

# **BARNBY IN THE WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 September 2019 in the Village Hall at 7:30pm.**

### **Present:**

Cllrs Janette Barlow (Chmn), Jackie Parker, Graham Bett, Carina Jukes, Karin Chaplin.

Yvette Wellard (Clerk), 6 members of the public.

### **PC/55/19 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Powell, Cllr Speakman, Co. Cllr Dobson, Dist. Cllr Brooks, Dist. Cllr Lee.

### **PC/56/19 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

### **PC/57/19 Public Contributions, District and County Councillors.**

i) Cllr Lee submitted a written report highlighting the District Council's new policy on trees - free trees available for planting, a clamp down on fly tipping and additional dog fouling notices which had been put up around the village.

ii) Members of the public raised the following issues:

- Parking on pavements causing an obstruction, particularly for wheelchairs and pushchairs. The Clerk would contact Brian Rawlinson, NSDC Parking Services Manager for advice and a notice would go on the website and in the next newsletter.
- In spite of work recently carried out by NCC, the problem of flooding on Front Street had not been solved. The Clerk had already informed Co Cllr Dobson of this and she was to visit the next day.
- Footpaths. Even though the crops had now been harvested, the route from behind School House to the river was still not walkable due to deep ridges. The Clerk would write to the land owner, Mr Snipe. There was a discussion about the lack of disabled access for walks, and whether there had been an ancient right of way past Barnby Hall to the bridge across the river. The Clerk would ask Neil Lewis, NCC Rights of Way for information. It was noted that the first stile to the left of the foot bridge was broken. Mr Whitehead said that he would contact Lincs. County Council.
- Speeding. It was thought that much of the speeding in the village was being done by carers visiting elderly residents. The Clerk would report this to PCSO Hewerdine. The Chmn again drew attention to the opportunity to hire hand-held radar equipment from Coddington PC if a team of volunteers could be found to take part in training and organised speedwatch sessions.
- Litter. There were excessive amounts of rubbish on Long Lane and Newark Road. The Clerk would request a litter pick by NSDC.

### **PC/58/19 Approval of the July Parish Council Minutes.**

Proposed as a true record by Cllr Chaplin, seconded by Cllr Jukes, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

### **PC/59/19 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes.**

PC/41/19 The organisers of the Best Kept Village Competition said that it was not possible to provide any more detailed information on the judges' comments.

PC/48/19 It was reported that the problem of noise and anti-social behaviour on Back Lane had been largely resolved and thanks were expressed to Cllr Brooks for her help in directing the complaint to the appropriate department at NSDC.

PC/52g/19 Cllr Barlow explained how a village neighbourhood watch system would operate. A group email would be set up for Barnbywatch with Cllr Barlow as the administrator. Residents who wished to be included would be advised to set up a separate gmail account for direct notification of any suspicious activity, and the site could also be used for more general correspondence between residents.

**PC/60/19 Planning.**

**19/01576/FUL – Dalehey, Back Lane 2 storey extension.**

There were no objections to the application.

Cllr Parker drew attention to the auditor's report which stated that a quorum of 6 is required for planning matters. The Clerk confirmed that this was an error by the auditor – Barnby's standing orders require a quorum of 4 members to be present on all matters.

**PC/61/19 Finance.**

**a) Payments.** Proposed by Cllr Jukes, seconded by Cllr Parker, the following were approved:

Wave (Anglian Water)	£ 67.02
Water Plus	£ 19.09
SSE	£215.94 – Estimated bill
DCR – fire alarm repair and inspection	£186.00
Mower fuel	£ 13.89
HMRC	£ 78.00
Performing Rights Society	£102.57
Printing for Live and Local	£ 27.99

The estimated bill from SSE had already been paid by direct debit under the terms of the agreement. It was agreed that the Clerk would apply for a smart meter to be installed to prevent the need for future estimates.

**b) Finance Statement and Budget Review.**

Members received copies of the receipts and payments statement to 12<sup>th</sup> September for the Parish Council and Village Hall. There had been no unexpected transactions and expenditure was in line with the budget. There was a discussion on the impact that the increased hours for a new Clerk, in line with the audit's recommendation, would have on the Parish Council's budget. It was acknowledged that for some years in the past, the Precept had not kept up with rising costs and substantial increases would be needed over the next few years to finance the Parish Council and to ensure the future of the Village Hall.

