

BARNBY IN THE WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 11th JANUARY 2024 at 7.00pm.

Attendees: Cllr Graham Bett, Cllr Jackie Parker, Cllr Keith Stanton, Cllr Carina Jukes, Cllr Derick Parker, Cllr Neil Gribby, Cllr John Lee, Helen Cowlan (Clerk)

Public: 3 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Ben Powell due to work commitments – apologies accepted by the Parish Council. Apologies also received from Cllr Emma Oldham and County Cllr Debbie Darby.

2. **Declarations of interest**

None.

3. **Contributions from the public, District and County Councillors**

Village Green and playing field – a query was raised about ownership of the sections of land. It was confirmed that the Village Green is Parish land. The playing field (behind the goals) was historically leased for a peppercorn rent of £1/yr. No formal agreement is in place, and its use is by the very kind permission from the Snipes, with an agreement that the Parish Council would maintain it. A replacement 'no dogs' sign has been ordered for the playing field. NSDC's Dog Warden made a site visit recently and confirmed that both areas are designated as 'dog-free' areas. It was raised that dogwalkers may want to make use of the bench but would be unable to if the 'dog-free' area was enforceable. NSDC have been gathering information as part of a review of areas within the district, and further updates will be available for consideration once the review has taken place.

Neighbourhood Planning – comments received from the public acknowledged that while Barnby is one of the few parishes without a plan, it is a huge undertaking which would include a referendum and associated costs – potential grants of £10,000 and £8,000 may be available for a set period of time, but it is a very expensive process for which the Parish Council doesn't have the money. A website resource was quoted – Locality Neighbourhood Planning.

Planning matters – after experiencing having to pull over to move out of the way, concerns were raised about HGVs (carrying pallets) using Newark Rd and Long Lane to access the Manor Farm site, when the understanding was that traffic would not be using that route. It was identified that there was a breach of condition two of the planning terms as business was being carried out without evidence of a traffic management plan being put in place. Cllr Bett acknowledged having seen artic and rigid based lorries. Cllr J Parker encouraged the reporting of any breaches to NSDC. Clerk can also report if given details of dates / times / vehicles (ideally with company names and registration plates). Cllr Lee stated that there can be difficulties in enforcing conditions but breaches should also be directed to the County Councillor if lorries are breaching the weight limit of the road as well as planning conditions (the 7.5T weight restriction was already in place).

Update from Cllr Lee – there was a huge amount of pressure for the DPD to go through (although he had voted against and challenges were made on the basis of the principle of protecting free open spaces). It is felt that Balderton is being overloaded – now awaiting the review process. Doorstep glass collection is expected to start in April. It is felt that there will be an increase in renewable energy project over the next 10-15yrs which encroach further. After the recent horrendous flooding, it was suggested that consideration be given to having sandbags / Aqua bags and flood wardens – the Parish Council felt that it was not something to pursue at the moment due to other areas being in greater need but that it could be revisited in the future. Cllr Lee felt that Neighbourhood Plans should be encouraged as they hold more force for planning decisions – plans involved Parishes identifying the needs to be met in terms of housing (more localised approach) – it isn't always expensive and Coddington are looking into it if further information is needed,

4. **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of previous meeting held on 9th November 2023 were approved as being a true record - prop Cllr D Parker, sec Cllr J Parker (unanimously agreed). Clerk thanked Cllr Stanton for taking the minutes.

5. **Matters arising from the minutes**

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Footpaths – it was clarified that matters relating to footpaths should be directed to the County Council.

Grit – the order of grit has not been received. **ACTION – Clerk to look into.**

Banking – the closure of the Village Hall account is being processed and is expected to be done any day now.

Footpath stile – County Councils can replace on a ‘like for like’ basis but this would need to be researched to see if there is an option for making it more accessible. Cllr Juke confirmed that although the stile is not user friendly, a kissing gate is not an option due to IDB requirements / guidelines. The stile concerned is over the bridge, on the left, therefore Lincolnshire County Council. **ACTION – Clerk to liaise with Cllr Jukes and LCC to establish options.**

6. Finance

a) Payments made since last meeting (Nov):

Parish Council -

Dog Fouling sign (Cllr Parker) £10.98

CHT (Defib annual support package) £151.20

Note nationally agreed payscale change for Clerks

Village Hall –

Adexa - induction pans £104.40 and fridge freezer £376.92 (refund of stew pot being processed)

Village Lunch expenses £52.84 (Cllr Stanton) and £14.98 (Y Wellard)

Hall equipment (Cllr Parker) – broom £17.99 and mop/bucket set £66.99

Escape Room costs £101.87

Wilkins £360 (Alarm/PAT testing) and £207.35 (maintenance for sensor issues)

b) Payments upcoming (before next meeting):

SSE £246.88

PPLPRS quoting £177.95 (2024-25) – it was agreed that currently relevant events are the Party Night and the Summer Event.

ACTION – Clerk to circulate copy of quote.

c) Income received – review income received since last meeting

Sep-Nov: fundraising £754.10; hire £96.00

Nov-Jan: Interest £35.12; fundraising £465; hire £40

£90 was generated at the wreathmaking event, and £170 through the sale of Christmas cards (stock from last year).

