

**MINUTES OF BARNTON PARISH COUNCIL'S FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON  
MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2016**

Abbreviations: BPC stands for Barnton Parish Council, CW&C stands for Cheshire West and Chester

PRESENT: Cllrs S Beech, D Hooper (Chair), J Phoenix, R Hewitt, R Morlidge and K Reading.  
Toni Critchlow, Clerk to Barnton Parish Council

APOLOGIES: Cllr Gibbon R Collier J. Hughes

VISITORS: Cllr Norman Wright (CW&C), PCSO Diana Wiggins, Ian Ross (*Northwich Guardian* reporter), Louise Bennett, Nick Bosley, Sheila Frampton, Julie Hamman, Cathie McCoubrey, Heather Newton, Dan Pidsley and Peter Rawling.

**MIN FC 1104/03/2016            DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

**MIN FC 1105/03/2016            URGENT PROVISION**

- i) Sue Crank gave her allotment review. She asked the Parish Council to consider whether or not to increase the allotment charge. Cllr Hooper explained that the cost did not go up last year and it had been agreed in previous years to not put up by a small amount annually but to increase to a round figure every few years. She added that the Parish Council are not looking to make a profit.
- ii) Sue Crank gave her cemetery review. She explained that there was no increase last year but a £40 reservation fee was introduced. Discussion followed regarding the predicted increase in maintenance costs and the loss of the war graves income. More paths are also required. Sue said that she cannot predict the next year's income. Cllr Morlidge commented that he didn't want to see an increase in the fees by more than absolutely necessary.  
**Cllr Morlidge proposed a 1% increase on all cemetery fees.  
Seconded by Cllr Hughes. 5 were in favour with 1 abstention.**
- iii) Cllr Phoenix Proposes that meetings are held monthly. She feels this necessary following complaints regarding minutes not being published until two months' after the meeting and decisions taking a long time to be made. Cllr Beech explained that any change can only be implemented at the Annual Village Assembly in June, as the Standing Orders need to be altered. However, this can voted on now.
- iv) **Cllr Beech Seconded the Proposal. All were in favour.**

Members of the public are invited to address the Parish Council on any matter relevant to its work. In order for the Clerk to undertake any background research, please submit any questions to the Clerk at least three working days before the Meeting. Members of the public will be allowed to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes after which they cannot take any further active part in the rest of the Council meeting.

Louise Bennett addressed the Council as she wanted to highlight the problems that have arisen through the cutting of the hedge which borders her property and Runcorn Road Recreation Ground. She felt that the contractor had shown no consideration and had left a lot of mess behind, including sharp sticks. She said that there were now gaps in the hedge and no privacy in her garden. Discussion followed and it was established that the hedge had not been cut last year which had resulted in it growing above the legal limit of 6½ feet. This meant that agricultural machinery was needed. Cllr Hooper explained that the hedge needs to be cut down to 5½ ft high to allow growth to 6½ ft. Louise also questioned the lack of communication. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council are now working on draft procedures for any future work, which will address the problems which have arisen. Cllr Beech added that this will be a general protocol for everyone in the village. The Chair concluded the discussion by apologising to Louise for the upset caused.

#### **Cllr Reading left the meeting**

- i) To approve minutes from FCM on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016.  
**Proposed by Cllr Beech**  
**Seconded by Cllr Phoenix. All were in favour.**
- ii) To approve minutes from FGPCM on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
**Proposed by Cllr Beech**  
**Seconded by Cllr Phoenix Five were in favour. 1 abstention.**

- i) Review of website – It was realised that the comments in question were on the Memorial Hall's own website. The Clerk has requested that the wording is changed.
- ii) S106 funding – Lynn Gibbon has chased the money due from the new build. The Clerk confirmed that she has checked with Mark Simmonds and this is in addition to the money already received – clerk has applied for the grant.
- iii) Publishing minutes – The Clerk reported that she has responded to Lynn Gibbon by email.
- iv) Invitation to CAMRA – Nick Bosley from CAMRA addressed the Parish Council. He explained that he has consulted CAMRA members and it has been agreed that they will apply for a right to bid for the Beech Tree public house. However, they

will have a stronger case if this is headed by the Parish Council. CAMRA will do all the relevant paperwork. There is no financial implication. The right to bid means that the property will be protected for five years. It is hoped that in that time someone will take over the lease. The application takes approximately six weeks. Cllr Hooper reiterated the fact that this will protect the property.

- v) Recruitment of new councillors – The Clerk reported that Heather Newton and Dan Pidsley (both present) are potential new councillors and have attended tonight to get an idea of how meetings proceed.
- vi) Barnton Memorial Hall – The Clerk has arranged a meeting with the Sir John Brunner trustees.

#### **MIN FC 1109/03/2016            Cheshire West & Chester Council**

Cllr Wright distributed copies of the plans for the new roundabout at the top of Chester Way and this was discussed.

