

# **BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> 2015

Present : Councillors Fletcher, Rhodes-kemp, Day, Van de Weyer, Cooper, Glover and Potter. Also County Councillor S Kindersley and Mrs V Parkes (Independent Internal Auditor). 13 parishioners were present.

1. Apologies were received from Cllr J Hardman and Cllr Whybrow. Also Mr and Mrs Scott, Mrs H McCormick, Mrs C Alderton and Mrs S Fesco.
2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 had been approved on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, are displayed on the website and have been circulated to all households.

Chairman welcomed PCSO John Coppard to the meeting who updated villagers on the current position on crimes recorded. He then explained that the service were running an "op-Oakland" which involved spending 3 weeks in each village. Barrington's session will take place from the 14<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October. The project is crime/prevention/awareness with a chance of purchasing window alarms/shed alarms and the most popular Smart Water. Evening surgeries for this project for those not at home during the day have been booked at the Village Hall on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September between 6 – 8 pm.; Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> between 4 and 6 p.m. and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> between 6 and 7 p.m. He can be contacted through telephone 101 ext 7113441, or e mail john.coppard :cambspnn.police.uk.

3. Chairman's Report for 2014-2015

### **3.1 Parish Councillors**

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

### **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. Audited Accounts for 2013-2014 and draft accounts for 2014-2015 are attached. Having considered our projected expenditure, your Council decided to increase the precept for 2015-2016 to £34,000. This will allow the Parish Council to assist the finances of the Green Charity by taking over responsibility for all routine maintenance of the green. The GC continues to maintain roadways. 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.

### **3.3 Conservation of the Village Green**

Your Council leases the recreational areas of the Village Green from the Green Charity and is responsible for their maintenance. The grass in these areas is cut more regularly than the rest

of the Village Green. Following a decision to further assist the GC we will now maintain the rest. 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 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.

### **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. CEMEX have now dug out the Challis Green pond and arranged a settlement lagoon to trap mineral particles and a volunteer group can now take over. 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 wet weather conditions, the ditches are 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, although response time has been slow. Please continue to report defective lights and signage to the Parish Clerk.

The speed limit through the village is now 30 m.p.h and in Glebe Rd and connecting roads 20 m.p.h.

### **3.7 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 although there is no longer a grant from Cambs County Council. We are also grateful to the Footpath Wardens who monitor and report.

### **3.8 Planning**

34 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 footway from Challis pond to Boot Lane is to be resurfaced by Cambs CC in May.

### **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 Communication**

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 continues to be run by Diane Alderson.

### **3.13 Youth Club**

Due entirely to Val Tookey and her co-workers, Barrington has a thriving Youth Club. Your Council will continue to support this Club as needed. Parents must help if the success is to continue.

### **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. We also have five volunteers awaiting training under the Community Speedwatch system.

### **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 has been turned into a Wildlife Area and used 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 subcommittee has been established to work with CEMEX to reduce disruption caused to a minimum. An open meeting was held recently at which it was announced that railway use would start in June with one return journey per day. Only 2 residents attended.

CEMEX has asked for planning approval for 220 dwellings on the previously used site at the quarry. Based upon 3 public meetings your Council continues to aggressively oppose such a development. Harston Surgery has now formally stated that it cannot cope with any further increase in patient numbers. Cllr Fletcher reported that it is now likely that the application, following three postponements, will be heard at the June Planning Committee of the District Council. The new housing proposed for Melbourn may also be on the agenda for June.

When questioned on the subject of the housing applications along the A10 stretch, Cllr Fletcher said that Barrington Parish Council is working with neighbouring parish councils to gain support from the S.C.D.C. in resisting applications.

### **3.17 Heselton Way Affordable Housing Development**

The central grass area has been handed over to the Green Trustee for maintenance. Following recent works this will now come within the current grass cutting programme.

### **3.18 Community Car Scheme**

Under the control of Councillor Potter the scheme is now running well. More drivers are desperately needed.

### **3.19 Woodland/Wild Life Area**

Now a beautiful addition to the village. Thanks are due to Brian Whybrow, Simon Caitlin-Jones, Keith Hunt, David Whybrow and his woodland warriors, and members of the Women's Institute, for the immense amount of voluntary time and effort given. A celebration in the woodland in October was extremely successful and will be repeated this year on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **3.20 Mobile Warden Scheme**

During the year Barrington, following research by Cllr Van de Weyer, became a member of the Harston and District Village Warden Trust. Current Trustees are Cllr Laura Cooper and Mrs Val Tookey. The scheme allows for a daily telephone call and a weekly visit for just £3. Per week.

**3.21 Thanks were recorded** to: All the Parish Councillors for their efforts during the year; our Parish Clerk Val Tookey, Val Parkes our Independent Internal Auditor Also to Peter Allen, Simon Anderson, Mike Day, and Steven Woolgar and Clare Corcoran, Monty Goding and his team of West Green pond puddlers, Justin Wilmott and All the woodland/wild life area volunteers

## **4. Parish Council Financial Matters:**

4.1 **Audited Accounts to 31.03.14** were received by the meeting.

