

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Barton Parish Council which took place on Tuesday 23rd April 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at Barton Village Hall.

Present: Councillors John Howland Jackson (Chair) (JHJ), Chloe Langford (Vice Chair) (CL), Andrew Martin (AM), Ben Pilgrim (BP), Deni Devappriya (DD), Shelley Arora (SA), Amy Winterbourne (AW), Clerk/RFO Ian Minto (IM), District Councillor Lisa Redrup (LR).

15 Residents were present.

Minutes:

1. Approval and signing of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 29th April 2025.

The minutes had been published and in the absence of any comments were duly signed by the chair (JHJ)

2. Matters arising from the meeting of 29th April 2025. There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not being dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

3. Report from the District Council - Councillor Lisa Redrup. Lisa had circulated her report and presented a verbal summary to the meeting and invited questions. Lisa highlighted the main points as aspects regarding bins, planning, licensing, housing and environmental health. Regarding bins, Lisa stated that new food waste bins would be introduced in summer 2026. A resident asked why they were needed, and Lisa explained that food waste would be processed differently under the anaerobic waste disposal plans. Regarding housing, the district announced the completed building of 140 Council Homes in 25-26. In addition, she pointed out the SCDC website had full information on a variety of housing and upkeep grants, to include support across a range of criteria under the Action Energy Cambridgeshire scheme. Lisa was warmly thanked by the Chair on behalf of the village residents for her sterling work and support throughout the year. JHJ also offered best wishes to Lisa in the forthcoming election on 7th May

4. Report from the Chair of Barton Parish Council - John Howland Jackson

JHJ reflected upon the current PC activities as the end of the four-year tenure of the current council is imminent. He reflected on some challenging planning applications, including the school proposal for Barton House, the proposed equestrian facility in the field behind Roman Hill. In addition, some major applications at Burwash Manor and Hines Farm were also successfully dealt with.

The PC has been successful with one LHI bid to assist with traffic calming issues in the village and although two others had not been successful, the PC continues to pursue the matter. The implementation of the 20-mph village wide speed experiment has been a success. In the last 2-3 years there has been time consuming, controversial and exceptionally challenging negotiation with the GCP and the implementation of the Greenways project. These deeply affected the village retail outlets.

Other issues included a dried-up village pond, involving a crash course in legal silt management, several issues with the recreation ground car park and gates, and one optical fibre company causing disruption without any forewarning.

The PC has held full council meetings 6 times in the last year in bi-monthly fashion and between these the 5 working groups of councillors have met to discuss issues and prepare matters to be resolved at the full meetings.

JHJ outlined the forthcoming election procedures for the 7th May stating that it would be a non-contested election, that four of the current councillors would be retiring. Four potential councillors were present at the meeting. In addition, the Clerk and RFO is retiring, remaining in post until the May PC meeting to assist the transition of new council plus the end of year audit processes. A new and highly experienced Clerk, Karen Peck, has been appointed and will take over on June 1st. Karen was present at the meeting to be introduced. Ian will continue as RFO for the foreseeable future.

John concluded by thanking all the councillors for their efforts and highlighted the opportunity presented for a new council to carry the village forward

5. Report from Parish Clerk and RFO-Ian Minto

In terms of finance, the position of the Council remains a healthy one with bank balances as of 31st March of £6796 for Current Account and £67513 for instant savings account. During the year we transferred monies from the current account to the deposit account. These sums represent the reserves of the PC, and we remain cognisant of the necessity for best value, accountability and prudence in the handling of public money. During the year the precept was retained at £30000 for the 4th year and was the major source of income and continued to enable £5000 to be earmarked for further LHI expenditure. However, various cost centres are now showing signs of increasing financial requirement and in our proposed budget 2026-27 it is prudent that the Precept will rise to £35000. We hope to be able to fund a PFHI to enable Haslingfield road to have traffic calming if our current LHI bid is not successful. The 2025-26 accounts do show an excess of receipts over expenditure, but this is not sufficient.

The budgetary figure for Precept submitted to SCDC for 26-27 will be £35000 and we note costs are still rising. The SCDC tax base for Barton in 2026-27 is calculated as 390.2 and therefore a Precept of £35000 will result in a charge of £6.30 per month (35000 divided by 390.7) = £89.58 pa or £7.46 per month or 24p per day. This equates to a small difference to the charges in 22-23, 23-24, 24-25 and 25-26.

