

# **BARTON ON THE HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY GENERAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY AT 6.30 pm.**

Present: **Councillors:**

Chairman: Mr. J. Coker                      Vice Chairman: Mr. B. Radford

Mrs. J. Piney    Brigadier J. Rickett

Clerk to the Parish Council: Mrs. Julia Gotrel

Hon. Treasurer Mrs. M. McPherson

**Public:**

Mr. J. Hayman-Joyce    Mr. J. Mathias    Mr. C. Seymour-Smith    Mrs. P. Mead

Mr. J. Castle    Mr. & Mrs. A Wield              Mr. T Fenner-Leitao    Ms. B. Rees

Mr. K. Corner

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Mrs. G. Cathie
- 2. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST:** No pecuniary interest.
- 3. PUBLIC FORUM:**

The public were asked by The Chairman if there were any matters arising that need to be discussed; Mrs. Penny Mead asked if it was possible to arrange a 'clean up Barton' campaign and also requested that the information kindly distributed by The Clerk regarding the services available to vulnerable people could be displayed on the village notice boards, as many vulnerable people may not have the technology to receive the emails. The Chairman asked The Clerk to action this request. The Chairman addressed Mr Chris Seymour-Smith regarding the 'clean up Barton' campaign, as he usually organizes this. Chris agreed to dust off his spreadsheet and approach the many villagers who annually volunteer to clean up the Village. He will look at arranging a Saturday in the near future when the weather is looking favourable. It was felt that this would be possible to achieve with social distancing in place and would be an opportunity to bring the community together. Mr. J. Rickett commented that there was an increase in litter due to the many delivery vans passing through the area.

Chris Seymour-Smith requested that if anyone had snowdrops growing and were happy for them to be transplanted, he would be delighted to plant them around the Village.

The Chairman commented on the improvement of the 'verge' along the main round through the Village, alongside Richard and Val Ward's wall.

### **4/5/6/7. Minutes of previous Ordinary and Extra-Ordinary Meetings:**

The Chairman reviewed all the sets of minutes before him and asked the Parish Councillors if they had any matters arising. The Chairman requested Mr. Brian Radcliffe for an update on the village bench; Chris Seymour-Smith advised that Hamish Cathie had kindly donated the wood which had been processed and cut into slats by Mr. Simon Hayman-Joyce of Calarel Joinery Ltd. The bench will be repaired as soon as the weather permits.

No other matters were arising from The PC or members of the public in attendance. Therefore the Chairman will sign the minutes as an accurate and fair record of all the meetings and pass them onto The Clerk for filing in the minutes book.

## **8. FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

The Hon. Treasurer advised that the Precept had been filed on time and that the £500 had been moved to the reserves. There have been no other transactions to date.

There were no questions from the PC or the public. Any further financial updates will be addressed at the next PC meeting.

## **9. PLANNING UPDATES:**

The Chairman asked Mr. Chris-Seymour-Smith for an update. He advised that he had spoken with the SDC Planning Officer, and the plans for The Brown House had been signed off. However, he was awaiting written confirmation, which will be duly distributed once received from the SDC.

Mr. & Mrs. A. Wield joined the meeting and Samuel Brookes from Tyack Architects on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Fenner Leitao's ( Tony and Barbara) Planning Application.

Whilst the Zoom connections were being made. The Chairman addressed the **AOB** and the Barton to Kitebrook road repairs. It was agreed that the cones positioned along the road were working well to help cyclists, walkers or car drivers avoid toppling into the ditch. Mr. Haymen-Joyce has been keeping in contact with Warwickshire Highways and after they have carried out an inspection works to correct the problem with the road are to be started in due course. The plan is to develop a solution that will stop all the stone from being washed down to the bridge every time it rains. However, the County Council engineer has pointed out that water runs off the land down the road, carrying silt and gravel and creating a hazard to vehicles. They have reminded us that the roadside ditches are the land owners' responsibility, which is likely to be Barton Farms and Mr. Matt. Gillett of Oak house Farm. It was agreed that an email would be sent to both parties by The Chairman on behalf of the PC requesting the ditches' maintenance be addressed.

## **10. PLANNING APPLICATION:**

### **21/00005/FUL: BEWLEY HOUSE**

The proposed extension to the existing annexe and conversion of garage.

Once the zoom connection had been sorted, the Chairman asked Tony to set out the proposed scheme. He informed us that the works would include an extension to the garage, currently approx.. 40sqm, consisting of a studio with an upstairs bathroom that would extend westwards towards the Wields [neighbours], creating a communal room and extra room with bathroom to the ground floor, increasing the building by 80sqm. The materials used will be of natural stone and slates to match the existing building. There are no windows on the west side to intrude onto the neighbours land, and an Arbor culturalist [tree specialist] had been engaged to examine the tree line. [The report had been distributed to the PC and Public], who had advised a micro-pile system be installed to protect the roots from damage. Although the hedge was very tough, it was thought best to insure a `belt and braces approach to alleviate any damage. There is also a thick bedding of mortar under the adjacent paving, which will have ensured that the roots will be fairly deep in the ground and, therefore, less easy to damage.

