

BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY GENERAL PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING HELD at THE VILLAGE HALL, BARTON ON THE HEATH on MONDAY 25th OCTOBER at 6.30 pm

Present : Councillors: Chairman Mr J. Coker
Brigadier J. Rickett, Mr B. Radford.

Hon Treasurer: Mrs M. McPherson

Clerk: Mrs J. Gotrel

Councillor Sarah Whalley-Hoggins (SDC)

Public: Mrs K. Petty, Mr. C. Seymour-Smith, Mr & Mrs S. Daley, Mr. & Mrs K. Corner,
Mr. E. Hicks, Mr. H. Cathie, Mr. J. Castle, Mr. C. Maynell, Mr. A. Wield,
Mr. C. Seymour-Smith, Mrs K. Sonneborn, Mr J. Mathias, Mr. J. Hayman-Joyce,
Mr. & Mrs G. Jones

1. **Apologies:** Mrs J. Piney, Mrs G. Cathie
2. **Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest:** None
3. **Public Forum:** Mr. J. Hayman-Joyce addressed the meeting regarding the trees along the road to Great Wolford, which are in need of attention and pruning. Mr. B. Radford also highlighted the overhanging trees pushing across the pavement on the Little Compton road, meaning that pedestrians need to walk onto the road to avoid the branches. Mr. A. Wield volunteered to approach a tree surgeon for advice and suggest requirements.
Mrs T. Jones commented on the speed of traffic travelling along the Little Compton road after she witnessed a pedestrian being knocked over by a vehicle, Mr. B. Radford and Mr. C. Seymour-Smith also commented about the speed of traffic driving through the village and suggested a 20mph limit. A suggestion was to unit with other villages experiencing the same problems and contact the County Council Highways Department. Councillor Whalley-Hoggins recommended that Councillor Joe Barker be contacted. Mr. E. Hicks recollected that a speed gun was jointly purchased with Long Compton and the whereabouts was not clear.
It was agreed that Joe. Barker at Warwickshire Council Highways is contacted to open the discussion with an update reported back at the next OGM.
4. Minutes of the OGM of 16th June to be signed by J. Coker after Mr. Hayman-Joyce and Mr. E. Hicks updated the meeting about the repairs to the road the way to Kitebrook. Surveyors had been noticed and the verges had been filled in. Awaiting further development with the badger's sett.
5. **Financial Update : Hon.** Treasurer, Mrs M. McPherson reported that the Precept amount of £1000 had been debited into the account and that £218 had been spent, with a further £350 budgeted for annual expenditures.
6. **Fete round up:** The Chairman confirmed that £5,500 was raised at this year's Summer Fete; divided up of £2000 to the Church; £1000 to the Village Hall; £1000 for local charities and £1000 remained in the Fete account for repairs of equipment. Mrs. M. Mcpherson pointed out that the Village Hall would be lost without such events.
The Chairman expressed a formal thanks to the committee of Helen Seymour-Smith, Suzie Coker and Jules Gotrel who worked hard to make the Fete a huge success.

Mr. J. Castle requested that any photographs of the Fete could be used to promote the village and invite interest for a new vicar. Mrs S. Coker updated the meeting that a feature had already appeared in the Stratford Herald and that a presentation of the charity cheques will be photographed for further inclusion in the Stratford Herald.

7. **Planning Updates** : Mr. J. Mathias was asked to update the meeting on the Planning Application of the Kitebrook School as he had been following this very closely, he advised that the application had been amended, with the removal of the floodlights and also the access changed so no traffic would travel through the village. The updates of Planning Applications had been circulated to the village in the body of the Agenda. He also updated us on the "Gypsy site " next to Fourshires Farm. That application had been refused. We were advised by Councillor Sarah Whalley-Hoggins, not assume that the applicant would not appeal.

8. **The Village Hall** : "What is the future". The Chairman asked Mr. H. Cathie for a thumbnail sketch of the long history of the Village Hall. Mr. Cathie addressed the meeting with the history of the building, and the uses over the years, during 2006/7/8 £4000 - £5000 annually was generated by the hiring of the hall, along with grants received. Mr. H. Cathie confirmed that an official paper had been drawn up between the then Church Wardens (Mrs Caroline Henderson & Mr. H. Cathie) and The Vicar who all became Trustees of the Hall. However as there is no Vicar at present, Mr. H. Cathie is the current Trustee responsible for it on behalf of the Church.

Mr. G. Jones questioned the running costs and whether there would be any further structural costs to maintain. Mr. J. Hayman-Joyce clarified that as an educational building this could not be insured. Councillor Whalley-Hoggins advised that as the Village Hall could be an asset to the village it was with the utmost urgency that it is protected and therefore could not be sold. Mr. H. Cathie advised that he would email the copy of the land registry to The Chairman. Mr. J. Mathias asked the question, whether if sold would the proceeds go to the church, Mr. H. Cathie saw no reason why that should happen.

The Chairman asked : whether it was the view of those in the room that the Village Hall should be made a valuable asset to the village and should it be supported by the village?

Mrs T. Jones asked about the leaking roof , Mrs H. Seymour-Smith confirmed that Mr. J. Mathias had secured a grant and that the valley of the gable end had been cleared out of moss, which seems to have rectified any leakages.

Mrs K. Petty thanked the village for supporting the monthly use of the hall at no cost for a church meeting for 10-15 year olds, a great space which had sadly ceased due to the pandemic, but will be back in use very soon.

Mrs H. Seymour-Smith brought to the attention of the Chairman that Mr. Colin Maynell had stepped down as Chairman for the Village Hall and that this needed to be addressed. The Hon. Treasurer pointed out that the main expenditure is the insurance and as an asset of the community could merge with the insurance for P.C. The Chairman suggested that the Village Hall should be brought under the management of the P.C, meaning it would be covered more in the P.C. meetings. Mr. J. Mathias is happy to continue as Treasurer and that an enthusiastic committee is required to move forward with fund raising and managing the building. Mrs H. Seymour-Smith stated that when the refurbishment was completed there was a big drive to hire out the hall for yoga, book groups, life drawings and computer classes which generated good revenue.

The Chairman motioned that the Village Hall Committee disband and that one Parish Councillor be more involved.

Motion was approved OVERWHELMINGLY.

It was suggested that the Chairman`s position be put out to the village.

It was also emphasised that the accounts will be separately managed and promoted as a commercial space.

Mrs. S. Coker suggested an event to raise funds for the Village Hall.

Councillor Whalley-Hoggins thanked the P.C for inviting her to this meeting, although she was kept informed by the minutes of the meetings displayed on the notice board, she highlighted that 2022 is the Queens Jubilee and would be a great opportunity to use the Village Hall for the celebrations and that she will be most supportive, today's meeting had made great strides and that the details for applying for grants will be emailed to The Chairman.

Councillor Whalley-Hoggins also addressed the recent voting for the merging of the WDC and SDC and although voting had finished it was possible to file any comments and also to write to the minister in charge : Mr. Michael Gove who has the ultimate decision. Another meeting is scheduled for 13th December to discuss.

AOB : FIBRE OPTICS :The Chairman advised that the process is still being held up by the DCMS.

Use of the Precept funds for village repairs : addressed in the Public Forum; any suggestions, please email The Chairman.

Meeting concluded at 7.45pm.

Date of the next meeting?