The PC works to secure additional budgetary grants from all sources but are grateful to SCDC for the continues verges grant of £2461. The work on Cambridge Rd./Roman Hill site also received grant aid from SCDC. PC are grateful to Foxcote for replacing the fence on the Rec. adjoining the High Street

On the recreation ground, both high and low gates were damaged and needed replacing. GCP Greenways paid for one and the other was the subject of an insurance claim

The PC also attempts to secure efficient contracts with suppliers and have both a fixed 3-year deal with Clear Insurance who are very experienced in the Council market and with SSE for the street lighting. The SSE difficulties over the past couple of years have been resolved.

The authorised monthly financial transactions and bank reconciliations are and will be published with the minutes of each full PC meeting.

Finally, thanks to residents who have contacted me regarding various issues. I function as a conduit for resident communication and on behalf of myself and the Councillors would like to assure and indeed encourage such communication.

Ian also welcomed Karen as Clerk.

6 . Parish Council Working Group reports

Amenities and Open Spaces - Chloe Langford

Chloe utilized a slide show to assist her report and thanked the members of the WG, Amy, Shelley, and Deni for their hard and assiduous work over the year. She highlighted the following as key issues and highlights over the year: green spaces, the recreation ground, the pond, lobbying! and community events and proceeded to explain the work done via numerous pictures and supporting narrative.

Chloe outlined the developments of the various green spaces that had been subject to much discussion and lobbying including public meetings, but the ongoing upkeep and management of the changes had proven very demanding and at times disappointing. A good deal of lobbying is necessary!

The recreation ground car park has seen some major use as the compound for the Greenways works equipment, but more lobbying should ensure a return to normality and some improved aspects of the car park in particular. There is further work to be done regarding parts of the fencing and some aspects of the playground equipment, but this is in hand. The pond is a focus for some safety and necessary repair to the exit culvert, but the finalised means is still being debated. Finally in terms of Community events, both the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the now traditional Xmas carols and celebrations on the village green near the pond and the Xmas themed house decoration across the village were hugely enjoyed by all who participated in whatever context. Chloe stressed the importance of such community events.

Traffic, Transport and Travel - Andrew Martin

Andy stated that general focus for the Parish Council and working group continues to be on local transport strategies, traffic through the village, Barton Greenways, and EWR impact. He noted that there continues to be drainage and pothole issues around the village. These are reported on CC Highways interactive "Minor Repairs" map.

Roadworks periodically throughout the year impacted the village as overnight works and temporary traffic lights were required on the A603 between M11 and Wallis' Garage to repair potholes and rebuild the Openreach manhole (The Parish Council intervened to have these works prioritised and fast tracked.) Andy implored residents to continue to use CCC Highways reporting system themselves and inform the PC. to report any type of highways fault.

Cambridgeshire County Council Barton Greenways Work started a year ago and caused major disruption to residents, businesses and commuters. Andy outlined in detail the processes involved in changes at Kings Grove/Burwash from a raised table to a parallel crossing and stated this required political and GCP board approval after much debate within the village. Final approval with the GCP Executive was November and hardware ordered. The PC still awaits the belisha beacons before the zebra crossing can be painted on the road. Road markings, car park and other items on the snagging list still need action. The Parish Council has and continues to engage with the GCP over phase two of the project. Planning has not yet been approved, so no further progress at time of this meeting has been made.

On a positive note, communication concerning bus issues with Whippet has been very good. However, PC still have not made any progress on the request for a bus stop for the A2B 75 service at Lordsbridge hamlet.

EWR Statuary public consultation opened on 14th April and lasts for 8 weeks. There will be drop in sessions locally. Please contact the Parish Council if you have questions as we have a presence on the local representatives group.

Communications and Community Engagement - Ben Pilgrim

Ben delivered this WG report with the use of a slide show. Essentially it concentrated on the recent Parish Survey findings and priorities for the new Parish Council. Ben outlined the main methods of communicating by the PC which were, the website, the noticeboards, the monthly village magazine, door-to-door leaflet drops and as required, public meetings.

There was a recent Parish survey and this reported 96% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied to live in the village. Key parameters for this were the rural setting but proximity to Cambridge, the Village shops at Burwash, Conkers shop and post office, the pubs and garage. Furthermore, the school, open spaces and recreation ground and the sense of community and neighbourliness were cited. The survey also posed questions about residents' concerns and the view of respondents. The main concerns were indicated as 56% not satisfied with road safety. 56% opposed the growth of housing and possible reduction of green belt. Finally, 41% indicated they would switch to public transport if better services were available.

