

Barton Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 30TH October 2003.

1. Constitution.

- 1.1 Present were Chairman Cllr Peter Wood, Cllrs Campbell Dawson, Michael Holmes and Alen McFadzean with County Cllr Michael Heseltine, the Clerk Alan Spivey and 3 residents of the Parish. Apologies received from Cllr Alasdair Thorogood and Michael Charlton.
- 1.2 It was noted that the declaration of a vacancy had been posted and date for closure of nominations is Friday 31st October. No nominations having been notified to date it was anticipated that with effect from 3rd November the PC may co-opt a 7th member to serve on the PC. Mrs Astrid Saxby expressed some interest and noted the expiry time for nominations, the procedure explained to her following the meeting by the Clerk.
- 1.3 The format for receiving the Electoral Roll was discussed and relevant papers passed to Chairman for action.

2. Minutes of meeting held 25* September + Minutes of sub committee meeting with representatives of the Barton Allotment & Leisure Gardeners' Association.

- 2.1 Proposed by Cllr Dawson "*The Minutes of the PC meeting held on 25th September 2003 be adopted*" was agreed unanimously.
- 2.2 Proposed by Cllr Holmes "*The minutes of the PC and BALGA meeting are adopted*" - agreed.

3. Clerk's report and matters arising.

- 3.1 Payment to Mr Edward Hall of his legal fees in respect of his Public Inquiry (December 2002) costs (see 8.3 minutes 25/9/03.) made on 22/10/03 in sum of £1,151.25.
- 3.2 Reply received from Catherine Whitehead, head of Legal Services NYCC, was read. This was seen as an insufficient reply and Clerk instructed by unanimous vote to write again and request a full answer to PC letter of 6th October 2003. Ms Whitehead had forwarded details of NYCC Complaints Procedure as requested.
- 3.3 YLCA direction re Common Land (Village Green) easements has been passed to each Cllr. No further discussion at this time.
- 3.4 Letter to Chairman of BALGA requiring removal of hut from allotment site was read. Issues on this subject to be raised under allotment agenda item 11 below.
- 3.5 Regional conference on Quality Parish Council Status: noted that Cllr Holmes will attend. It was agreed that his costs be re-imbursed in due course.
- 3.6 Cllr Dawson reported that the street light situated on private property in Cedar Grove would be removed to a site on the periphery of the Village Green. This and future responsibility will fall to RDC.
- 3.7 Cllr McFadzean asked that NYCC be urged yet again to renew the public footpath notice in Jubilee Terrace. Clerk to write.
- 3.8 Mrs Jean Kay asked that Clerk write to residents along footpath between Jubilee Tee and Kettle End requesting attention to cutting back of overgrowth. (Previously no action had been taken - Clerk apologised for the oversight.)

4. Chairman.

Cllr Wood reported the production and distribution of PC Newsletter to all residents.

5. Correspondence.

- 5.1 Clerk reported that the previously circulated file has not been returned. Chairman asked that this be located.
- 5.2 A further file passed to Chairman containing papers from RDC, YLCA and NYCC for information to be circulated.

- 5.3 Letter from Co Cllr Heseltine requesting information about the use of £600.00 grant made in January 2003 has been answered and approval given that this is held in account for future use in Village Hall repairs.
- 5.4 Note taken that a Licence Transfer from Michael Burgess to Messrs David Mathias and Andrew Dawson re the Barton Park Services will be heard on 12/12/03 at Richmond Courthouse.
- 5.5 RDC draft housing strategy papers discussed. Clerk asked to write and express the PC's concern that affordable housing be a priority, especially for first time buyers in this community.

6. No planning applications received since previous meeting.

7. Finances.

The summary of accounts to this date passed to each Cllr. Copy appended to these minutes. Credit balance £311.97.

8. County Cllr Michael Heseltine.

- 8.1 Notified his Surgery at Barton School on 3rd Dec from 7.30-8.00 p.m.
- 8.2 Expressed his concerns at the choking of local government by bureaucracy, paper, bright ideas and best value surveys! The volume of this has serious budget implications.
- 8.3 His recent visit to Barton felt to be very useful.
- 8.4 His work with the area Safety Partnership Committee is promising and useful.
- 8.5 Regional Assembly. This debate is being promoted by national government. His personal view is that the proposals be resisted for the implications of approval of the Yorkshire & Humberside Assembly are that costs will rise, both NYCC and RDC will be abolished and representation of peoples will be threatened. The issue was not debated.

9. Road Traffic Issues.

- 9.1 Chairman reported his contacts with 2 firms that manufacture speed warning signs. One, which reads number plates with speed of vehicle, costs £18,000 - £20,000. Another, which simply reads and notifies the speed of approaching vehicle costs £2,000 to £3,000 - this might be suitably shared between several parishes.
- 9.2 Clerk asked to write again to NYCC Traffic Dept to obtain update on actions proposed in January 2003.

10. Village Hall sub committee report.

In the absence of Cllr Charlton no report available. Chairman reported that discussions are ongoing.

11. Allotment update.

- 11.1 Cllr McFadzean noted that the recently gifted storage hut has been refused housing on the site by the landowner. He made a strong plea for pursuing the request for it provides the essential housing for equipment required to maintain the site in good order. Chairman indicated sympathy with the arguments but stated that Mr Hall has declared his refusal, the PC obliged to respect that, but the issue will be borne in mind should future opportunity arise.
- 11.2 Consideration given to alternative sites for the hut but no answers found. Hope expressed that BALGA might find a temporary site.

12. Community Investment Plan.

- 12.1 A presentation by the agency promoting the CIP had been held in the Village Hall on 29/10/03 and was well attended, particularly by young people. Responses still urgently called for.
- 12.2 Concerns expressed that financial benefit implications for the parishes is unclear.

12a. Quality Parish Council Status.

Cllr Holmes reported his attendance at a conference on this subject, confirming the desirability of following this through. Clerk asked to obtain further details of training programmes from YLCA. It was noted that costs are involved and Chairman suggested, with general approval, that these be met, possible figures of approximately £100 being aired; general agreement reached that a commonsense decision be left up to Cllr Holmes. Co Cllr Heseltine indicated that Barton appears to be the only Parish in his area pursuing this. PC's attitude stated to be that not to seek QPS may be to lose out in the ongoing provisions by both national and regional government agencies.

13. Agenda items for November meeting.

General open discussion raised the following points for future consideration

- Allotments.
- Village Hall.
- QPCS.
- Adoption of Blind Lane. (Co Cllr Heseltine offered his files on this long-standing issue.)
- Bus Shelter seating - clerk to request from RDC.
- Bus timetables. The unsatisfactory service drew much comment. The possibility of a service to Darlington Memorial Hospital was strongly urged. Co Cllr Heseltine to follow up.

The meeting closed at 21.20 and Council adjourned to meet next on Thursday 27*¹ November 2003.

Chairman _____ Clerk

27th November 2003.