

BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held on 6th May 2014

Present : Parish Councillors Fletcher (Chairman), Cooper, Day, Hardman, Rhodes-Kemp, Potter, Van de Weyer, Whybrow. Also Mrs V Parkes (Independent auditor); County Councillor Kindersley and 24 Parishioners.

- 1. Apologies :-** received from Cllr Glover due to work commitments.
- 2. Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 21st May 2013** had previously been approved on June 18th and circulated to all households via the newsletter.
- 3. Chairmans Report :-**
Cllr Fletcher welcomed those present and reminded everyone that elections were due next year.

3.1 Parish Councillors

During the period reported Tony Fletcher was re-elected as Chairman and Aidan Van de Weyer was initially re-elected as Vice-Chairman. After his election as District Councillor Rosamund Rhodes-Kemp was elected as Vice Chairman with Aidan Van de Weyer remaining on the Parish Council. Laura Cooper, Anne Day, Judy Hardman David Whybrow, Beverly Glover and Sheila Potter complete the Council. Sheila Potter and Rosamund Rhodes-Kemp attended parish councillor training during the year.

3.2 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. Having considered our projected expenditure, your Council decided to maintain the precept for 2014-2015 at £29,000. The Council have targeted a Reserve of £6,000.00. During the year under review Mrs Valerie Parkes served as our Independent Internal Auditor.

3.3 Conservation of the Village Green

Your Council maintains the recreational areas of the Village Green to aid the Green Charity. 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.

3.4 Playgrounds

The Under 5s Play Area adjacent to the Church Car Park and the 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. Likewise parents are being urged to use the church car parking area rather than create hazards by parking along Challis Green. All the plastic benches are well used and thanks to their robust construction have suffered minimal vandalism.

3.5 Ditches and ponds

The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the ditches and ponds on the Village Green. Your Council set up a volunteer group for each pond, to look after the pond and to maintain it. The Challis Green pond has seen recent clearance by Mr K Hunt and Mr S Catlin-Jones. Anyone wishing to assist further with this pond should contact Councillor Rhodes Kemp. Pumping from the CEMEX quarry further complicates the situation because of chalk deposition and CEMEX have recently completed a settlement tank to mitigate this problem. CEMEX will now undertake de-silting work. Ken Stapleton and Monty Goding have voluntarily kept an expert eye on the water situation since the closure of the works. 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. During the recent wet weather conditions, the ditches have been regularly monitored.

3.6 Street furniture and road signs

Following the decision of the District Council, the Parish Council has continued to have financial responsibility for the energy usage of street lighting in our village. Street lights and signs have been repaired/replaced by the County Council when requested. Please continue to report defective lights and signage to the Parish Clerk.

Following a public meeting it was agreed to unify the speed limit through the village at 30m.p.h and to reduce limits in Glebe Rd and connecting roads to 20m.p.h. The cost of this work has been borne by the village. It was sad to see drivers still speeding.

3.7 Footpaths

Barrington has taken part in the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme since 1990, ably co-ordinated by Cllr Day. 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.

3.8 Planning

21 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.

3.9 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. Reinforcement of selected areas may be a solution, but no decision has yet been made.

3.10 Roadways and footways where adopted by County Council Highways

Some footways/pavements have been repaired during the year, and thanks are due to CCC South Highways Division for their support. 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. Dropped kerbs have been provided wherever possible. The ongoing problems of access to the school has been discussed. Using the back entrance as the main entrance for the school has been discounted by the school and also there is little car parking provided near Heselton Way. Crossing from the car park is still hazardous. This issue has been discussed over the past year. Having recently received support from the School Governors, that morning Cllr Fletcher had met with County Highways to investigate again the possibility of having a footpath along the verge across in front of Barrington Hall, with a safe crossing across to the school. The council await design and costings from the County Council before trying to raise the funding.

3.11 Liaison with County & District Councillors.

The Parish Council wishes to record its thanks to Sebastian Kindersley (CCC) and to Aidan Van de Weyer for their support and advice during this period.

3.12 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 and all council procedures and past minutes are available through the site. The Council has set up a sub-committee working on the production of a Village Guide, the launch of which is set for September at the latest.

3.13 Youth Club

Due to Val Tookey, Jamie Phillips, Sheila Potter, Carol Alderton and Hayley McCormick, Barrington has a thriving Youth Club. Your Council will continue to support this Club as needed. Parental help is always being sought.

3.14 Litter

Because of the actions of many volunteers carrying out regular litter picking the village is much improved. Long may it continue!

3.15 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Jo Lauterpacht and co-workers have set up a village wide scheme, which is working extremely well.

3.16 CEMEX

CEMEX discontinued operations in Barrington due to the economic situation. 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 is being developed into a Wildlife Area for leisure and education. CEMEX, is reopening the railway to allow importation of inert material to refill part of the quarry. A Barrington Light Railway sub committee has been established to work with CEMEX to reduce disruption caused to a minimum.

CEMEX intend to seek planning approval for 250 dwellings on the previously used site at the quarry. Based upon a public meeting held in January 2013 your council has solicited opinions from nearby Parishes and continues, with them, to aggressively oppose such a development.

3.17 Heselton Way Affordable Housing Development

After so many years the Parish Council is very pleased to see that the development is complete. Work is still in progress to clean up the central grass area prior to it being handed over to the Green Charity for maintenance

3.18 Community Car Scheme.

Under the control of Councillor Potter the scheme is now running well and its 100th journey has just been actioned. More drivers are always needed so even if you are only able to offer a limited amount of time please do volunteer.

