

BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on May 21st 2013

Present :

Cllrs Fletcher (Chairman), Cooper, Day, Hardman, Potter, Rhodes-Kemp, Van de Weyer and Whybrow.

Mrs V Parkers, Independent Internal Auditor

County Cllr Sebastian Kindersley

14 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting which opened at 7.30 pm.

1. **Apologies for Absence** : None were recorded.
2. **Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting** held on May 9th 2012 were approved by the Council on May 15th 2012 and subsequently printed in the Village Newsletter and circulated to all households.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Minutes of all Council Meetings, once confirmed continued to be published in full in the Village Newsletter, displayed on the Parish Council Noticeboard at the Church Car Park and on the website. The Chairman's report for 2012-2013 had been circulated to all residents in advance of the Meeting and covered the following items :-

Your Council

During the period reported Tony Fletcher was re-elected as Chairman and Aidan Van de Weyer was re-elected as Vice-Chairman. Laura Cooper, Anne Day, Judy Hardman, David Whybrow, Beverly Glover, Sheila Potter and Rosamunde Rhodes-Kemp, complete the council.

Fiscal control of precept monies

Your Council continues to carry out its many tasks in accordance with its adopted "Financial Regulations". Use of a dedicated software package allows monthly reviews of expenditure and income, and analysis of income and expenditure under all headings. Monthly cash flow charts are presented at each Council meeting together with projections of year-end figures. Clerk now has updated software to enable her to take over the role of Responsible Financial Officer.

We have agreed to work with Haslingfield and Barton Parish Councils to reduce speed limits between the villages. Haslingfield will pay the larger proportion of this work. Our proposal to reduce limit throughout village was taken into consideration when setting precept.

The Council therefore decided to set the precept for 2013-2014 at £29,000. 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 our Independent Internal Auditor.

Conservation of the Village Green

Currently your Council leases the recreational areas of the Village Green from the Green Charity and so responsible for their maintenance. 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 new adventure playground has been a roaring success and funded due to successful grant aid. The Parish Council has to cover the insurance. The Under 5s Play Area adjacent to the Church Car Park and the Adventure Play Area on Challis Green have 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, has been markedly reduced but parents should continue to encourage use of the litter bins provided. All the plastic benches are well used and thanks to their robust construction have suffered minimal vandalism.

Ditches and ponds

The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the ditches and ponds. Council 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 is now a mess. Pumping from the CEMEX quarry further complicates the situation because of chalk deposition. The West Green pond has been cleared, replanted and looks most attractive. During the period under review, some ditches and culverts have been cleared or jetted. Many ditches have outlets above the bottom of the ditch, making further clearance pointless. The ditch near the cricket pitch and one near Heselton Way are in need of work.

Street furniture and road signs

The Parish Council has continued to have financial responsibility for the energy usage of street lighting in our village together with responsibility for several lamps, retained at the request of residents during recent changeover. Street lights and signs have been repaired/replaced by the County Council when requested, although response time has been slow.

Footpaths

Barrington has taken part in the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme since 1990. The Parish Council acknowledges the support of the Ramblers Association. Routine maintenance has continued to be important this year. We are also grateful to the Footpath Wardens who monitor and report. Cllr Day recorded thanks to Peter Gaskin at Cambs County Council for funding work near the quarry to reduce water logging.

Planning

17 Planning Applications were dealt with during the period. Your Council has 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 solicits opinions from neighbours to assist in its decisions. Question was raised about planning applications including a drawing of existing property and neighbouring buildings. It was felt that most applications do in fact have these details.

Parking on the Village Green areas

Your Council is continuing to discuss with the Green Charity the control of illegal parking on the Village Green. Many houses now have need for

parking spaces for more than one car and we need to reach a decision as to how to proceed.

Roadways and footways where adopted by County Council Highways

Some footways/pavements have been repaired during the year, and thanks are due to Dennis Vacher from CCC South Highways Division for his support considering his very restricted budget. Hopefully, the remaining damaged ones will be repaired in the near future. Potholes and poor road surfaces throughout the village remain a major problem; a new reporting system has been set up by Cambs CC and is proving effective. Residents can access the reporting system via the County website.

Liaison with County Councillor

The Parish Council wishes to record its thanks to Sebastian Kindersley (CCC) for his support and advice during this period.

