

**BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL on 12th OCTOBER 2016 at 6.30pm**

1. Present: Councillors: Mr J Coker (Chairman), Mrs G Cathie (Vice-Chair), Mrs J Piney, Brigadier J F Rickett, Lt Col J B Henderson
Clerk (standing in for Mrs P Mead): Mrs H Seymour-Smith
Hon. Treasurer: Mr J Castle
Mr J Shipton (Internal Auditor)
County Councillor C Saint
Public: Mr D Poulson, Mr & Mrs J Mathias
2. Apologies: Mrs P Mead, Mr A Jones
3. Declarations of interest. The Chairman declared an interest in his planning application (16/02917/FUL), which he would raise under Any Other Business.
4. The Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting on the 17th August 2016 were approved, and the Chairman signed them. Matters arising:
Alex Ward's work on the website was underway.
The Clerk had written to Jeff Morris.
5. Finances to date.
The Hon Treasurer reported that he had circulated the Second Interim Statement to Council members before the meeting. A copy is attached. Transfers from the Community Account to the Savings Account are made each year after the end of year accounts have been approved. The forecast transfer for 2015/16 was to have been £340 but in practice this was spent on unforecast work on the Village Notice Board and the Oak Tree Seat. As a result, there has been no transfer this spring from the Community to the Savings Account. The balance in the Savings Account thus remains at £1,937 as it was last year.

Otherwise he reported, the finances were in good order and as forecast.

The Hon Treasurer was thanked for his continued safe stewardship of the accounts.

6. Precept for 2017/18.

A copy of the Hon Treasurer's Precept Calculation is attached.

The Hon Treasurer forecast that further expenditure for this year would be £150 for Mrs Hanks for cutting the Churchyard grass, and £91 in advance for website services, which would leave £278 available to the Council at the end of this financial year.

The estimated expenditure for 2017/18 is £780. Making provision for an end of year (2018) contingency margin of £200 and a transfer to the Savings Account of £300 would require a precept of **£800**, which would be £200 less than this year.

Councillor Henderson felt that it would be better for the Council to increase the forecast expenditure for village upkeep, predicted by the Hon Treasurer to be £100, to £300, and to keep the Precept at £1,000 as for the last two years. After a short discussion, the proposal was accepted and the Chairman directed that an application for a precept of £1,000 should be made in January 2017 provided the Hon Treasurer was satisfied that between now and then no unforeseen changes to the estimates for expenditure in 2017/18 had occurred.

7. Planning applications - application 16/02270 at Berkley House had been granted.
8. Addendum to Village Design Statement (VDS)

The updating of the VDS and creation of a Parish Plan were discussed at some length. Councillor Saint confirmed that a Parish Plan was worthwhile to preserve the distinctive style and character of the Parish, and that a Lottery grant could be applied for.

It was agreed that the Parish Plan Committee (Mr J Coker, Mrs J Piney and Mr J Mathias) would meet before the end of November to review funding possibilities and the content of a survey that would be distributed in the Parish to establish the level of interest. If there was sufficient interest, funding could be applied for, and if not, the VDS could be updated in line with SDC strategy.

9. Review of Conservation Area boundary.
Councillor Henderson wanted to increase the boundary to include the farmyard, Berkley House and Stanbrook House. Councillor Saint said the process for amending a Conservation Area boundary was managed by the District Council, and was rarely invoked, but that he would try to find somebody to advise. It was suggested that consultation on this could form part of the Parish Plan questionnaire.
10. Any Other Business:
 - a) Planning application 16/02917/FUL for a home office building in the garden of Henmarsh House (the Chairman did not take part in the discussion of this item).
Councillors discussed the application, and all concluded that they had no objections, as long as Mr Mathias, as the adjoining neighbour, did not object.
 - b) Councillor Saint reported that Jeff Morris was no longer our local highways officer, and had been replaced by Michael Rogers - michael.rogers@warwickshire.gov.uk
 - c) The Chairman reported that the SDC grass cutters had broken Kevin Line's window, but that SDC were denying all knowledge of it.
11. Date of next meeting:
Thursday 9th February 2017, 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 7.42pm

PRECEPT CALCULATION FOR 2017/2018

FORECAST OF END OF YEAR BALANCE AT 1 APRIL 2017

DATE	ITEM	AMOUNT	SUB-TOTALS	RECLAIM-ABLE VAT
12 October 2016	Balance in hand (See 2nd Interim Statement)		£1,023.61	£188.51
	add RECEIPTS to 1 April 2017			
	Wayleave	£2.40		
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		£2.40	
	less PAYMENTS to 1 April 2017			
	Mrs J Hanks (Churchyard grass cutting)	£150.00		
	Website Upkeep A Ward	£55.00		
	Website hosting (New)	£36.00		
	TOTAL PAYMENTS		-£241.00	
01 April 2017	BALANCE OF FUNDS IN HAND		£785.01	£188.51
	Less £154 Election Reserve		-£185.80	
	Less De-Fib Reserve		-£320.38	
01 April 2017	AVAILABLE TO THE PARISH	(A)	£278.83	£188.51

ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR 2017-18

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS (LESS PRECEPT)				2015-16	
	AMOUNT	SUB-TOTALS	Was	Estimate	
Bank interest	£1.00		£1	£1	
Wayleave	£2.40		£0	£3	
Grass Cutting	£0.00		£0	£0	
VAT Refund	£188.00		£71	£0	
Sub Total		£191.40	£72	£4	
FORECAST PAYMENTS					
Village Hall Hire	£130.00		£120	£130	
Officers Expenses	£30.00		£0	£30	
Insurance	£210.00		£187	£190	
Website	£91.00		£101	£120	
Election reserve (restore over 5 years)(transfer to Savings Account)	£69.00		£69	£100	
Village Maintenance	£100.00		£0	£100	
Mrs J Hanks (Churchyard grass cutting)	£150.00		£150	£150	
First Response Contribution			£0	£50	
Contested Election			£345	£0	
Trees Stop Valve Corner			£106	£0	
Link Councilor Graham			£7	£7	
Village Maintenance (Notice Board and Tree Seat)			£468	£0	
Sub Total		-£780.00	£1,553	£877	
MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT					
Transfer to Savings Account	£300.00	-£300.00	£500	£340	
ESTIMATED EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER INCOME IN 2017/18	(B)	-£888.60	-£1,981	-£1,213	

PRECEPT CALCULATION

Estimated balance at 1 April 2017 (A)	£278.83
Less estimated Excess of Expenditure over Receipts to 1 April 2018 (B)	-£888.60
Forecast end of year balance at 1 April 2017 w without precept (A - B)	-£609.77
Restore Safety margin (£200)	-£200.00
PRECEPT	£809.77

NOTE. At the Council Meeting the estimate for Village Maintenance was increased to £300 (from £100) so that the precept would need to increase to £1009.77. This will be rounded down to £1000.