4.2 **Draft Receipts and Payments were presented** to the meeting. Street Lighting was discussed. Generally agreed that Barrington Parish Council took the correct decision in not changing the lamp standards around the Green but that needed to monitor efficiency where trees obstruct light. Clerk confirmed that 62 out of the 82 lamps in village are the responsibility of the village which includes power and maintenance.

## **5. Attendance Record of Parish Council Members:-**

The Parish Council met 16 times during the year from April 2014 to March 2015.

Laura Cooper (11) Anne Day ( 16) Tony Fletcher (14) Beverley Glover (10)

Judy Hardman (13) Sheila Potter (13) Rosamund Rhodes-Kemp (16)

Aidan Van de Weyer (16) David Whybrow (13)

## 6. Cambridgeshire County Council

County Councillor Kindersley thanked Barrington for its continuous warm welcome. He reported that the **P.F.I. scheme for new street lighting** has been very difficult to manage. The County now finds itself having to dim the 56,000 lights, and switch some off at night.

**Budget pressures** continue and Council has to make £32m cuts in this financial year. This involves reducing staff and disposing of premises such as Castle Court which is currently being converted into student accommodation.

Cambridgeshire has been the **worst funded county for education** in the UK since the 1980s, but the Government has now acknowledged this and schools now fare slightly better taking County up to the 10<sup>th</sup> worst funded. He emphasises that despite this the results in the southern part of the County are very good.

The new **Committee System** of the council is working and providing productive, being more open and allowing more informed decision making.

**CEMEX** has been a big issue for the village. Should the worst happen he feels that CEMEX are under no illusion of the impact it will have on the village.

County Councillor Kindersley said he was aware a number of parish councillors were not standing for re-election and he wished to extend his thanks to them.

He was asked if it was possible to have some form of **information system at the Park and Ride** to let users know when there are delays? Meeting heard that there are repair works to the rails taking place at the moment which were to be expected, but all agreed that users need to have information. Also discussion about the diverse driving techniques of the guided bus drivers.

## 7. South Cambridgeshire District Council

District Councillor Van de Weyer reported that SCDC main thrust this year had been to work on the **draft Local Plan** which would take it through to 2031. The Plan is lodged with the Inspector at the moment and if there are queries there may be further work to do. S.C.D.C. lost two planning appeals in Waterbeach because it could not show the housing demand would be met. This has meant that planning applications have been submitted which would have been outside the Local Plan including Foxton (100) Melbourn (200), CEMEX and more at Fulbourn/Gamlingay. Landowners were taking advantage of the "vacuum".

As Cllr Fletcher has reported District Councillors and A10 corridor Parish Councillors have met to consider way forward if reach **Appeal stage** when parish councils will need to employ specialist to deal with that process.

The **A14 upgrade** work to the Cambridge to Huntingdon stretch will start in the summer.

**City Deal** involves Cambridge City Council, County Council and District to work with the Government to improve the infrastructure in order to encourage economic growth in Cambridge area. At the moment the focus has been on improving bus routes in and out of Cambridge.

**Cycleways** : Grant of £2m. to improve cycleway from Foxton to Cambridge allows for work to start soon.

**Buses and reorganisation of bus routes**: Potential changes to Barrington's No. 75 are awaited.

**Finance** : S.C.D.C. have to cut £300,000 this year and a further £700,00 next year. Some savings have been made by re-organising services and sharing of services with neighbouring councils. S.C.D.C. has also set up its own housing company with the expectation that by being a private landlord it can make a profit to plough back into further housing.

**CEMEX** : District Cllr Van de Weyer has been involved in the response from Barrington Parish Council, and meetings between CEMEX and the Council in order to agree a package to attenuate the impact of such a large housing development.

He thanked Barrington Parish Council for assistance in his role as District Councillor for the past two years, and also wished new parish council well.

Discussion about whether other Counties could be persuaded to contribute to infrastructure ; an example being given of the extensive housing development at Royston which again affects the A10. General view was this would be unlikely. Inspectors do not take other circumstances into account when reaching decisions. Cllr Rhodes-Kemp explained that was why the local Parish councillors had banded together to try to influence S.C.D.C. County Cllr Kindersley said that S.C.D.C. district is also surrounded by development issues at Haverhill, Biggleswade, St Neots and Huntingdon, along the A428 corridor.

The Royston expansion will mean rail use will increase and recently Network Rail have announced the Foxton road crossing will remain. There is no chance of a pedestrian crossing either. Meeting also generally agreed that not only does money need to be put into creation of cycleways, there needs to be a maintenance fund also.

There being no further business Cllr Fletcher thanked all for attending and reminded meeting that the Annual Meeting of the Green Charity would follow.

Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.