**PC/62/19 Administration.**

**a) Appointment of Clerk.**

The closing date for applications was 30<sup>th</sup> September. It was agreed that interviews would be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October to be conducted by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Cllr Jukes and the Clerk. Members were invited to submit suggestions for any questions that they would particularly like candidates to be asked. A full Council meeting would be held on 10<sup>th</sup> October to ratify the panel's recommendation for appointment and agree terms and conditions.

**b) Caretaker's Contract.**

In order to comply with points raised by the auditor, it was agreed to insert a clause in the Caretaker's contract to clarify that basic pay is for a maximum of 38 hours per annum. Any additional hours required would be paid as overtime.

**c) Newsletter and web site.**

Cllrs again discussed whether savings should be made by cutting out the village newsletter as no-one had come forward to volunteer to edit the newsletter. Alternative communication would be through the website, the Committee's data base and flyers to promote specific events. The Church and The Willow Tree would be responsible for their own promotional material. No final decision was made.

#### **d) Committee Constitution.**

The Village Committee had confirmed that they wished to remain as a sub-committee of the Parish Council for the purpose of organising social events and raising funds for the village. The Clerk confirmed that the function of the committee was in accordance with the Local Government Act – Section 145 which states:

*‘a local authority may do or arrange for the doing of or contribute towards the expenses of doing anything for (1a) the provision of entertainment of any nature and (2c) may make charges for admission to any entertainment or exhibition held by them and for any refreshment or programmes.’*

The Parish Council agreed that membership of the committee could be increased from 10 to 12 plus the Parish Council Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk ex-officio. The Clerk would amend the constitution. The appointment of three new members to the committee was agreed – Neil Gribby, David Marchant and Andy Rowding, bringing the total to the maximum of 15 members.

#### **e) Committee Report.**

Cllr Parker reported that the Horticultural Show had raised £125.10 and that tickets were selling well for the Live and Local event in October. There was to be a discussion on whether the Fireworks BBQ would be held on the Village Green or at the Village Hall – both subject to consent for letting off the fireworks.

#### **f) Defibrillator/First Aid Training.**

An initial date of 19<sup>th</sup> September proposed by Newark Community First Aid for training in the Village Hall had been postponed as a number of people who had originally requested the training would be away. The Clerk would try to re-arrange the event for later in the year.

### **PC/63/19 Village Hall.**

#### **a) Fire and Electrical Testing.**

During the call out to the fire alarm, DCR had checked all the sensors in the building and found one faulty smoke detector which would cost £85 to replace. They also provided a cost of a further £180 to replace all the fire alarm detectors. The Clerk had arranged for Chubb to give a quote for an annual inspection and had re-arranged the electrical inspection as no report had been received and no contact could be made with J Wilkins Ltd who had carried out the electrical test and PATS earlier in the year.

#### **b) Maintenance.**

i) None of the companies recommended by Oliver Scott for the refurbishment of the windows were prepared to do the work for various reasons. The Clerk had arranged a quote from a local window specialist who had been recommended to repair the church windows.

ii) A group of young people from the Prince's Trust Community Projects would be coming to paint preservative on the fence.

iii) Samples of material for new curtains were discussed and agreed. Cllr Chaplin had volunteered to make the curtains, and advised that the total cost of materials, including fire-proofing, would be about £500. Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Barlow, Members agreed that this could go ahead. It was also agreed to look at purchasing new chairs. Both of these projects would be paid for from money refunded by NSDC for overpayment of rates and the balance of the rates money would be held in reserve for future maintenance. The Clerk would try to obtain examples of new chairs and costings for the next meeting.

#### **c) Lettings .**

There was still no regular use of the hall. There were four bookings for parties up to the beginning of November.

## **PC/64/19 Open Spaces, Environment, Roads.**

### **a) Mowing Report.**

Mr Chaplin had added the grass verge on Newark Road up to the village sign to his mowing schedule for the Green and playing field. He had also cut back brambles around the playing field.

### **b) Village Green Railings.**

Mr Chaplin reported that the knee-high railings around the grassed area to the left of the Village Green were rotten and needed to be replaced. Cllr Parker said that Mr Parker had volunteered to do the repairs.

### **c) Flooding on Front Street.**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting - minute PC/57/19.

## **PC/65/19 Correspondence.**

- An invitation to the Parish Council Conference on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November from 9am – 12noon at North Muskhams Village Hall.
- A complaint was received about dog fouling in the field which was not picked up. Members of the public must be prepared to report names and details of offenders to the dog warden for action to be taken.

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October.**

*The meeting closed at 9:30pm*