Details of event fundraising amounts are also noted in the Committee minutes.

d) Summary of Finances

Parish Council Accounts (Savings and current) total £11821.75, of which £7321.69 is ringfenced for remaining expenditure for the year, and specific expenditure / project – leaving £4500.06 in general reserves. Village Hall Account (soon to be merged but separately accounted for) totals £3370.98 but £1242.46 is ringfenced for payments.

e) Budget

The figures for the Parish Council and the Village Hall were reviewed. Year to date income and expenditure, and outstanding / expected income and expenditure for the remainder of the year, were reviewed and used to agree the budget for the next financial year of 2024/25 – this was unanimously approved. It was also used to review the level at which to set the precept. It was acknowledged that due to a number of expenses coming in over winter, the current position should improve as income from upcoming events should help to balance things out.

f) Precept

The precept is the portion of Council Tax that the Parish Council receives towards its running costs, and costs to cover maintenance of village assets including the Hall, open spaces, defibrillator and bus shelter. Some Parish Council funds have been ring-fenced for specific costs (e.g. elections and repairs), and additionally, recommended guidelines state that 'general' reserves held should be no more than one and a half times the annual precept (to allow for unexpected costs and higher than expected cost increases).

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At the last Parish Council meeting, the current financial position, and budget information, were used to consider what, if any, changes should be made to the precept in order to balance the need for managing costs and having money in reserves, with the current economic climate.

After great discussion and debate, the decision was made to make an increase to the precept. This means that for the average Band D property there will be an increase of only 13 pence per week (to £0.84 p/wk), or £6.55 for the year (to £43.43). This 17% increase will give the Parish Council £4765.25 for the year, and enable twelve months of 'general' reserves to be maintained.

Proposed Cllr Gribby, seconded Cllr Stanton – approved with 4 in favour and 2 not in favour. Formal thanks were given to the Clerk for producing the figures.

Additionally, it was noted that it is believed that guidelines will be changing to review limits on Grade 2 listed buildings, which may offer the future possibility of installing double glazing.

7. **Village Committee Report**

The wreathmaking event was successful. Upcoming events include Burns Night and Party Night, tickets for both of which have been / are being pushed more since Christmas. Further in the future there will be a Produce Show where local businesses will showcase their products, and this will be marketed outside of the Village – provisional date in June tbc.

8. **Neighbourhood Planning**

Giving findings of research, Cllr Stanton advised that Neighbourhood Plans carry a lot of weight and could provide an additional benefit of a higher level of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding from future developments. It was estimated that £10,000 would cover consultation costs, but that this could be covered by grants so the actual costs could, potentially, be small (further research would be carried out). It was felt that serious consideration should be given to protect the community. It would need a working group of approx. 6 people from the Parish Council and community (interest in supporting has already been expressed). It could be started by anyone, however, needs Parish Council engagement as it would be covering associated costs. It was felt that with there being potential for further development to 'creep' from Balderton, a plan would definitely give more (although not 100%) protection against development. Further research would need to be done to establish if a Neighbourhood Plan had successfully been developed and used locally. Concerns were raised about whether such a plan would be worth the costs, what the plan would realistically be protecting the village from (e.g. potentially not big projects like energy), and whether it would be worth the money. Comments from members of the public were permitted – it was highlighted that any plan would have to include local and national development framework considerations.

Outcome of discussion – after voting it was decided not to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan at this current time (vote: 2 in favour and 4 against).

9. **Mowing**

Cllr Parker currently has permission to use a ride-on mower and carries out mowing in the village.

Cllr Gribby agreed to be 'back up' for mowing duties in the event of Cllr Parker being unavailable.

10. **Councillor task list**

Carried over to review at the next meeting.

11. **Village Hall Hire Charges**

A proposal was made to consider increasing charges to hire the Village Hall. Consideration could include use of the kitchen (although that could prove difficult to monitor) and bands for seasonal variation. It was agreed that the parishioner discount should be kept in place. Further research will be done and brought back to a future meeting.

12. **Planning Matters**

a) 23/01490/FUL – Manor Farm, Long Lane - Change of use of two agricultural buildings to storage and distribution. **Outcome: permission granted (info only).**

ACTION – enquiries to be made to NCC about having a 'no left turn' sign (for vehicles exiting the site), and an email sent to Cllr Darby to share concerns.

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13. Correspondence

- a) Policing Team / Police & Crime Commissioner – *newsletters (to be circulated by email)*
 - b) NSDC Public Space Protection Order – *feedback request (to be circulated by email)*
 - c) NALC Newsletter – *latest newsletter (to be circulated by email)*
- No further action needed at this time.

A request was made to add St. George's Day plans to the next meeting agenda to review options. **Action – Clerk to add.**

Additionally, a site meeting was held with NSDC's dog warden who has provided signage free of charge.

14. **Date of the next Parish Council Meeting** – 14th March 2023 at 7pm

Meeting ended at 21.05

.....Chair

.....Date

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