3.19 Wild Life Area/Q.E.II Woodland

Now a beautiful addition to the village and officially opened in October 2013. Thanks are due to David Whybrow, Brian Whybrow, Simon Catlin-Jones, Steve Cooper, Keith Hunt, Peter Oakley, Colin Gilbert, Richard Bystry for the immense amount of voluntary time and effort given. We are planning a celebration in the woodland on September 13/14.

I wish to record special thanks to:

All the Parish Councillors for their efforts during the year

Our Parish Clerk Val Tookey

Valerie Parkes, Independent Internal Auditor

Peter Allen, Simon Anderson, Mike Day, and Rachel & Steven Woolgar

Monty Goding and his team of West Green pond puddlers

Justin Wilmott

David Whybrow and the Woodland Gang

Keith Hunt and Stephen Catlin-Jones

Cllr Fletcher then asked those present what their Council should be doing.

- a) Litter – *is still a problem in the shop area*. Cllr Hardman to arrange further little picking.
- b) Archer bridge : *could we revisit a weight restriction* here as there are heavy vehicles coming from Orwell Road to Shepreth Road. Cllr Fletcher said Council would look at tis but would need to consider the school bus.
- c) *Visibility issues* Archer bridge : Landowners need to keep trees cut back.
- d) *Priority Archer Bridge* : Could this be revisited.
- e) *Footpath to Shepreth (1m)* : could this issue also be revisited
- f) *Footpath to Foxton* : In the same vein could this be investigated as villagers need access to both rail stations. County Cllr Kindersley was asked if there might be funding and he suggested might be able to get cycleway money from City Deal and District Cllr Van de Ven may be able to put on her list.
- g) Lengthy debate about *speeding issues* : - Council was given mandate to investigate flashing signs; village speed watch; speed guns etc. Maybe Neighbourhood Watch volunteers could get involved.
- h) *Railway* : asked what was happening with CEMEX railway. Once contract is let the line will be renovated and upgraded. It is expected to take five years to bring in the inert material.
- i) Using *railway line to walk* to Foxton was also discussed.
- j) *Why did Parish council require 80% staircasing* for Heslerton Way as this made applying for mortgage difficult? District Cllr Van de Weyer responded that this was not a parish council decision, more likely the District Council. Cllr Fletcher said the Parish Council fought to get prices reduced to no avail.

4. Financial Matters:-

- 4.1 Parish Council audited Accounts to 31.03.13 were received by the meeting.
- 4.2 Parish Council draft Accounts to 31.03.14 were presented to the meeting.

5. Attendance Record of Parish Council Members :

The Parish Council met 11 times during the year from April 2013 to March 2014.
Laura Cooper (9) Anne Day (11) Tony Fletcher (11) Judy Hardman (10)
Sheila Potter (11) Aidan Van de Weyer (10) David Whybrow (10)
Beverley Glover (7) Rosamund Rhodes-Kemp 10)

6. Report from District Councillor Van de Weyer :

District Cllr Van de Weyer started by saying he had represented Barrington for the past year and had found it very varied and interested. He reminded meeting that he places regular reports in the newsletter. Council tax has been increased by 2% and next year will see a 3.5% increase – with both years seeing further cuts in services. He is a member of several committees including one which has seen the formation of housing company to include private rental as well as affordable housing; and another regarding the planning for the Cambridge fringes including the Science Park.

The Local Plan which is to be adopted early next year, is good for Barrington. District Cllr Van de Weyer attends meetings regarding bus series along with Julian Priddle and Sheila Potter. The No. 75 service is under review. He is also working on a Mobile Warden Scheme which he hopes will be set up soon.

Responding to questions :-

- a) *What is planned for the Foxton Level crossing ?* At present feasibility study looking at options. Parish Cllr Rhodes-Kemp will be representing Barrington on the working Group. Network rail will decide whether bridge or underpass. All present stressed that access points onto the A10 need to be considered whichever option is decided upon as there will be a constant stream of traffic.
- b) *If major development such as CEMEX takes place would A10 be considered for upgrading ?* District Cllr Van de Weyer said that dualling of the A10 is not in the transport strategy.

7. Report from County Councillor Kindersley :

County Cllr Kindersley started by thanking villagers again for re-electing him last year. He is Vice Chairman of the Council, and Chairs the Ethics Committee which has been working on a new constitution to allow governance by all councillors being involved in all decisions. This should take effect within the next two weeks.

Council has been finding ways to make and save money including disposing of County property and making officers redundant. There will be less money each year and so Council has to either charge or reduce services; with park and ride charging one of the most controversial decisions.

He was pleased that the Government has at last acknowledged that Cambridgeshire schools were the worst funded in the country. The campaign led by Head teachers has seen announcement of a further £245 per child p.a. which will be distributed taking into account a lot of different factors.

County Cllr Kindersley went on to speak about the Cambridge Future Transport Scheme which has been reviewing bus services/subsidy and Barrington's No. 75 is under threat. However, he believes this may be left as it is because of the low subsidy. Cuts to Police funding means fewer police panels and the number of PCSOs reduced.

Other issues he highlighted was the new housing planned; Government funding called City Deal for transport infrastructure to include 10% spent on cycleways; Community Infrastructure Levy which replaces the previous S106 is now £100 per sq ft per development of which 15% comes back to parish councils.

County Cllr Kindersley closed by mentioning the QEII woodland and his pleasure at being asked to officiate at the opening.

In response to questions :-

- a) *With the extra school funding were we still the worse ?* He was not sure but felt it was important that at long last the Government had acknowledged Cambridgeshire's plight.
- b) *What was his view on the mental health cuts ?* Were reductions in children's mental health services in this years budget, further cuts were stayed.

The final point he made was that if services are free now, in 12 months they won't be !

Councillor Fletcher thanked everyone for attending and meeting was closed at 8.50 p.m.