

MINUTES of a MEETING of BARTON PARISH COUNCIL which was held in the VILLAGE HALL, School Lane, Barton on Thursday 7th September 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. John Howland Jackson [JHJ], Chloe Langford [CL], Andrew Martin [AM], Shelley Arora-Tailby [SA], Deni Devappriya [DD], Sam Richardson [SR], Amy Winterbourne (AW), Helen Durrant (HD), James Thomas (JT)

Ian Minto (IM) Clerk

District Councillor: Lisa Redrup

County Councillor: Michael Atkins

Members: 9,

Quorum: 3

Public Forum

4 members of the public were present.

No questions or points were made by the members of the public.

23-24/35 To receive and approve apologies for absence. None received.

23-24/36 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on July 4th, 2023. Council **RESOLVED** unanimously (Prop CL sec SA) to approve the minutes which the Chair duly signed.

23-24/37 To consider matters arising from the minutes. To consider matters arising from the minutes. There were none that would not be referred to later in the meeting.

23-24/38 To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda. None were received.

23-24/39 To receive County Councillor report: Michael Atkins. Michael had submitted his report which was on the PC website. He summarised aspects of the content as follows.

- Regarding the recent Government report on RAAC concrete in Schools, he stated that after surveying none of Cambridgeshire's County schools were affected. There were still 3 schools to be surveyed.
- There was Govt. approval to create two new special free schools in the County.
- The results of the latest round of LHI applications had been issued but Barton's bid for an additional MVAS traffic control machine had not succeeded.
- There have been many complaints about weeds in various parts of the district and across the county. The County Council's current Highways Operational Standards state that the Council

will apply weed killer using a targeted approach at agreed locations identified on the basis of risk, rather than cyclically as before. This policy affects about 30 per cent of the highway network in Cambridgeshire, as only kerbed urban areas were previously cyclically treated for weeds. The County Council's policy remains to remove hazardous weeds, or weeds causing safety issues or nuisance. There is intention to balance ecological issues with safety.

- There will be changes to bin collections from 18th September. Letters will be sent to residents from Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service

23-24/40 To receive District Councillor report: Lisa Redrup. Lisa had submitted her report which was on the PC website. She summarised aspects of the content as follows.

- SCDC continues to look for volunteers to help support asylum seekers.
- Lisa commented on the Govt announcement to 'turbocharge' plans for growth in and around Cambridge. It appears there is no clarity as yet, but the plans have been heavily questioned and criticized in the media and press. Consultations with all political groups and community groups are ongoing. It was stated that water supply issues were a key factor in completing the planning awareness and numbers involved.
- Lisa reported the Greater Cambridge Partnership proposal for increased buses and parking charges to fund them are currently being dropped but that discussions regarding alternative solutions are still ongoing before a final decision is taken in the Autumn.
- It was noted that Zero Carbon communities grants are still being awarded by SCDC.
- A webchat has been launched on the SCDC website between 10am and 3pm hoping to expand the opportunities for residents and businesses to communicate with SCDC regarding information and questions regarding council services.

23-24/41 To receive reports from the Clerk/RFO (Ian Minto)

(a) Bank balances at 31/08/2023 current acc. £44679.25 Deposit acc. £28900.66

(b) To receive and approve payments/receipts and bank reconciliations July/August 2023

August Payments:

- £66.96 Rymans Printer cartridges
- £3.00 Credit card fees Lloyds
- £282.00 Gingers and Tall signs (£118.80 Bike, £163.20 Car Park and Play area)
- £66.90 TCS Chandlery Lifebuoy
- £15.77 + £11.37 + £6.98 Signs via Cllr Arora-Tailby
- £813.02 Glasdon UK Dog bins
- £639.11 CGM Group Grass cutting x4 July.
- £23.57 DRAX street Lighting
- £9.00 H3G Clerk phone
- £510.76 Clerk salary July

August Receipts:

Zero receipts

July Payments:

- £18.00 Bank Charges UTB
- £59.99 annual fee Microsoft



- £3.00 credit card fee
- £35.00 BRIG room hire.
- £198.07 CGM grass cutting June rec & play.
- £175.83 CAPALC external audit
- £383.00 HMRC PAYE qtr may- june23
- £4.23 £+ £10.32 Foxcotte skateramp repair
- £103.16 Online playgrounds Skateramp repair
- £75.12 Safetysigns4Less Rec ground
- £100.00 Barton Institute Village Hall
- £9.00 H&G clerk phone
- £510.96 Clerk and RFO salary Minto
- £196.60 Final Clerk salary Stretch.
- £99.04 CGM grass cutting May Rec

July Receipts:

- £40.00 J Freeley bike event

It was **RESOLVED** (prop. CL, sec. SR) unanimously to approve the receipts and payments for July and August 2023.

