

## **Parish Council Barton St David**

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Lucy Lapwood  
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### **Minutes of the meeting of Barton St David Parish Council meeting on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 commencing at 7.55pm and held at Barton St David Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs Mr D Pye (Chair), Mr J Lapwood (Vice Chair), Ms C Heron, Mr P Robinson, Mr S. Cabble, Mrs D Goodman

**In Attendance:** Mrs. Lucy Lapwood (Clerk)

**Also Present:** 23 members of the public.

#### **District Councillor Report.**

Annual Report given by Cllr David Norris: -

District Councillors Report 2019 I reported last year that South Somerset District Council was going through a very difficult time. After a long period when the financial position of the council was not in question it has very quickly changed so that the budget projected a deficit of £2.5m per year if no steps were taken to remedy the situation. The principle reason for this dramatic change in fortune is a change in central government support to local authority funding. The main activity this year has been to put those remedies in place. These fall into 2 categories: Transformation and Income Generation.

**Transformation** The Transformation programme is a root and branch change in the way the Council conducts its business. Up to now the council has been organised with departments, for example Licensing, Planning, Revenues and Benefits, Health and Leisure, each working within its own stove pipe and manned by experts in the field. This was inefficient because much of the routine work did not need to be carried out by experts, and there was substantial duplication of administrative functions in the departments. The new model is for customer issues to be handled by a central team of case workers who would draw on specialists as and when they were needed. This should result in a 30% reduction in manpower. The new model started to be rolled out in January and should be fully in place by the end of May. It is disappointing to note that this process has led to the resignation of many first-rate officers who will be very difficult to replace, and a number of consultants have had to be hired to fill the gaps left. The second big change that the transformation process has brought is that customers are being encouraged to conduct their business with the council using a new interactive website. This model is the future; however, we are all going to have to show some patience as it is rolled out and the staff get used to the new method of working.

**Income Generation** In addition to saving money in the way it conducts its business, the Council has embarked on an Income Generation programme. Fundamentally this comprises investing in property and other projects both within and outside of the council area. The aim was always stated to achieve a 7% return on each investment,

but we learned last month that this did not include the cost of any loans taken. For information, the CEO and Council Leader have been authorised to borrow up to £95m to make purchases. To date, the Council has purchased Marks & Spenser and Wilco in Yeovil, and invested in a local Company called Opium Holdings to build a housing estate in Marlborough and battery storage complex near Taunton. Local Plan Last year I also reported that the Local plan had been deemed out of date because we were not meeting the development targets by some margin. The consequence of this is there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development which leaves our market towns and villages vulnerable to excessive development. I regret that this situation still exists. The council is working on amending the Local Plan which is scheduled to go out on public consultation in June this year. It is unfortunate that the revised plan does not propose a reduction in the level of required development so it is difficult to see how it will solve the root problem. I hope I am wrong. Of greater concern for me is it proposes a new band in the settlement hierarchy called Villages. In Northstone Ward this will include Keinton Mandeville and The Charltons. This sets a level of development required in these villages, but other than that there are no specific policies for them. These villages will lose the protection they had by the former policy SS2. It is essential that everyone takes part in the consultation process and demand specific policies especially one to spread any development evenly across all villages, and a regular review to confirm they still qualify as a sustainable location and thus fulfil the requirements to qualify as a village in the hierarchy.

And Finally, it has been a huge honour to represent Barton St David and the Northstone Ward for the past 4 years. I am not be standing in the May elections as I have decided to retire and spend 'more time with my family'. A euphemism I know, but I really mean it as I plan to spare my wife from our long cold damp winters and take her to warmer climes for extended periods. I wish all in Barton St David well, and offer my help and support to my successors, whoever they may be.

### **County Councillor Report.**

Councillor Dean Ruddle thanked the Parish council for their generous grant to Somerton Library

### **Police Report.**

No Police present.

### **Footpath Officer.**

The Footpath Officer sent his apologies, the Clerk read a report sent from the footpath Officer in which he stated that the stiles between Hurtle Pool and Grassy Green have still not been repaired or replaced. However, Cllr Cabble reported that about a month ago the landowner had been approached requesting permission to go onto his land by the Rights of Way team.

He also commented that since Double Gates Drove has been dug up to allow a water supply to a field further along the drove, that it has been replaced with a hard-core surface which allows traffic using the drove to travel faster. A resident who lives near the drove re-iterated the speeding issue and requested that the Parish Council put in physical calming measures. To be taken forward to a future meeting.

**150.18 Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given.**

Council to receive apologies for absence and, if appropriate, to resolve to approve the reasons given. [LGA 1972 s85\(1\)](#)

RESOLVED: Apologies were given by Cllr D Britton - accepted

**151.18 Declarations of Interest.**

Members to declare any interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the [Local Authorities \(Model Code of Conduct\) Order 2007 SI No.1159](#). *(NB this does not preclude any later declarations).*

RESOLVED: Cllr Lapwood declared an interest in agenda item 166.18

**152.18 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

To agree any items to be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) has been excluded from the meeting

RESOLVED: To exclude the press and public from agenda item 166.18

**153.18 Minutes of Barton St David Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

To confirm and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

RESOLVED: The minutes were signed as a true copy.