Other main comments were logged as:

Safer school routes, updated play equipment, teen activities. Drop-off traffic a specific safety concern.

49% prefer wilder verges. Strong biodiversity interest balanced against overgrown pathways and drainage issues.

72% want more community events. Residents miss the gardening club and drama group — and want new ones: film club, exercise classes, cricket.

In terms of resources the Village shop, post office and Burwash are seen as vital. Small workspace welcome; large commercial development opposed.

Finally in terms of digital and medical services, Broadband and mobile coverage criticised. GP access linked to transport was seen as vital, noting that improving buses also improves healthcare reach.

These responses will inform objectives for the incoming Council.

Ben summarized the survey as important in stressing effective communication between all parties involved in Village life and greater attempts to ensure feedback and concerns foster transparency, engagement and a strong sense of community.

7. Report from Barton Village Charitable Trust _ John Boocock

John informed the meeting that the Trust is now in its 8th year and over this time, 13 grants had been made to Village organisations and events. During 2025-2026 there were 2, £600 towards the VE Day 80th celebrations and £1000 to the Playgroup to help the transition into a new crew and committee.

In addition, John reminded all present that the Trust owns and maintains the Disbrey Close amenity area between Allens Close and the Churchyard

The Trust holds c.£30,000 available for small grants and currently possible applications might come from the Bowls Club for a retractable awning, the creation of a Village archive facility and a shelter at Kings Grove bus stop.

John was keen to stress the Trust reacts to grant requests from promoters rather than being a proactive project organizer.

John also reminded the meeting the donations and legacies are always invited to augment the current funds.
Currently all four trustees are resident in the Village.

8. Report from Barton Village Hall – Susan DeBack Susan introduced the Village Hall as an important and valuable amenity originally built in 1920. A key message was that maintenance is becoming a real issue and a lot of thought is being given by the Trustees of the Village Hall as to how to facilitate this. As an example, the issues with the Snooker room roof were highlighted. Susan outlined the following organizations as regular and diverse users of the Hall via the booking system: Stepping Stones pre- and post-school activities, Various keep fit classes, The Scouts and the Parish Council. She also advertised that the hall was available for booking with the details in the Parish Magazine

9. Reports from BRIG- Margaret Penston

Margaret noted that the Pavilion on the recreation ground had been built in 2011 and included changing rooms to facilitate football clubs but that as no adult teams now use the Pavilion there is potential for these to be repurposed. The football pitches are used by Comberton Crusades FC for their U14 and U11 teams. Last year there were over 30 lettings of the Pavilion, mostly for social occasions such as parties and weddings and christenings, sometimes for meetings by organisations and finally by the Bowls club for post-match entertainment.

The premises are 15 years old and though there are funding reserves, self-funding is extremely difficult. The leases involving the PC and SCDC, BRIG, The Tennis Club and the Bowls Club are still being negotiated.

Finally, Margaret made a plea for some new, younger Trustees to help make the Pavilion and BRIG a continuing successful village amen

10. Barton Bowls Club – Hugh Greenfield

Hugh gave an overview of the Bowls Club and its activities over the past year plus an idea of forthcoming events.

The club played approximately 70 matches home and away in three different leagues and for the first time in the history of the club they were promoted to the top division in the Camb. and District league. Individuals also had success as a member, won the Ladies singles trophy and another three members were finalists in the Eltisley Cup.

At the start of each season, the club has an 'open day' for prospective members and further coaching is offered by qualified coaches.

Several social events and BBQ evenings are held. Also, social evenings are held with other local bowls teams, the Comberton wine makers and the Barton WI.

There are two fund raising quiz evenings in Spring and the Autumn and an inter club competition culminating in a final's day and presentation dinner.

The club is seeking grants, loans and other funds to acquire a much need awning.

The club is a very successful and well managed sports club, and any villager was invited by Hugh to join in the sporting and social fun. The annual subscription is £40

JHJ thanked all the presenters and asked for any questions. There had been no questions relayed in advance but one resident raised some issues concerning safety in the Village especially around the pond area. The content was noted and at that point there being no further questions, the meeting was closed at 21:16, JHJ invited all present to share refreshments.