23-24/42 Council Matters To receive and discuss circulated update from the PC working groups and resolve upon recommendations and actions.

Governance and Finance

- Internal Audit follow up actions.** IM reported that he had received the external auditors report which indicated that the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR was in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met except for the fact that Sections 1 & 2 of the 2021/22 AGAR were not published on the authority's website by the dates specified in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. IM explained this as a mistake on his part and that it would not be repeated. IM and AM are currently engaged on ensuring all the publication of the audit procedures and results would be correct going forward.
- PC Policies review process.** This is a large task and is ongoing. The Gov&Finance working group are steadily updating the policies and will publish all on the website.
- Barton Village Hall representative.** JHJ reported that Cllr Deni Devappriya has agreed to act as the PC representative and Council **RESOLVED** (prop JHJ sec SR) unanimously to elect DD to this position.

42.2 Amenities and Open Spaces

- Grass and Verges update.** IM explained that there had been and are continuing to be teething problems with the new contractors. He and CL have been in contact regularly with CGM including walking the whole village indicating our requirements and .to try and ensure the quality of the work done and are hopefully this will succeed. CL has engaged with Highways Dept concerning verges under their responsibility but their response fails to assuage any concerns. In addition a County Councillor has engaged with all PCs to express the large amount of concern about weeds and uncut verges. An organised campaign to remedy the situation is in early stages and The PC will respond by writing in support to the County Council

(b) **Village hedgerows.** Letters to ask for overgrowing hedgerows to be cut have been sent to various targeted households and Councillors also indicated others that need a reminder. Where Highways has responsibility for this cutting has also been raised.

(c) **Football pitches update.** CCFC season begins on Sept 9th and after negotiation CGM have cut and collected the clumping grass to enable the pitch to be in a suitable condition. CCFC had asked if a junior (U8?) pitch could be created on the Rec, The PC had already agreed (July 42.2) to this but the plan has currently been shelved until numbers increase and team structure is created. The PC had been asked whether an adult team Comberton United could play on the recreation ground in the afternoon after potential CCFC junior games. After discussion and further debate and mainly recognising the potential for wear and tear on the pitch, the lack of a groundsman and the potential cost of hiring such together with the need for markings for two separate teams on the same ground plus finally the original agreement and loyalty with CCFC council **RESOLVED** (prop CL sec SA) unanimously to refuse the application from Comberton United to play at Barton recreation ground.

(d) **Old Pavilion review summary and potential actions.** AW reported that the old pavilion has been tidied and relevant persons have been contacted as to proposed actions regarding certain items.

(e) **Playground repairs update.** IM had received an email from the Playground Inspection company stating that following their annual inspection one item was identified as moderate risk. AM has seen this, and plan is formulating to remedy this. The full report is imminent and will be circulated when it arrives.

(f) **Village noticeboards.** DD reported that the review has been carried out and final actions will be deferred to the November meeting. The noticeboard at the entrance to Mailes Close has been upgraded already and thanks are due to John Boocock.

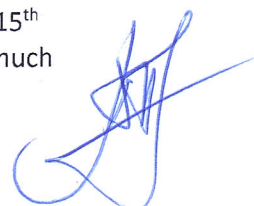
(h) **Table Tennis table update.** The proposal is to situate the Table Tennis table on the concrete slab near the skateboard ramp. Councillors agreed that the anchoring kit is worth purchase (£260.00). More information is still required, and the final decision will be deferred until November.

(g) **Dog bins.** The four dog bins have been purchased and arrangements for their placement and for the collection of the contents are being made. SA initiated a discussion regarding suitable locations, and this concluded with the following: By the entrance the footpath leading to Kings Grove from New Road, By the bus stop outside the village shop, on Wimpole Road by the hamlet and in or near the layby outside the White Horse. It is recognised that these will hopefully ensure the ordinary open bins situated in these locations are not used for dog waste. Council **RESOLVED** (prop SA sec DD) unanimously to approve the locations for new dog bins.

