

**BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL on 19th May 2016 at 6.30pm**

Present: Councillors: Mr J Coker (Chairman), Mrs G Cathie (Vice-Chairman), Lt Col J B Henderson, Mrs J Piney, and Brigadier J F Rickett
Clerk: Mrs P Mead
Hon. Treasurer: Mr J Castle
Internal Auditor: Mr J Shipton
Leader Stratford DC: C Saint
Public: Mrs R Aziz, Mr K Corner, Mr J Hayman-Joyce, Mr E Hicks, Mrs T Jones, Mrs E Leck, Mr S Lofthouse QC, Mr J Mathias, Mr Mr D Poulson

1. Apologies: None
2. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on the 21st May 2015 were approved, and were signed by the Chairman.

3. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2015

The Hon Treasurer had circulated copies of the Financial Statement for 2015-16 to Councillors before the meeting. He reported that this had been a satisfactory year in which prudence during earlier years has shown its worth.

The cost of the contested Parish Council election of £345.17 was easily covered by the election reserve of £500 and the 'enlargement' of the oak tree seat of £375 has been covered by the savings (maintenance) account. Other non-regular payments for the trees on Stop Valve Corner (£105.54) and re-painting the Camden Close notice board (£93.38) have also been covered by the maintenance fund.

The fundraising for the Public Access De-fibrillator (PAD) was very successful and an excess of £380 is held in the current bank account for future upkeep and maintenance of the equipment. The cabinet is about to be fitted in the ex BT telephone booth and the electrical power supply will be reconnected. The cost for this work will be paid from the reserve.

The Treasurer confirmed that there would be no costs incurred for the upcoming Referendum.

The Internal Auditor had agreed the accounts.

4. ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

The Hon Treasurer had completed the Annual Report for 2015/16. Despite the adoption of 'Transparency' for Council business, he reported that the rules for preparing the Annual Report have changed but are no less tiresome. In previous years the parish accounts had to be available for scrutiny for about 3 weeks before being approved by the council if not challenged by any residents. The Annual report was then sent to the External Auditor. Now the Council is required to approve the accounts and complete the Annual Governance Statement after which both the Statement and accounts have to be displayed on the village website between 3 June 2016 and 1 July 2016 with a notice on the village notice board(s) giving the dates when questions can be raised. This means that the Treasurer is required to take the Council through the Annual Governance Statement. This took place at the meeting, and the Chairman and Clerk then signed the Annual Governance Statement.

The Internal Auditor, John Shipton, had completed the Internal Audit.

The Hon Treasurer would ensure that the documents were placed on the village website at the appropriate time, and if there were no comments, they would then be sent to the External Auditor.

5. Chairman's Report - See Appendix 1.
6. Council Officers' Expenses - None
7. Election of Chairman for 2016-2017:
Mr J Coker was re-elected

Election of Vice-Chair for 2016-2017:
Mrs G Cathie was re-elected

Appointment of Parish Clerk for 2016-2017:
Mrs P Mead was re-appointed

Appointment of Honorary Treasurer for 2016-2017:
Capt J Castle was re-appointed

Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2016-2017:
Mr J Shipton was re-appointed
8. Any Other Business - none
9. Date of next Annual General Meeting: Thursday 18th May 2017, 6.30pm

Appendix 1

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015 - 2016

1. Since the last AGM held on 21st May 2015, we have had Ordinary Meetings on 21st May 2015, 15th October 2015 and 11th February 2016 and a special meeting on 1st November 2015 and an ExtraOrdinary meeting on 29th March 2016.
2. The village finances remain in good shape. Many thanks to John Castle for his careful stewardship. The precept remains at £1,000.
3. The new village website has been a great success and enabled the PC to confirm to the requirements of the Transparency Code without need for additional monies. Many thanks to Steve Johnston for all his hard work.
4. The village is now the proud owner of a defibrillator which I hope remains unused. Many thanks to all those who made generous donations and to John Castle and Adam Jones for making it all possible. The balance of the monies raise will be held in the Maintenance Fund.
5. It has been fairly quiet on the development front. The houses on the Hicks' farmyard are now finished and look great. Work is going well on Rose Cottage and hopefully a start will be made on the Sheds in due course. The new policy of reviewing minor applications by Email circulation to the whole village and request for comments, without recourse for a full review meeting has worked well and this process will be kept under review.
 - The extra-ordinary meeting was held in respect of the Application on the Poplars. This was preceded by a site visit in perfect conditions - in pouring rain.
 - A lively debate followed and the PC confirmed its support by a majority of four to one. A number of residents did not agree with this and following a private meeting, wrote letters of objection to Stratford DC. Following an indication of lack of support by officers at Stratford DC, the application was withdrawn by Mr Hicks
 - This application aroused strong feelings in some quarters and has prompted a decision by the Parish Council to carry out the preparation of a Parish Plan. This process will require considerable public consultation and will enable those who do not attend meetings or express opinions, to have their opinion canvassed and acted upon. It will ensure that the PC has a good idea of what the whole village thinks in respect of Development both in and on the outskirts of the Village and not just the views of those who attend meetings.
6. Clean for the Queen (a village tidy-up) was ably organised by Barney Henderson and Penny Mead on 5th March. A great success.
7. Lastly my thanks go to all the Parish Councillors for their time and input, to Penny for exemplary clerking and chasing, and to John Castle for his financial acumen .. and of course to John Shipton our internal auditor.

James Coker
May 2016