

Barton Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 29th January 2004.

1. **Constitution.** Present were Cllr Peter Wood (Chairman), Cllrs Michael Charlton, Philip Glithro and Alen McFadzean, the Clerk, Alan Spivey together with 10 residents. Apologies were received and sustained from Cllrs Campbell Dawson, Michael Holmes and Alasdair Thorogood. County Cllr Michael Heseltine did not attend: the Clerk apologised for his failure to transmit papers to Cllr Heseltine, due to incorrect e-mail address details.

2. Minutes of meeting held 27th November 2003.

2.1 Item 6.3 of the minutes incorrectly stated that Cllr Dawson chairs the RDC Planning Committee: he is a member of that committee. With this correction the minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. Clerk's report.

3.1 Clerk reported that all letters required to be sent following November meeting were completed. Particular matters arise within the following agenda.

3.2 The Chairman reported correspondence with NYCC Legal Branch, a letter from Graham Woods repeating that he is unable to continue acting on behalf of BPC and recommending that it advise a local firm of solicitors.

4. Chairman.

4.1 The draft of the Barton Directory is completed but, in view of uncertainties about the Data Protection Act, it was considered appropriate that the persons named in the Directory (and ultimately the proposed website - see 4.2) should provide their written authority to the inclusion of such details in a publicised document.

4.2 He outlined options for setting up Barton PC's website. This is made possible by the generous sponsorship of Cllr Michael Charlton. Suggestions for the website name were discussed, the meeting agreeing to leave this to the discretion of the Chairman and Cllr Charlton. Likely costs of circa £85.00 were noted for later approval.

5. Correspondence.

5.1 Notification of a Community Transport meeting to be held 9/2/04.

5.2 Mr Walker's estimate for grasscutting in the coming season is £117.00 + VAT per cut. Proposed by Cllr Charlton, the meeting agreed that this be accepted.

5.3 Election to the Richmondshire Standards Board: YLCA notify that Cllr T. Jones of Aysgarth PC was elected.

5.4 Environment Agency floods presentation on 2/2/04. Interested Cllrs invited to attend.

5.5 YLCA Councillors Introductory Courses timetable notice. This passed to Cllr Glithro, others invited to attend.

5.6 Porch development. Clerk reported correspondence regarding the naming of the Close - developers suggest "Mallards", Clerk has written at suggestion of some councillors that "Piper Hill Close" is preferred.

5.7 BPC invited to write in support of P.O. owner's application for a grant from DEFRA (Vital Villages plan through Countryside Agency). A draft letter proposed by Chairman was recommended be sent.

5.8 Some of the above were included in the file to be circulated to which the following were added - Yorkshire & Humberside Assembly discussion documents sent out by NYCC; Catterick Learning Centre leaflets; DEFRA notice regarding Equine issues.

6. Planning Applications.

- 6.1 Clerk asked for the return of the proposals relating to Barton Lodge, 26 Marygate that had been circulated. A response has been sent to RDC Planning & Development Unit (letter dated 18/1/04) indicating reservations regarding the size of the garage/store intended, concern about trees which might be subject to a preservation order and questioning the visual impact upon neighboring properties.
- 6.2 Clerk reported meeting on site at Porch development with Environment Agency, Beverly Booth (RDC Planning), site Manager and representatives of Hyperion Homes and Acorn Developers. Clerk, whose property adjoins the site, raised personal issues. On behalf of BPC he has raised concerns that proper care is in place regarding possible flooding problems in either direction of beck flow, the site formerly serving as a flood plain which is now being elevated considerably. Implications for all riparian owners were discussed concerning beck clearance, particularly where sewage works, Church cemetery, private land and land owned by Persimmon Homes meet, this location having been the scene of stream blockage in the recent past.

7. Financial Statement and Precept Proposals.

- 7.1 The accounts had been circulated to each Cllr prior to the meeting. Payments into the account are from NYCC in respect of grasscutting, £489.60, from County Cllr Headline's Fund a grant of £675.00 for Village Hall refurbishment, and for the Community Investment Programme £2000.00. Credit balance £3,189.87.
- 7.2 The total received during 2002/2003 from County Cllr Heseltine's fund is £1,275.00. This remains in the account but is reserved for work yet to be carried out on the Village Hall.
- 7.3 The CIP monies (£2,000.00) are required to be paid directly to RDC on behalf of the CIP. Proposed by the Chairman, it was agreed that this amount be paid immediately, leaving the account with a credit balance of £1,189.87.
- 7.4 The Chairman presented budget proposals for financial year 2004/2005, which are appended to these minutes. These had been previously circulated to all Cllrs. Proposed by Cllr Peter Wood, Chairman, seconded by Cllr Michael Charlton, that Barton PC set a Precept of £9,800.00 for the financial year 2004/2005 to cover the anticipated financial needs with the Parish. This was passed unanimously by those councillors present. The Chairman also presented a draft of his letter to all residents and it was agreed that this be sent as soon as practical.

8. Village Hall.

- 8.1 Cllr Charlton reported that meetings are still ongoing with members of the VH Management Committee and it is hoped soon to have prepared a schedule of work. It should be possible to phase the work, as funds become available. It is expected that renovations will be programmed over a 3-year timescale, with a view to full renovation before 2008.
- 8.2 The Chairman reported that discussions continue about funding, new potential sources being looked into. There appear to be only limited opportunities for BPC to obtain grant aid. It may be that such applications can be made through the offices of Barton Institute. (VHMC - registered charity.) The VAT implications also need to be investigated. As yet it is too early for a clear statement.

9. Allotments.

- 9.1 The Chairman invited residents present to share in the discussion after he had outlined the current situation. The draft lease has been given to Mr Hall. A letter from Mrs Barry, manager of RDC Corporate Unit, was shown in which she confirmed telephone advice from YLCA that it is permissible for the PC to pay Mr Hall's legal fees in regard to the PC securing a new lease: Mrs Barry recommended that the auditors (Mazars) be advised of this.

9.2 Mr Hall has indicated that his solicitors will charge £140.00 per hour for their work, and anticipate that their costs will be £700.00 + VAT. Cllr Charlton asked that PC negotiators suggest that £500.00 is a more agreeable amount, the lease offered being a standard form, which should not require so many hours work. The meeting agreed that the negotiators should bear this in mind but not delay agreement on this matter. Cllr Charlton proposed, and it was agreed, that PC negotiators aim for a lower figure, but failing that, the suggested cost of £700.00 + VAT be met by the Parish Council.

10. Notice of issues to be discussed at February PC meeting.

10.1 Cllr Glithro asked for further consideration of the proposed paved path to the Methodist Church.

10.2 Repair of manhole in Silver Meadows is still to be completed.

10.3 Silver Meadows - sewage problems are a cause for concern.

10.4 Public Footpath notice between Jubilee Terrace and Kettle End is still required, long promised by NYCC.

10.5 Clerk asked to renew request for dog fouling notices.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40p.m. Barton PC adjourned to meet next on Thursday 26th February at 7.30p.m.

Chairman _____ Clerk
26th February 2004.