The Chairman commented that he felt the extension sat nicely in the space and assumed the materials would blend with the existing buildings. Mr. A. Wield had requested an Arbor culturalist report be prepared and submitted to SDC. However, the information had not been filed along with the Planning Application, and so The Chairman asked Mr. Samuel Brookes to send it to SDC as the PC comments would be based on the assumption that the findings of the report were carried out. Mr. Brookes advised he would take instruction from Tony and Barbara. Mr. Wield was content with the report and Planning application but required assurance that the proper procedures would be adhered to.

There were no further questions from the PC or the public. However, Mr. Seymour-Smith commented that after his ordeal of amending his plans to coincide with the SDC request to reduce the ridgeline to be in line with existing buildings by some 600mm, he felt that the SDC might reasonably request this of Bewley House

plans. If this does not happen, Mr. Seymour-Smith would be exceedingly displeased at the lack of consistency by the LPA. The Chairman mentioned that he would expect a Planning Officer to address this, if necessary, and some comments may come back to Samuel Brookes. He would then need to take instructions from his clients. Mr. Brookes thought that perhaps the ridgeline was already slightly below that of the existing buildings.

Mrs. Juley Piney proposed the motion that a response of "No Objection" be tendered to the SDC, Seconded by Mr. Brian Radford.

The Chairman thanked Tony and Barbara, and Mr. S. Brookes for their time attending the PC meeting. Tony continued to participate in the discussion.

## **12. AOB**

The Chairman advised that he was still in communication with Mr. Martin Crutchley of Openreach regarding the Community Fibre Project and hope that a package will be confirmed by the end of April 2021. DCMS will then email all parties who expressed an interest in supporting the project by taking a Voucher. At present, there is a 130% coverage of cost from those who have initially signed up to take on the voucher. There may be a fall out later once a budget is confirmed, which will also indicate what grant money will be available to businesses and residents alike, dependent on costs incurred.

Mr Julian Mathias asked the Chairman whether he would recommend moving to BT now rather than renew with another provider. The Chairman advised that the voucher would not be available to anyone who is not a customer of Openreach or BT or a service that can provide a full-fibre to premises service. It would be advisable to sign up with them than renewing with a different provider.

The Chairman then opened a discussion regarding how the PC might deal with Planning Applications in the future. He suggested that if an application is straightforward, with no complications. It should not be necessary to hold an Extra-Ordinary PC meeting to discuss unless there is a valid object from a PC or parish member.

It was noted that some parishes hold meetings monthly, such as Long Compton, who have a much larger occupancy and, therefore, more varied subjects to discuss. In contrast, small parishes such as Little Compton, Great Wolford and Barton on the Heath should not require monthly meetings. We should, as a PC, hold the annual four meetings, plus any Extra Ordinary meetings, if necessary, via Zoom, which is a much-simplified way of conducting meetings and far more convenient for all those involved.

Mr. James Hayman-Joyce commented that it would be beneficial to keep proceedings as simple as possible.

The Chairman suggested that all Planning Applications be circulated to the PC for their opinions and only if deemed necessary [because of objections or comments from the public] should a PC meeting be arranged for public inclusion.

Mr. Chris Seymour-Smith commented that the Parish Council members had been voted to represent the Village. Therefore, they should be relied upon to highlight any concerns they may have and review any objections filed on the SDC website before recommending a course of action to the Village.

Mrs. Penny Mead commented that it would slow down the process to allow the Village to react to every planning application. The Chairman and the Clerk's responsibility was to get to grips with circulating to the PC quickly, with a quick response to enable swift circulation to the Village. If necessary, Zoom meetings are quick to arrange; therefore, we can react quickly. We must not disenfranchise people if they have a problem with any aspect of the Village or any applications.

Mr. Hayman Joyce asked if Council only have two options of No Objection or Objection. The Chairman clarified that the options available were: \*No Representation \*Support for reasons [stated] \*Objection \*No Objection. If we \*Support, there has to be a valid planning reason, and with an \*Objection, again, a proper planning reason is required to support this decision. For example, when the decision of Objection was filed for Rainbow Farm, it was easy to support the decision regarding the setting of AONB. The comments made in the refusal notice issued by SDC showed that the PC were accurate in their assessment of Policy

Mr. Julian Mathias had two comments to make; firstly, the SDC E-planning enables anyone interested to see any comments on applications. It is possible to be notified of any alerts should they be of particular interest. Secondly, he felt that a meeting could help determine if individuals have any objections or if they are in two minds in making a decision and would like the opportunity to hear the Council's opinions.

Mr. Johnny Rickett commented that he felt everyone was making `heavy weather and that it was common sense that the Chairman decided to call a Zoom meeting or not. If interested parties wanted to be included, they could join the discussion not. If they wanted to object, they could do so via a member of the PC or direct to SDC.

The Vice-Chairman, Mr. Brian Radford, commented that there will always be someone with a contrary view, and so a forum should be in place to deal with that and to avoid endless single issue meetings

Mr. Johnny Rickett enquired about whether the Highways were aware of the badger's den underneath the problematic road, [along the Barton to Kitebrook]. The Chairman advised that they will be looking at this again.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be the AGM which will be held on Thursday 13th May.

The meeting came to a close at 7.30 pm