42.3 **Traffic, Transport and Travel Working Group**

(a) **Second MVAS:** AM confirmed that Barton had not been successful in receiving LHI funding for a second MVAS traffic speed machine. He asked for Council to approve the purchase of second Morelock unit from Council reserves and had provided/circulated a quote totalling £3312 incl VAT. Following discussion including whether extra payment for a solar operated device was desired and deciding against this, Council **RESOLVED** (prop AM sec JT) unanimously to purchase a battery operated second Morelock MVAS unit. AM was instructed to order the device and pass proforma invoice to IM. It was also noted that Andrews bus company and PX farms vehicles were consistent offenders of the 20mph limit in the village. Clerk was instructed to write to these companies to point out the issues being created.

(b) **Greenways update.** AM reported that there was proposed meeting online on Friday 15th September 10:00 -14:30 and invited all councillors to attend if possible. It is hoped that much



more clarity on the current scheme will be available including work planned for the A603/New Road junction.

(c) Mailes Close Road Sign: AM had circulated and placed on Councillors only page a design for a sign to be put at entrance to Mailes Close to inform no vehicular access to Burwash Farm via that road. This was in response to concerns expressed by residents in Allens Close and Mailes Close. Whilst all Councillors approved the idea, the Highways Department rules do not permit installation unless the sign is produced by and erected by their operatives. This is much more expensive and further research and discussion is needed to solve the issue.

(d) General TTT update and information. AM reported that another EWR liaison meeting will be held in Comberton in October and Councillors should feed him information regarding current responses to the project.

42.4 Communications and Community Engagement Working Group

(a) SA informed Council that the deadline for information for the next Parish magazine is the 15th of Sept and that she had submitted content. It was agreed by all that the PC must use the magazine as a tool to help inform residents of various matters. IM will also contribute some content.

42.5 Planning Working Group

The Planning working group is now functioning, and JT will lead it with HD and SR as members. IM clarified that he would circulate the SCDC weekly report to all Councillors and any issues identified should be directed to JT and his team. It is important that planning applications are fully studied and reported upon.

(a) Planning Applications received in July or August and ongoing.

- 23/02772/HFUL and 22/02773/LBC 5 College Farm Court Installation of air source heat pump and solar panels plus listed building consent. **Expires 31/08/2023.**
- 23/0918/TTCA s211 tree works notice 2 Church Lane. Reduce crown of cherry tree. **Expires 12/09/23.**
- 23/0917/TTCA S211 tree works notice 28 Wimpole Road. To fell Horse Chestnut due to Ganoderma at the base. **Expires 12/09/2023.**

(b) Consultations closed and decisions made or still awaiting decision.


- 23/02548/FUL Cavendish House, Wimpole Road. Landscape alterations and security gate
- 23/0361/HFUL 21 Wimpole Rd. Householder work and extension
- 22/01507/HFUL 215 Wimpole Rd. Demolition of garage and shed, single story extensions, freestanding gym and covered connecting area. **Appeal on Hand**
- 22/01705/NMA1 Burial Ground. Non material amendments to boundary tracks and parking areas. **Pending Decision**

23-24/43 To receive and discuss report regarding BRIG There was no report from BRIG

23-24/44 To receive and discuss report regarding Barton Village Hall. There was no report from BVH

23-24/45 To receive and discuss Clerk's report and correspondence.

(a) Advertising sign on recreation ground fence. A few residents had highlighted the appearance of an advertising sign for Foxcotte Farm attached to the recreation ground fence



and demanded it be removed and queried if the Parish Council had authorised this. Council stated that it is not PC policy to permit such advertising on the recreation ground and the perpetrators would be asked to remove the sign. One correspondent also queried the advertising of the dog training area on the verges of Comberton road and asked if the activities at Foxcotte complied with planning regulations. This will be investigated and reported upon.

(b) PC representative for BRIG meetings. Correspondence was received reminding the PC is able to have a representative on the BVH committee and a call for volunteers was highlighted. There is however a point that requires clarification or change in that the PC representative is required by the BVH constitution to also be a Trustee. This raises questions about conflict of interest and this issue needs to be resolved. The PC re-iterated that it is important to work with BRIG and it is hoped this can be sorted out. The question of whether the PC representative on the BVH committee also requires trusteeship was then asked. It appears it does, and Cllr DD questioned the appropriateness of representation in these circumstances. JHJ and CL to discuss how to resolve this potential conflict dilemma and revert.

23-24/46 To receive Neighbourhood Watch Report. There was no report, but information is regularly placed on the PC website.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 5th November 2023 at 7.30 p.m. Barton Village Hall

Meeting closed: 21:00

Signatory Chair:

