

BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON 16th June 2021, 6.00pm to comply with Covid_19 Social Distancing obligations and as per Government remit.

Present: Councillors: Chairman Mr J. Coker
Brigadier Mr J.Rickett, Mr B. Radford.
Mrs G. Cathie
Hon Treasurer: Mrs M. McPherson
Clerk: Mrs J. Gotrel
Public: Mrs C. Wootton, Mrs K. Sonneborn, Mrs P. Mead,
Mr J. Mathias

1. Apologies: Mrs J. Piney
2. The minutes of the AGM held on 11th June 2020 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman for inclusion in the Parish Council Minute Book.
3. The Hon Treasurer presented the Councillors with the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/21. Copies of the return, with supporting papers had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting for review.
4. The Hon Treasurer noted that as we have gross expenditure of less than £25,000 we are able to certify ourselves exempt from a limited liability external audit review. The councillors were asked to approve the Certificate of Exemption on page 3 of the AGAR, proposed by Chairman J Coker and seconded by Mr. J. Rickett.
Mr. Glen Jones of Underhill House had kindly reviewed and signed off the accounts as the internal auditor.
The Councillors were asked to approve Section 1 of the statement regarding their responsibility to ensure that the Parish has sound Financial Controls. Proposed by Treasurer M McPherson and seconded by Councillor J Rickett. The Councillors affirmed their approval.

The Hon Treasurer informed the meeting that all entries on the Accounting Statement for 2020/21 had been taken from the Statement of Receipts and Payments schedule, which is reviewed at every Parish Council meeting. A final version was included in the circulated papers, and no further transactions had been processed since the Parish meeting on 13th February 2020. At the end of the Financial Year 2019/20 the Parish had a current account balance of £1,253.93 and Savings Account of £2,587.83 of which £2,358.38 is set aside as Provisions leaving £1,483.38 available to the Parish Council. The meeting approved the Statement. The accounts were proposed by Mr. J. Coker and seconded by Councillor J. Rickett. The date for the exercise of public rights (by placing documents on the Barton-on-the Heath Village web site and notice boards for public viewing) for 30 days to include the first 10 days of July 2021. This complies with Regulation 15 (2) Accounts and Audit regulations 2015, Proposed by Treasurer Mrs. M. McPherson and seconded by Councillor B. Radford, Chairman J. Coker will sign the minutes to go on the notice boards and the website.

5. Chairman's report 2019 2020

What an interesting year 2020-2021 has been

We dropped in and out of Lockdown as and when the Government changed its mind. Barton on the Heath still managed to carry on without too much panic or disaster.

We continued with the fabulous swap table that brought out the best in everyone's cooking, growing baking and other skills

I must propose a massive vote of thanks to my wife for coming up with the original idea and generally keeping it running and to all those who cooked, baked, and supplied the goods for the table.

There must be a special mention of Penny's bread and Frankie's cakes and Gillian's flowers and to all the other provider's supporters and growers of plants.

We also had a newly revitalised village bench courtesy of the skills of Brian and Chris

We had the fabulous Bart fest, which wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of the Cathie s for the use of their back garden, our sponsors, those who donated auction prizes and those who operated the bar.

e raised a fabulous £6000 at what was the highlight of that brief period of the summer when we were not locked down

For the rest of the year, the usual cycle of meetings with planning

applications and decisions on the precept etc. continued on zoom. This

hasn't been a bad medium for our meetings. We may well continue for a while.

Luckily our meetings have not yet made YouTube and the national press. Construction has started on the sheds, and we now have a smart tarmac Rd that leads down to it.

Progress on the building has been measured. The highlight being a drone filming a huge crane lifting steels. I hope Grand Designs are enjoying themselves.

I am assured that as soon as the laminated timber beams and SIP panels arrive, things will really start to take off.

In terms of planning, the Brown House extension was approved

The extension to the Bewley house garage was approved

The renovation works to the Barton house lodge were approved

The dining room extension to Leys farm was approved

We had a shepherds Hut arrive in the village at the back of Paddock Cottage, and the works at Rainbow farm have finally been concluded.

There was a slight hiccup when the proposal to add the field below the Farmhouse to its domestic curtilage was refused. We have seen the recent application made to finally spread the remaining soli across that field to level it up.

There has been a huge debate about the role of the Parish Council and how matters should be dealt with, and no doubt this will continue to rumble on for some time to come

As Parish Councillors, we are voted on to the Parish Council by the community to represent them, but to function in a truly inclusive manner, we must have input from members of the village, not just the vocal few
So I would encourage all members of the village, whether they are at this meeting or not, to be actively involved

Read the agendas when they come out

Read the minutes of the meetings, and if you have views for or against or undecided, make sure that your parish councillors know what those views are so that they can be represented appropriately when we come to make their decision

it is too late to complain once a decision has been made

We are a small parish. We will never have monthly meetings, and we should not need to have meetings to decide on simple planning matters if nobody has a strong view one way or the other.

These will be dealt with by the Parish Councillors themselves, with the village having been appropriately informed beforehand and given ample opportunity to raise an objection or a comment should they so wish

All parish members have the ultimate right to complain directly to Stratford District Council should they want to.

The cycle of four meetings will continue with an AGM and a meeting to decide the precept

It is also essential that any other issues that concern people in the village are raised so they can be dealt with

We should also pay tribute to Colin for his fabulous tenure as Parish Clerk. All his hard work was hugely appreciated, and we, of course, welcome Jules into her new role as Clerk and we continue to wish her every success let's hope 2021-2022 is a better year for everyone and we finally see the back of the COVID-19 pandemic

6/7/8/9/10.

The election of James Coker as Chairman of the P.C, for 2021-2022 was proposed by Mr. B. Radford and seconded by Mr. J. Rickett. In turn Mr. B Radford was proposed as Vice-Chairman and seconded by Councillor J. Rickett. Chairman J Coker proposed that Mrs J. Gotrel continue as Clerk seconded by J. Rickett. Chairman J Coker seconded by Mr. J. Rickett proposed that M McPherson continue as treasurer. Chairman J. Coker proposed that Glenn Jones continues as the external auditor.

11. AOB Nothing to discuss.
12. Date of the May 2022 AGM will be decided by The Clerk and Chairman.

Meeting concludes at 18.30