents, and was grateful for this service. The website needed a volunteer to act as administrator. In addition, residents would greatly benefit from communication on village matters by email. Again a volunteer was required.

Youth Club

Due entirely to Val Tookey, Sheila Potter and co-workers, Barrington has a thriving Youth Club. Your Council will continue to support this Club as needed. Parents and residents must also help if the success is to continue. Please offer to the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

Litter

Because of the actions of many volunteers carrying out regular litter picking the village had continued to improve. However recently there had been litter in ditches, and a village-wide clearance effort was needed.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Jo Lauterpacht and co-workers had set up a village wide scheme, which was working extremely well. Communication to residents on safety matters would be enhanced via a village communication group by email.

CEMEX

CEMEX discontinued operations in Barrington due to the economic situation. Changes to water extraction required all to monitor any unusual changes to water levels in the village. Redirection of the output of the artesian well on Challis Green had already been accomplished. See Item 20 below with regard to the donation of land to the Parish Council by CEMEX. The Application, by CEMEX, to reopen the railway to allow importation of inert material to refill part of the quarry caused alarm among the residents of Glebe Road, Bendyshe Way and Malthouse Way and representations to mitigate any nuisances had been made to Cambridgeshire County Council. Within the last week, CEMEX had announced that it would not recommence production at the Barrington plant, and was seeking to demolish some of the Works. It was anticipated that this would take place in stages, although no final detail was available. Minor demolition works were in progress, and CEMEX had notified the Parish Council that this would require some 100 lorry loads over a period of 10 weeks. The Chairman stressed that the Parish Council was trying hard to find out the detail demolition works to gauge the effect upon the village and its residents.

War Memorial

Justin Wilmott now looked after this area at no charge to the village. The Chairman thanked Justin for this contribution to the village.

Village Sign

The new village sign was in place. The materials used in its construction were expected to give it a very long life. The area around the Sign is maintained throughout the year by Rachel and Steven Woolgar: the Chairman thanked them for their contribution to the beauty of our village.

Challis Green Affordable Housing Development

After so many years the Parish Council had been very pleased to see that the development is complete. Of the 28 rental properties, 25 went to Barringtonians and 3 cascaded to people from local villages. The 11 shared equity houses were difficult to sell because of high prices set by local valuers but the Chairman thought that 5 had been sold. It was hoped that Hundred Houses Society will continue to maintain the communal areas to a high standard.

Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Commemoration

As a gift from CEMEX, the Parish Council has taken ownership of the land adjacent to the School, Church Farm and Challis Green. It has been decided to place the land within the initiative by the Duke of Cambridge to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. This will be celebrated in the Summer.

In addition the Parish Council had arranged for a traditional oak tree to be planted on West Green and was grateful for the hard work to plant the tree by Brian and David Whybrow, assisted by Blake Carrington and Ian Hughes, together with Cllr Van de Weyer, whose mobile phone app provided the essential spirit level. A plaque would be installed to coincide with the Jubilee.

BT Telephone kiosks

Having removed all the telephonic equipment from the two kiosks, BT offered them to the Parish Council for £1.00 each. Richard and Patricia Gibson from Glebe Road had organized the transformation of the Glebe Road kiosk into a gleaming Exhibition Centre for our School. The High Street kiosk was currently being renovated by Monty Goding and his West Green Pond team: Brian Parkes, Ken Stapleton and John Watson. Hilda Tattersall has offered to run a lending library from that kiosk. The Parish Council thanked everyone concerned for their generous hard work on these projects.

In closing his report the Chairman recorded special thanks to all the Parish Councillors for their efforts during the year, to the Parish Clerk Margaret Goding for her hard work during the past year, to Valerie Parkes as the Independent Internal Auditor, to Brian Northrop for his work as the Curator of our Village Green, to Peter Allen for grounds maintenance at Boot Lane, to Simon Anderson for assistance with Footpath 10, Mike Day for all his help with the Play Areas, Justin Willmott, for his Company's work in maintaining the Green and for voluntarily keeping our War Memorial so neat, to Rachel & Steven Woolgar for making the Village Sign a colourful landmark, and finally to Monty Goding and his team in respect of West Green pond and the High Street telephone box.

At the end of his report, the Chairman answered questions :

Monty Goding (3 Shepreth Road) had prepared a report for the Parish Council on ditches and water issues. He stressed the importance of seeking volunteer help to clear litter from the ditches throughout the village.

Michael Scott (27 West Green) recorded that the ditch alongside the highway at West Green contained a lot of litter apparently thrown from passing vehicles.

Cllr Cooper referred to the litter at Challis Green.

Keith Barnes (1 Orwell Road) asked about the future of the CEMEX chimney: the Chairman said that the Parish Council had no information on it at all. Keith also asked about the Amenity Area and its future. The Chairman said that the Parish Council did not wish to spend funds on maintenance as the area was little used. It had to have open access being part of the 2006 CROW land designation, unfortunately. Large lumps of clunch had been provided by CEMEX in an effort to deter any more raves being held there.

Liz Spencer (4 Orwell Terrace) complained at the volume of dog mess around the village and asked the Parish Council to consider the provision of more signage and possible free collection bags. Liz also requested that all the Village Green areas should be close mown so that residents could walk the Green without getting their feet wet from the longer grass. The Chairman explained that it was impossible to please all residents with the mowing programme currently used, but that the majority of residents were in agreement with it.

4 Parish Council Financial Matters

The Chairman presented the Audited Accounts to 31.03.11, and the draft Accounts to 31.03.12, which had been circulated to all households. The Chairman drew attention to the Reserve of £6,000, which had been set up at the request of the District Auditor, and to the fact that the Precept had been set at £26,000 for the current financial year. The Parish Council draft Account final balance seemed high but there were still invoices to be paid in connection with the Challis Green Play Area.

5 Attendance Record of Parish Council Members

Parish Council met 14 times during the year from April 2011 until March 2012:

Laura Cooper (9), Anne Day (13), Tony Fletcher (14), Judy Hardman (10), Sheila Potter (13), Aidan Van de Weyer (13), David Whybrow (12). Beverley Glover (6) having been co-opted in August 2011. Michael Monk (5) having resigned in September 2011. Rosamund Rhodes-Kemp had been co-opted at the April 2012 meeting.

6 Cambridgeshire County Council

County Cllr Sebastian Kindersley gave a short report on his work for the village over the past year, and of the highlights of the County Council endeavours. The Chairman thanked Cllr Kindersley for all his hard work on behalf of Barrington, which was much appreciated.

7 South Cambridgeshire District Council

District Cllr Ted Ridgway Watt had completed his first year in this role, and read a report on the work of the District Council and of his own role.

8 Open discussion for residents

John Granger (4a West Green) asked about the provision of trees at Heselton Way, and hoped that

funding would be available to import mature trees to the site. The Chairman agreed to bring this matter to the attention of the owners, Hundred Houses society.

Reuben Pardoe (3 Glebe Road) asked for the completion of the work by the Green Charity with regard to the Permitted Way Licences for Number 1-5 Glebe Road.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.55 p.m.

Signed

Date **May 15 2012**