

Parish Council Barton St David

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Caron Potts

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Barton St David on Monday 20th January 2020 commencing at 7.45pm and held at Barton St David Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mr D Pye (Chair), Mr P Robinson, Ms C Heron, Mr D Britton, Mrs D Goodman

In Attendance: Mrs Caron Potts (Clerk)

County Councillors: Mr Dean Ruddle and Mr Charlie Hull. District Councillor: Mr Tony Capozzoli

Also Present: 9 members of the public.

Public Question Time.

Comments made praising the newly restored wall at Stocks Green and an observation that the yellow lines had been removed from the rear of Mill Road.

Reports from County and District Councillors.

Cllr Charlie Hull reported that the council were updating their environmental strategy, that tree giveaway was receiving good support and that funding was available for sports facilities such as football astro pitches.

Cllr Tony Capozzoli gave an update on various outstanding planning issues.

Cllr Dean Ruddle reported the increased focus on climate emergency issues.

Footpath Officer – Apologies received.

Police Report – No police in attendance.

1.20 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.

RESOLVED: Apologies were given by Cllr Steve Cabble – unanimously accepted.

2.20 Declarations of Interest.

Members to declare any interests they may have in agenda items.

RESOLVED: None

3.20 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: **15.20** Receipts

4.20 Minutes of Barton St David Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 25th November 2019

To confirm and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the above date.

RESOLVED: Minutes agreed by all and signed as a correct record.

5.20 Appointment of Parish Clerk

RESOLVED: Mrs Caron Potts appointment agreed unanimously.

6.20 Casual Vacancy

Vacancy on Parish Council advised

RESOLVED: Advert placed in Parish newsletter, Public Notice of Vacancy to be placed on the notice boards and website – agreed unanimously.

7.20 Planning

The possible planning breach at Manor Farm is still ongoing.

RESOLVED: Cllr D Pye to chase again - agreed unanimously.

19/01795/FUL. The demolition of existing barn and erection of a new dwelling. Land OS 9121 at Butts Drove Gosling Street Barton St David - amended application. The planning office has asked for representations by 28th January.

The applicants Nigel and Julia Foster addressed the meeting and presented their latest amendments.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council were against by majority (3 against, 2 in favour) approving the latest changes to planning application no., for the following reasons: -

As before the proposed changes to the new build still mean it is considerably larger than the existing barn and in open countryside on the edge of the Somerset levels. Class Q states that the agricultural building in question should not be increased in size due to a change in use. The road leading from the centre of the village is a narrow single track, and this development would generate an increase in the volume of traffic along this road. There is no footpath into the village necessitating the use of a car to travel to the local amenities. The application is not in keeping with other surrounding dwellings, it would distort the character and shape of Gosling Street, creating an isolated residence on the left, fundamentally altering the character of the Gosling Street Hamlet on the right. The Parish Council had reservations last year about planning permission being granted for a class Q given that it is essentially a pole barn. But now the application is to knock down and rebuild in a different location. Butts Drove is clearly agricultural land. Allowing residential development in this manner encourages speculation leading to loss of agricultural land and consequently making it more expensive.

The Parish Council would again like to ask the District Council Planning Department why they were not consulted when the original class Q application was made, and request that in future they are consulted on these matters.

8.20 Stocks Green

Wall refurbishment update

RESOLVED: Project complete, agreed unanimously to pay invoice when received.

Wildlife garden tree pruning training

RESOLVED: Complete – a very informative, enjoyable session.

9.20 Tree Policy

Very positive response from for the free tree giveaway. If we don't secure one of the 60 sets of 50 trees which are being given away or if demand outstrips supply Cllr Heron requested that additional trees be purchased.

RESOLVED: £150 to be made available from the Telephone Box tree budget - agreed unanimously.

Work on the policy has been by Cllrs Heron and Goodman, they propose to split it into 2 sections Parish Council and community.

RESOLVE: Policy to be completed - agreed unanimously.

10.20 Trees on the Telephone Box Green

3 quotes have been received to carry out this project but advised to leave until later in the year.

RESOLVE: Works to be undertaken in the Autumn - agreed unanimously.

11.20 Highway Matters

The repositioned blocks on Copis Lane have already been knocked out of position. The engineers at the site had suggested the only permanent solution was to build a protective curb around.

RESOLVE: Cllr Pye to contact Highways - agreed unanimously.

Double Gates Drove speed limit sign.

Cllr Pye proposed a design for a 10MPH Barton St David Council speed sign

RESOLVE: More information required. Possibility of the village speed gun being used to capture some unofficially data. Cllr Pye to enquire - agreed unanimously.

Obscured road sign in Main Street.

RESOLVED: Clerk has reported this to Highways.

Update on the situation with the Speedwatch team.

6 volunteers have agreed to help and they are planning to have an initial trial soon, locations will be by the bus stop and in the entrance to Northfield House. As the purpose is to deter speeding the times and venues will be made public on the website.

RESOLVED: More volunteers would be welcome - agreed unanimously.

FINANCE.

12.20 Update of Financial Regulations

Agree policy for grant application.

Guidelines exist in the NALC LTN31 Local Council general powers document.

RESOLVED: Grants to be approved on their own merit - agreed unanimously.

To consider funding/grant request received from St Margaret's Hospice, Somerton Library and South Somerset Citizens Advice.

RESOLVED: St Margaret's Hospice in Yeovil in-patient unit has closed so funding denied.

Grant £200 to Somerton Library and £50 to South Somerset Citizens Advice - agreed unanimously.

13.20 Agree Budget and Precept

Additional expenditure for new notice board and War Memorial maintenance approved. Stocks Green wall, well and garden budget to be combined and reduced. Additional funds agreed for implementing tree policy.

RESOLVED: Budget approved, Precept to remains as last year and submitted - agreed unanimously.

14.20 Accounts for payment

To review and approve a schedule of items of expenditure
Payment to P Farrant £60 Christmas tree and £132.09 grass cutting
RESOLVED: Payment to P Farrant - agreed unanimously.

15.20 Receipts

Receipts received in November.
The Clerk reported receipts of £18.80 interest
RESOLVED: agreed unanimously.

16.20 Bank Reconciliation

Bank reconciliation figures shown to match the bank statements as at 30th November 2019.
RESOLVED: agreed unanimously.

17.20 Internal Auditor

Auditor required for Internal Audit.
RESOLVED: Sara Saunders to be approached - agreed unanimously.

3.20 Exclusion of the Press and Public -15.20 Receipts

Sincere thanks expressed to Cllr Britton for his considerable professional expertise brought to the pruning on trees on Stocks Green and Cllr Heron proposed that he should be paid. Cllr Britton responded that he would prefer to keep it on a voluntary basis.

17.20 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.)

None

Next meeting – Monday 24th February 2020 7.45pm at Barton St David Village Hall.

Meeting ended at 9.40

Actions arising from this meeting

Clerk

1. Place Public Notice of Vacancy on the notice boards and website.
2. Send councils comments to the planning department regarding application 19/01795/FUL
3. Contact Sara Saunders regarding internal audit

Cllrs Heron and Goodman

1. Finalise Tree Policy
2. Apply for free trees

Cllr Pye

1. Contact Highways regarding a protective curb for blocks on Copis Lane.
2. Investigate means of obtaining more evidence about speeds on Double Gate Drove
3. Submit Precept form