He also gave an update on the Bridge2Barnton campaign. He has attended a meeting with Lynn Gibbon, Don Hammond and George Osborne. The next step is for CWAC to carry out a survey on the whole structure. This may not take place until late summer. He confirmed that the project will require central structure.

The Clerk asked Cllr Wright if the Parish Council is within its right to hold the money that has been earmarked for the Community Group, indefinitely. He confirmed that it is fine and that the money was a grant from councillors and not from CWAC. He added that if the Parish Council wish to re-allocate the funds then they just need to approach him - as long as the money is used for the community in Barnton.

#### **Cllr Wright left the meeting**

#### **MIN FC 1110/03/2016            Police Community Support Officer**

Diana Wiggins started by saying that things have been very quiet. She then gave her report which included incidents of break ins at garages and sheds in Barnton. There have been a couple of reports of domestic incidents, suspicious activity, neighbour disputes and one report of violence. There have also been complaints regarding speeding on Runcorn Road and a speed camera will be placed there along with the mobile speed van. The usual attendance at the schools and passing attention to the recs and locks have also been carried out. The dog warden has been made aware of the increase in dog fouling.

#### **PCSO Wiggins left the meeting**

#### **MIN FC 1111/03/2016            CORRESPONDENCE**

- i) Update from Cllr Lynn Gibbon. The Clerk gave a report in her absence which highlighted the recent projects in the village including extra parking on Whitehall Close, replacement of edging and fencing replaced.
- ii) Correspondence from Heather Newton. Heather has suggested putting a small green at the entrance to Barnton (from Little Leigh) and highlighted the problems regarding parking on Runcorn Road. She stated that she is happy to buy plants for

the planter. Cllr Hooper thought that would be fine but said she will check with Cllr Reading. Heather raised concerns regarding the amount of litter. Cllr Hooper asked the Clerk to forward the suggestions put forward to the Community Group.

- iii) John Barker. John has written regarding his concerns about the rubbish bins in Barnton and problems with parking on pavements. Cllr Beech asked the Clerk to respond with details of the plans for Whitehall Close. This matter will be discussed with Cllr Wright. John had added that the alley between Runcorn Rd and Grange Road has improved since the bin was installed.
- iv) CWAC New Homes Bonus. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council will not be receiving anything.
- v) Mr & Mrs Bennett. This matter has already been addressed.
- vi) Lisa Korczynski. Lisa had written regarding a memorial on a bench on Hough Lane. Cllr Beech has spoken to her and informed her that the bench in question is in Anderton and Lisa was advised therefore to speak to Anderton P.C about the memorial.

#### **MIN FC 1112/03/2016            Planning Applications**

There is one outstanding application which Cllr Beech said she will look at.

#### **MIN FC 1113/03/2016            Finance**

- i) Tunnel Top – The Clerk reported that the cost of Tunnel Top had risen to £550 for the last issue due to the Village Show programme being included. Some copies still haven't been delivered and the Clerk said she will address this.  
There will also be an increase from £380 to £410 for future 8-page issues.
- ii) Approved Grant Applications – The Clerk gave all councillors an overview. Rosebank School have requested £750, Barnton Cricket Club £200 and Barnton Silver Band £300.  
Barnton Community Group have requested £1,500 and it was agreed that the Parish Council will decide what projects this is used for. It was decided that projects that enhance the village will be supported with the grant.  
**Cllr Beech Proposed that the grants are granted as above.**  
**Seconded by Cllr Morlidge    All were in favour.**  
Cllr Hooper questioned the fact that MAD Youth Club are not included in the grant applications. Cllr Beech explained that they have been supported historically and that this is separate to the grant funds. The Clerk will ask that they submit a retrospective grant application.
- iii) Proposed new budget headings – Cllr Beech asked for this item to be moved to Part B.
- iv) Re-named bank accounts - Cllr Beech asked for this item to be moved to Part B.

**MIN FC 1114/03/2016**

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

- i) The Clerk has attended meeting, along with Cllr Phoenix, with Nick Berry (Viridor grant application) on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 prior to steering group meeting. The Clerk said that she is waiting for the decision. Cllr Phoenix added that it usually takes 10 working days.
- ii) Draft Protocol for works. The Clerk explained that she has put this together to cover all future works in the village and that it will be for everyone. The idea is to approve works, supply a contractor, consider Health & Safety, liaise with the contractor, evaluate risks and implement a method statement if necessary. It was also agreed that the Parish Council will give seven days' notice of intention to carry out any work and ask for residents to come forward with any concerns or questions.

**MIN FC 1115/03/2016**

**Publicity**

To consider whether any publicity should be sought on any agenda item discussed at this meeting.

Nothing required.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.**

Chair.....

Date 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016