Communications

The Parish Council continues to use the Village Newsletter to bring specific items to the attention of residents, and is grateful for this service. The website is now admirably run by Diane Alderson.

Youth Club

Due entirely to Val Tookey and her co-workers Sheila Potter and Jamie Phillips, Barrington has a thriving Youth Club. Val Tookey was grateful for Parish Council financial support and recently help from Carol Alderton and Hayley McCormick this term, but still asked for more volunteers to enable the club to offer a variety of activities. Weekly attendance at the moment is 24 and she was pleased to report that the majority were Barringtonians.

Litter

Because of the actions of many volunteers carrying out regular litter picking the village is much improved. Long may it continue! Concern was expressed by Mr and Mrs Scott about litter between the Shop and Royal Oak, and along the footpath to back of school. Cllr Hardman took note of this and would set up further litter picking routine.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Jo Lauterpacht and co-workers have set up a village wide scheme, which is working extremely well. Chairman understand Mrs Lauterpacht was now an area co-ordinator for this valued scheme.

CEMEX

- CEMEX discontinued operations in Barrington due to the economic situation. CEMEX recently held an Open day on the brown field site which is capable of supporting 200+ houses. Despite County and District and Parish stating they would not look favourably on this an application could be imminent. CEMEX had also hoped to bring Bassingbourn Ski Slope there.
- Changes to water extraction require all to monitor any unusual changes to water levels in the village. Redirection of the output of the artesian well on Challis Green has already been accomplished.
- As part of the Challis Green development, the Parish Council has taken ownership of the land adjacent to the School and Church Farm. This land will be turned into a Wildlife Area and used for leisure and education. Alongside this is a small area which is to be planted out as wildflower area. Cllrs Glover and Whybrow are in the process of planning the work bearing in mind the conservation aspects. CEMEX are yet to make area safe by removal of old chain link/barbed wire fencing together with installing fence to delineate our boundary. To ensure area remains a conservation

and recreational woodland in perpetuity it is registered under the Fields in Trust scheme set up for the Queens Jubilee.

- The Application, by CEMEX, to reopen the railway to allow importation of inert material to refill part of the quarry has caused alarm among the residents of Glebe Road, Bendyshe Way and Malthouse Way and representations to mitigate any nuisances have been made to Cambridgeshire County Council. County Cllr Kindersley and Peter Bird from Bendyshe Way Residents Association are heading up the liaison.

Heslerton Way Affordable Housing Development

After so many years the Parish Council is 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 are now occupied. We welcome everyone to our village. Ditches and stagnant ponds belonging to CEMEX adjacent to housing are causing concerns for residents.

Further maintenance of the community areas and the central area is required by 100 Houses and more importantly attention to a pernicious weed known as horsetail (equisetum arvense) which has clearly been imported when new green was created.

Community Car Scheme

I am pleased to report that the Community Car Scheme has been resurrected. Cllr S Potter acts as Co-ordinator and we are grateful to the twelve residents who have offered to be voluntary drivers.

Clerk

Through the year Margaret Goding resigned as Clerk to the Parish Council and we welcomed back Valerie Tookey as Clerk. Cllr Fletcher was glad to report that Margaret remains Clerk to the Green Charity and paid tribute to her work in the Heslerton Way applications.

In closing his report the Chairman recorded special thanks to all the Parish Councillors for their efforts during the year; to Parish Clerks Margaret Goding and Valerie Tookey; to Valerie Parkes as Independent Internal Auditor; 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 and Steven Woolgar for making the Village Sign a colourful landmark; and finally to Monty Goding and his team of puddlers in respect of West Green pond and the High Street telephone box.

Lastly he expressed the Villages gratitude to Brian Northrop for his work as the Curator of our Village Green over many years. He has now moved from the village and sadly resigned as Curator. Cllr David Whybrow has now taken on that role.

4. Parish Council Financial Matters

The Chairman presented the Audited Accounts to 31.03.12 and the draft Accounts to 31.03.13 which has been circulated to all households. As reported last year the final invoices had been paid in connection with the Challis Green Play Area.

4. Attendance Record of Parish Council Members

The Parish Council met 12 times from April 2012 to March 2013.

