

Barton Parish Council
Minutes of Barton Parish Council meeting
held on Thursday 26th February 2004.

1. Constitution.
 - 1.1 Apologies for absence were received and sustained from Cllrs M. Charlton, A. McFadzean and A. Thorogood. Present were Cllrs P. Wood (Chairman), C. Dawson, P. Glithro and M. Holmes, County Cllr M. Heseltine and Parish Clerk Alan Spivey. No visitors attended this meeting.
2. Minutes of meeting held 29th January 2004.
 - 2.1 At 9.2 of 29/1/04 minutes, a letter from Cllr Dawson, noted in the discussion, objecting to the possible subsidizing of costs in respect of allotments, was not minuted. The letter, dated 25/01/04 is now placed with the minutes as Cllr Dawson requested.
3. Clerk's report and matters arising.
 - 3.1 Clerk confirmed the agreement with CE & CM Walker for 2004 season grass cutting contract as agreed 5.2.
 - 3.2 Reference 6.1, the Chairman had attended an on-site meeting where RDC Planning Officer had noted the observations of BPC.
 - 3.3 RDC Chief Accountant (Mr. David Chefneux) has indicated that the first installment of the 2004/05 precept will be made to the BPC account on 01/04/04. Cllr Dawson reported the imminent departure of both Martin Drydale and David Chefneux from RDC Finance Unit
 - 3.4 Reference 9.1, Mazars (auditors) request that there be attached to the accounts when presented a letter from YLCA confirming their verbal advice that "it is legally within the power of the BPC to use funds to secure a new lease by paying the legal costs of the lease provider." This has been requested.
 - 3.5 Village Hall: The Chairman indicated that funding opportunities through Parish Councils is very limited and that it may be that renovation work has to be initiated through the V.H. Management Committee. This, however, has VAT implications - DEFRA is concerned to see such amenities encouraged, emphasizing the importance of good stewardship by PCs, but pointing out that there is a shortage of funding opportunities for PCs. Discussion ranged over several aspects of funding, and of disabled persons' access. It was agreed that the Chairman first write to Mrs. Margaret Barry for clarification of the PC's VAT position in respect of the potentially substantial costs of the work, associated VAT refunds and whether this might be done by RDC on behalf of BPC, as some years ago was the case. A VHMC meeting is noted to take place on 09/03/04.
 - 3.6 In the debate of 3.5 Cllr Dawson raised the issue of easement payments by residents. The PC during 2000-2004 had not requested payments as were made until 1999, the Clerk explaining that the reason was a perceived injustice and dysfunction of the basis, some paying but others, who did not, being unchallenged. The Chairman invited Cllr Dawson to head a sub-committee to investigate. Cllr Dawson is to make enquiries as to how BPC should proceed. Cllr Holmes expressed the hope that an easement settlement regarding Bums Haulage Depot might provide funds for such capital expenditure as Village Hall renovation. It is noted that such income can only be used for capital items.
 - 3.7 Allotments. The Chairman reported that negotiations with Mr. E. Hall progress well and are almost completed; Mr. Hall is consulting with his solicitors this week. It is hoped to present an agreement for consideration at the PC March meeting. Cllr Dawson asked that his opposition to BPC funds being spent on allotment provision be recorded. (See also 2.1)

4. Chairman.
 - 4.1 The Chairman reported that the BPC website is now up and running and may be visited on www.barton-village.co.uk

5. Notified business from previous meeting.
 - 5.1 Cllr Glithro requested, on behalf of the Methodist Church, permission to provide a paved pathway from the road directly to the front door. Such permission previously was granted for "grass-grow-through" paving, but this was neither highly recommended nor felt suitable. An existing pathway is frequently blocked by free parked vehicles of owners of adjoining property, formerly the Chapel. The request was not denied, but Cllr Glithro agreed to speak again to the neighbors with view to joint efforts at road repairs and possible agreement over parking of vehicles. (It is noted that such parking is not permitted, the roadway being village green.) Failing a satisfactory outcome to these approaches, it is assumed that the issue will be further considered by BPC.
 - 5.2 Silver Meadows, Cllr Dawson reported his discussions with Mr. Bell of Persimmon Homes, the firm being reluctant to admit any liability for the broken manhole cover and the sewage problems within this development. The matter has now been referred to the National House Builders Council, outcome awaited.
 - 5.3 Dog fouling notices. Clerk has obtained some notices, 2 taken for displaying in prominent places by Cllrs.
 - 5.4 Public Footpaths Notices, Co. Cllr Heseltine agreed to pursue this ongoing issue with NYCC officer dealing with such matters.