**154.18 Planning**

19/00709/OUT Outline application for the erection of five dwellings

Land at Sycamore Farm Barton Road Keinton Mandeville

This application is not in the parish of Barton St David but is adjacent to it. The planning office has asked for representations by 30<sup>th</sup> April.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council unanimously did not recommend approval for the following reasons: -

Concerns were raised regarding the personal safety of residents of the new development, accessing the village amenities; the school, village shop, local pub, the churches and recreational facilities within the village without a footpath. Residents of Barton St David who have walked this road to enable them to use the facilities that Keinton Mandeville has to offer, know that it is an extremely busy road and unsafe for pedestrians particularly those with pushchairs, young children, and the elderly. This would have a major impact on the environment as motor vehicles would have to be used to access village facilities, therefore increasing the volume of traffic.

There is no buffer piece of land from the proposed building line to the Barton St David/Keinton Mandeville parish boundaries.

By allowing this proposed development it would mean the joining of two separate settlements with different unique rural identities.

Barton St David is an historic village with open spaces being part of its intrinsic character and the natural vista on the approach to the village would be seriously compromised.

#### Applications Noted.

19/00277/HOU Conversion of garage into home office and new fence and raised wall at the perimeter

The Barn Main Street Barton St David.

Application permitted with conditions.

19/00092/FUL Erection of fifth polytunnel.

Land North of OS 6453 Mill Road Barton St David.

Application permitted with conditions

#### Appeal Decision

Appeal reference - APP/R3325/W/18/3215446

18/01929/OUT Outline application for the erection of 6 dwellings.

Land OS 7026 Main Street Barton St David.

**This appeal is dismissed.**

#### **155.18      Letter to Openreach**

To discuss the Broadband and Telephony appraisal and the proposed letter to Openreach.

RESOLVED: Letter agreed the Clerk to send.

#### **156.18      Highway Matters**

To report any highway defects.

Possibility of painted 30mph signs on the road and rumble strips.

Update on Speed Watch.

The possibility of signs and rumble strips was discussed, it was agreed that rumble strips are noisy and that the signs may be ineffective. Cllr Dean Ruddle said that visual flashing signs have proved to be effective at reducing speed in other villages, although they do not capture any data.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to enquire into the cost.

It appears that a speed indicator device has been installed on Peacock Hill.

RESOLVED: To await the statistics to ascertain if the village has a speeding problem before taking the speed watch process further.

It was reported that a gully at Hurtle Pool is still blocked.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to report.

**157.18 Village Hall and Playing Fields**

To discuss registering the Village Hall and Playing Fields with the Land Registry.

Before registering the Village Hall and Playing Field with the Land Registry as belonging to the parish council, it was decided to establish the legal ownership of the Village Hall.

RESOLVED: Cllr Lapwood and the Clerk to make an appointment with the solicitor holding the deeds to establish ownership and registering with the Land Registry.

**158.18 Stocks Green and the Bus Shelter.**

To discuss options for Stocks Green, Wall, Well Head and Garden.

Update on quotes for the Bus Shelter and discuss options going forward.

Stocks Green Wall - Two quotes had been obtained for the repair of the wall at Stocks Green, both of similar amounts of over £8000, this was considered to be a significant amount.

RESOLVED: To consult residents via the newsletter to establish local opinion on whether the wall should remain, or an alternative put in place, and what the options may be.

Stocks Green Well Head -Two quotes have been received for the Well Head.

RESOLVED: To ask Antony Worth to proceed with the work.

Stocks Green Garden – Cllr Britton was not in attendance therefore no update available.

Bus Shelter – Two quotes had been obtained for the treatment of the woodworm.

RESOLVED: To ask Antony Worth to proceed with the work.

**159.18 Fly the Red Ensign**

To discuss whether the Parish Council wish to take part in the campaign 'Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day' on 3 September, to raise awareness of the UK's ongoing dependence on Merchant Navy seafarers.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council decided against taking part.

**FINANCE**

**160.18 Accounts for payment**

To review and approve a schedule of items of expenditure – [LGA 1972 s150 \(5\)](#)

Lucy Lapwood April wages £189.82 Office allowance £10.00 Travel £5.40 Magnets £6.39 Total £211.61 Information Commissioners Office £40.00 Sara Saunders £75.00 SLCC £76.00

RESOLVED: The accounts were approved for payment

**161.18 Income Received**

To report on income received.

RESOLVED: The Clerk reported income of £9.30 interest.

**162.18 Bank Reconciliation**

To agree the bank reconciliation figures against the bank statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

RESOLVED: The figures agree, and paperwork signed as correct.

**163.18      Final Accounts for financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.**

To review and approve final Annual Accounts for financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

The Clerk distributed the final accounts to all Councillors for inspection.

RESOLVED: Final Accounts for year 2018/19 approved.

**164.18      Internal Audit Report**

To review the internal audit report and consider any recommendations made.

RESOLVED: The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit had been completed and there were no recommendations made.

**165.18      Parish Issues**

(Note to Councillors. Parish Issues is for items of information only, items you wish to be placed on the next Full Council agenda or items that can be delegated to the Clerk to deal with. No decisions can be made under Parish Problems; decisions can only be made on items on the agenda under a clear heading with the business to be transacted).

Cllr Robinson commented on the superb flowers which have been planted at the War Memorial after it's restoration, which have been supplied, planted and maintained by a local volunteer. Cllr Goodman said that she would arrange for a bouquet of flowers and a thank you card.

**166.18      Clerk Salary Increase.**

To approve an increase in the Clerks salary from 1<sup>st</sup> April as per NALC recommendations.

Cllr Lapwood & the Clerk left the room.

RESOLVED: Salary increase approved.

Cllr Lapwood and the Clerk returned to the room.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm

**Next meeting** – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 7.45pm at Barton St David Village Hall.