Beverley Glover (10) Laura Cooper (8) Anne Day (11) Tony Fletcher (12)
Judy Hardman (11) Sheila Potter (11) Rosamund Rhodes-Kemp (8)
Aidan Van de Weyer (12) David Whybrow (11)

6. Cambridgeshire County Council

County Cllr Sebastian Kindersley thanked residents for their support over past eight years and hoped it would continue in the four to come.

- Following recent elections with no overall party control at the Council, at the AGM held that day the Council had agreed to revert to the Committee System. Previously this had been Leader and Cabinet model as per the Governments mandate. The Committee system means all members are involved, not just 7-8 members and meetings will be open to public. He has been elected Vice-chairman of the Council.
- County Cllr Kindersley paid tribute to our stalwarts Cllr Sheila Potter and Mr Julian Priddle who had attended every meeting that had been held regarding bus services. The Number 75 service has not yet had changes and it may be that new Council - new decisions. The Demand Responsive Transport network has a lot of merit but is not yet set up.
- Regarding the Police Panel. Barrington has a very low level of crime and again Barrington is always represented at panel meetings. Overall, crime has dropped in South Cambs.
- Roads, and footways. He agreed they were in very poor condition and stressed it would be our villages turn soon.
- County Cllr Kindersley thanked the Parish Council for their consideration.
- Following a question from Mr M Day he explained the Liberal Democrats view on funding arrangements for the A14 work. The upgrading is of national and international importance and should be paid for by the Exchequer. There was an expectation that SCDC find £5m contribution which would mean residents in South Cambs and Cambridgeshire will be paying through taxation and to use the toll road.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kindersley for all his hard work on behalf of Barrington, which was much appreciated.

7. South Cambridgeshire District Council

Chairman introduced Cllr Aidan Van de Weyer who had recently been elected as our District Councillor.

District Cllr Van de Weyer started by thanking residents for support in the election.. He continued by reporting :-

- **Local plan**

Last week, South Cambs started publishing the final draft of the Local Plan. This will guide development in the area until 2031 and is based on a study of demand for housing in the district. It includes details of some large new housing sites in the area. In particular, there will be two new developments around Cambourne, to the

West of the village and on Bourne airfield. There will also be a new town of 8,000 houses on Waterbeach barracks, which will start being built in about 15 years. Also, South Cambs have rejected the proposal for a new stadium in either Trumpington and Sawston. The final consultation on this will be taking place over the summer. He encouraged everyone to have a look at it and give their views. There are no changes that directly affect Barrington, as all the sites put forward were rejected in earlier phases.

Alongside the Local Plan, the County Council is developing its long-term transport strategy. This includes possible improvements to the A10 corridor, like a bridge over the Foxton level crossing, more trains and longer platforms, a better cycle route, a new park and ride site on this side of the M11. Unfortunately, there isn't much detail in there on rural buses, other than to recognise that there is a problem.

- **Sheltered housing**

Cllr Van de Weyer is also District Councillor for Orwell where there are two sheltered housing schemes. Funding for the services provided by South Cambs to residents comes mainly in the form of a grant from the County Council, and this funding has been cut by 40% over the last couple of years. So South Cambs can no longer provide regular daily visits to all residents, and now only provides more targeted, though less frequent, visits to some residents as well as help with organising activities. It may be necessary to find community-based alternatives.

The second reason for mentioning this is to raise for discussion the possibility of trying to get some sheltered housing in Barrington. There is certainly some current demand for it here. Sheltered housing was identified as the third most significant type of housing lacking in the village at the time of the village plan collated in 2007. That was based on a survey done eight years ago. Identifying such need and provision is a possible long-term project for the village.

- **Cycling**

Cllr Van de Weyer has been involved in the efforts to get the conditions for cyclists along the A10 improved through the A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign, which has just been formed. This is looking at the whole route from Cambridge to Royston, and fits in with the county's long-term transport strategy. He joined the very well attended ride last Sunday, with about 120 people, along the A10. And also recently met one of the county council's cycling officers to discuss the Harston stretch in more detail. There is also a sub-group in Royston that is looking at the options for crossing the A505, which is the main problem area on the southern part.

8. Open discussion for residents

Questions had been asked as the meeting progressed and as there were no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15 pm.

Signed Date