**MINUTES of the BARTON-ON-THE-HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Held on 12th May 2025  in the Village Hall**

Councillors Present:

Chairman: Mr. James Coker   Mrs. Juley Piney Mr. Alistair Aitken   Clerk to the PC: Mrs. Julia Hicks

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Mandy MacPherson

Public Present:

Cathryn Aitken, Edward Hicks, Peter Sonneborn, Vanessa Bolton, Marc Pennick, Julian Mathias (arrived later)

1. **Apologies:** Brigadier Johnny Rickett
2. **Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest**: None were highlighted by those present.
3. **Public Forum:** Edward Hicks raised the problem with the Notice Board nearest to the Village Hall, whereby Public papers had been removed from the board to make way for fliers. James Coker agreed that there should be a padlock on the notice board to avoid this happening and instructed The Clerk to purchase and install.
4. **Minutes of the OGM of 1st April 2025** were agreed and signed by Chairman James Coker with matters arising to be discussed in meeting
5. **Updates from the OGM 1st April 2025:**

* **Village Green:** Edward Hicks advised that he would liaise with Martin Harvey to ensure that the Village Green grass is cut in time for the fete. Alistair Aitken had received confirmation from the Council that they would spray the verges. As the Council contract the work out to Sub-Contractors who manage their own diary, the Council were not sure of the exact date. Alistair will pursue. Cathryn Aitken highlighted that only a licensed sprayer who has Public Liability insurance is permitted to carry out such work in public places. However Edward Hicks clarified that residents can spray and maintain their own property, but not the highway/public places.
* The mowing of verges was also discussed. Alistair Aitkin confirmed that the District council will mow in villages but we have no idea when and if they do. He will investigate.

Martin had prepared the Village Green in readiness for the VE Day celebrations and needed to be paid for this.

* **Hosting of the Barton website:** James Coker confirmed that Chris Dyer has agreed to host the website, and that both The Chairman and Clerk should be trained to manage the submission of information as and when required. As a legal requirement to upload the Minutes of P.C. Meetings.
* **Bleed Kit Training:** Adam Jones has kindly offered to hold a refresher Defibrillator training session and also how to use the Bleed Kit– Dates to be circulatedafter July.

1. **Planning Matters Updates:**

* **25/00546/FUL – Berkley House – Single storey and side extension – Under Consideration**
* **25/00585/FUL – Dover House – Refurbishment and restoration work – Under Consideration**

**AOB:**

* **Planters:** James Coker addressed the suggestion from the last OGM regarding planters at the entrance to the village. Further investigation needed for the cost of planters, also to check the accounts, as a substantial amount has been paid out recently, for the defibrillator and cabinet; it is likely that the Precept will need to be increased for 2025/26. Cathryn Aitken is concerned about the maintenance of the planters. . It maybe an option to have 20mph signs to reduce the speeding through the village. James Coker suggested that he would speak to Jo Barker who may have a budget for new signs. Cathryn Aitken suggested a letter be sent to Kitebrook school as it seems to be mostly parents driving over the speed limit of 30mph to the school; Juley Piney highlighted that this had already been addressed in the past with the school and parents, without affect.

1. **Village Clean Up:** Cathryn Aitken offered to prepare a note to be circulated to the village stating that as the verges are now maintained there will be NO Village clear-up prior to this year’s Fete, although there are still a few jobs to be dealt with, such as the bus stop, and weeds down the main road. Edward Hicks asked if the large stones on the verge between Barton Farmhouse and The Brown House could be removed as they cause problems with vehicles passing, Cathryn Aitken had already assisted two vehicles with punctures after hitting the stones.
2. **Date for next meeting:** James Coker advised that four meetings will be diarised for 2025/26 September/December/January and May, dates to be confirmed

Meeting ended: 19:02.