

BARNBY IN THE WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WED 10th MAY 2022 at 7:00pm.

Attendees: Cllr Janette Barlow, Cllr Jackie Parker, Cllr Carina Jukes, Cllr Carol Speakman, Cllr Graham Bett, Cllr Richard Cowley, Cllr Betty Brooks, Cllr John Lee, Helen Cowlan (Clerk)
Public: 2 members of the public inc Yvette Wellard.

1. **Introductions and apologies for absence**

Cllr Debbie Darby's sent apologies due to conflicting commitments.

2. **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting, held on 5th May 2021 were approved as being a true record of the meeting – proposed Cllr Speakman, seconded Cllr Jukes.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes**

None

4. **Chairman's Report**

It has been another quiet year, although things are starting to get back on track with more progress being made in some areas. Fundraising was still down as this could only start later in the year than normal, but improvements are on the way including the Jubilee celebrations. Many thanks were given to Derick Parker for looking after the Green and maintenance, and to the Committee for fundraising achieved so far.

5. **Finance Report**

The financial year of 2021-22 was another challenging year with the gradual move back towards normality. Although the overall figures suggest a balance of money received versus money spent, some of the funds are ringfenced and when you look at the accounts separately it is clear that a careful approach will need to be continued going forward. Looking at the accounts in more detail:

Parish Council

Costs were mostly in-line with those budgeted – some savings were made against audit, training and mowing costs, but increased for staff costs and for the marquee purchase. The amount held in reserves is just below the recommended amount of hold 1.5 times the annual precept. As per Government guidance, the precept was only increased by a small amount (1%). It is anticipated that income and costs should balance next year.

Village Hall

Again, costs were mostly in line with expectations – some savings were made against PPRPLS and sundries, but increased for utilities, staff costs and for the marquee purchase. Costs exceeded income by nearly £900 and although there should have been 'less of a loss' during this financial year, there is actually likely to be an increase in costs because of the increases in fuel prices, and prices generally (which had not been anticipated at the time of setting the budget).

In summary, for the next financial year (2022-23) it would, of course, be wise to take steps to increase income (events, review Hall hire charges, promote Hall hire) and minimise costs (especially for fuel), especially as it is hoped to start on some much-needed maintenance work on the Hall, and there will be future election costs to bear (2023-24). Now that Covid restrictions have lifted, it gives a great opportunity to try and bring as much money in as possible.

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6. Open Forum for residents of the Parish

Mrs Wellard handed over some accounts and minutes from her time as Clerk and was advised that work on the website had been started, but would be continued further. Mrs Wellard advised that as part of Jubilee celebrations, afternoon teas would be served at the Church on the Thursday, that there would be a 'bring your own' picnic in the Churchyard on the Sunday, and that although no decision had been made about planting a tree there were some available if needed. Mrs Wellard reminded the Parish Council that Coddington's speed gun could be hired if needed.

Meeting ended 19:15

.....**Signed**
.....**Chair**

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