

BARNBY IN THE WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE ONLINE (Zoom) ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WED 5th MAY 2021 at 7:00pm.

PLEASE NOTE – these minutes have been approved, but technical difficulties are preventing the word ‘draft’ from being removed

Attendees: Cllr Janette Barlow, Cllr Jackie Parker, Cllr Carina Jukes, Cllr Karin Chaplin, Cllr Carol Speakman, Cllr Graham Betts, Cllr Maureen Dobson, Helen Cowlan (Clerk)

Public: None

1. **Introductions and apologies for absence**

Cllr Powell (work commitments) – apologies were accepted by the Parish Council. Apologies were also received from Cllr Brooks and Cllr Lee.

2. **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting, held on 10th May 2019 were approved as being a true record of the meeting – proposed Cllr Speakman, seconded Cllr Parker.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes**

None

4. **Chairman’s Report**

It has, unfortunately, been a very quiet year but we have been fortunate to have had good community spirit. Thanks must be given to Jackie and Derick Parker for supporting those in need of help, and formal thanks will be given to Waitrose who donated food for those in need of extra support, especially in the early days of lockdown. I’m sure we are all looking forward to some normality, and we have done a great job of pulling together so thank you to everyone – we will need to pull together again. Thanks must also be given to Derick Parker and Graham Bett for their maintenance work, and to Les Chaplin for mowing, all of whom have kept the Village looking good.

5. **Finance Report**

A challenging year to say the least – a big drop in income but with many bills still needing to be paid. Parish Council – income and payments were broadly in line with expectations with the only exception being the election expenses. There were some additional costs relating to maintenance but these would have been much higher if it wasn’t for people volunteering their time, so I echo the thanks already given – great teamwork. A grant was received from NSDC to support residents and although this has not been used so far (due to generous donations of food and time) this has been ringfenced for future use. Care will need to be taken to try and build future reserves to the recommended amount of 1.5 times the annual precept.

Village Hall – income and payments were, again, broadly in line with expectations given that the Hall was closed in March and has not reopened since. Some gains were made by being able to freeze, or get refunds on, some payments but, ultimately, many payments remained the same despite a huge drop in ‘normal’ income. A grant received from NSDC will make a massive difference in the short term but could soon deplete so it will be important to generate income as soon as possible – to rebuild community spirit as much as monetary funds.

Formal thanks must be given to all of the Parish Councillors for support given during a challenging first year as Clerk. Here’s to being able to focus on refreshing and renewing our approach.

6. **Open Forum for residents of the Parish**

No updates, or requests, received.

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

Brought earlier in the session to enable Cllr Dobson to share updates as follows:

- Thanks were given to the Clerk for being a Covid rep and sharing information.
- Funding could be made available (via Councillors) in the event of Parish Councils having severe struggles financially.
- Letters should be written to electricity providers expressing dissatisfaction at standing charges being invoiced during lockdown (awaiting confirmation of NSDC’s stance).
- Tribute paid to Parish Councillors and residents for their hard work and resilience, during a time that has been exceedingly difficult for all authorities.

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- Potholes will be a priority for County Councillors and the new County Administration as previous investment does not appear to have worked effectively.
- Although it was felt that options for remote meetings should have been kept in place / reinstated (e.g. via a hybrid scheme), at least until second vaccinations had been fully rolled out, meetings do now need to be face to face and it is suggested that care should still be taken in terms of maintaining social distancing etc.
- The speed sign which is need of repair will be chased up on our behalf.
- Although the recent planning application for Chestnut Lodge was approved, it is anticipated that the family will adhere to the conditions stated as part of the permission that was granted.

Cllr Barlow gave formal thanks to Cllr Dobson for help and support during the last year.

Meeting ended 19:33

Signed
.....Chair