6. Correspondence.
 - 6.1 The Clerk showed an E-mail from CIP announcing a meeting on 3/04/04 - to be added to circulation file.
 - 6.2 The correspondence, detailed on the agenda notice coupled with these minutes, was noted but placed in the file to circulate among Cllrs prior to BPC meeting on 25/03/04.

7. Planning Applications.
 - 7.1 District Cllr Dawson informed the meeting that, with regard to application 1/93/191A/FULL - 1 Waterfall Terrace, there is to be a separate application for erection of 7 garages. This has not yet been received by RDC. He thereafter vacated the meeting room.
 - 7.2 Clerk reported granting of full planning permission in respect of the Post Office, 31 Silver Street, and the listed building consent for proposed work at 25 Silver Street.
 - 7.3 1 Waterfall Terrace – application 1/93/191A/FULL - for Mr. and Mrs. Baker of Beck House, Stapleton. This submission proposes a kitchen extension with loft conversion. However, the attached drawings indicate the construction of 7 garage units to the rear of the property. No objection has been raised concerning the kitchen extension and loft conversion. However, BPC has received copies of letters sent by residents at 3, 5 and 8 Waterfall Terrace to RDC Planning & Development Unit which object, for many given reasons, to the erection of garage units. Cllr Holmes reminded the meeting that the garage units have to be the subject of another application that suitable access does not appear to exist, that other residents are strongly opposed to such development, and that there does not appear any good reason why so much of an existing wall should be taken down. Cllr Wood proposed, and it was agreed, *“BPC recommend that RDC Planning Officer call a site meeting of all residents of Waterfall Terrace, and the adjoining landowner, prior to any application for the erection of garage units being considered by the Planning Committee.”* Cllr Holmes proposed, and it was agreed, *“BPC makes representation to RDC Planning Committee that it considers a development of 7 garage units inappropriate on the site behind 1 Waterfall Terrace, and that reference be made to the content of the various copy letters (originals with RDC) with which BPC is largely in agreement.”*

8. Financial Statement.
 - 8.1 The Chairman has incurred costs of £102.20 in setting up the BPC's website. Payment of the invoices was authorized by the PC. (Note: Cllr M. Charlton has offered to sponsor the website: it is therefore anticipated that this payment [net of VAT] will be reimbursed to the BPC account.)
 - 8.2 Clerk's administrative expenses, which include Cllr Holmes's conference fee payment and the payment for PC Newsletter delivery, total £67.06, this payment authorized.
 - 8.3 Clerk's salary, payments due 30/09/03 and 31/12/03 having been deferred, were approved for payment within this financial year. The payment due on 31/03/04 would be made from the forthcoming financial year account on 01/04/04.
 - 8.4 The Clerk circulated copy of the accounts to 29/01/04. To the page had been added the above items to demonstrate that BPC could anticipate a credit balance of account at the financial year-end of £522.81. He pointed out that, because use is being made of funds earmarked for the Village Hall renovation, this in fact represents a deficit of the current account of £752.19. This will require correction in the new financial year.
 - 8.5 The Chairman proposed, it was agreed, *"Barton Parish Council request the Alliance Leicester Bank to set up a second account, which shall be specifically for funds to be used to fulfill BPC obligations regarding the Village Hall."*
 - 8.6 A quotation from Zurich Insurance to provide cover on similar terms to the existing cover from Allianz-Cornhill was read. This is considerably higher than our present costs. It was agreed not to proceed.

9. County Cllr Michael Heseltine:
 - 9.1 He paid a generous tribute to the Clerk, as Alan Spivey leaves the post on 3W3/04.
 - 9.2 Appreciation of the work of the governors of Barton School, and financial support given through various functions, now that the developments are well advanced.
 - 9.3 Having served for many years, Cllr Heseltine reflected on tensions which creep into local government work, of polarization in some situations and the stresses felt by many due to recent large rises in Council Tax. The turnover of School Governors and Parish Clerks reflects the present-day tensions in public service.
 - 9.4 Attention drawn to Area Committee meeting 31/03/04 and his own "Surgery" on 03/12/04.
 - 9.5 The Chairman, thanking Cllr Heseltine, asked that he pursue questions of bus time tabling and routing. Cllr Dawson asked him to press the need for winter gritting of the C12.

10. Items for meeting on 25/03/04.

Cllr Glithro noted that fire-alarm batteries needed replacing in Village Hall: Cllr Dawson reminded users of the Village Hall to switch off lighting and heating prior to departure. Chairman noted the issues to take to the forthcoming VHMC meeting. Otherwise no items notified for future BPC meeting. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk

25th March 2004.

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