

Parish Council Barton St David

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Lucy Lapwood
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Minutes of the Annual General Parish Council meeting of Barton St David on Monday 21st May 2018 commencing at 7.55pm and held at Barton St David Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Mr D Pye (Chairman), Mrs D Goodman, Mr. P Robinson, Ms C Heron, Mr J Lapwood, Mr D Britton

In Attendance: Mrs. Lucy Lapwood (Clerk)

Also Present: Twelve members of the public

01.18 Election of Chair

To receive resignation of Chair, election of new Chair and receive acceptance of office.

RESOLVED: Cllr Pye resigned as Chair, he was proposed and seconded and re-elected as Chair and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

02.18 Election of Vice Chair

Election of Vice Chair and receive acceptance of office.

RESOLVED: Cllr Lapwood was proposed and seconded as Vice Chair, and signed the declaration of acceptance of office

03.18 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 received from Cllr Cabble - accepted

District Councillor Report

Cllr Norris read the District Council Annual report, see Appendix 1.

County Councillor Report.

Cllr Ruddle reported on County Council matters, please see Appendix 2.

Footpath Officer: - Mr Phil Bradshaw the Footpath Officer was present at the meeting and reported that a new footbridge has been put in across Barton Brook, the work was done by the local Rambler group. He also announced that there are a number of Parish organised walks on the village website starting on 2nd June. He expressed some concerns regarding insurance, and was advised by Cllr Dean Ruddle to contact the local Footpath Warden.

Police Report – None present

04.18 **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 a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 20.18

05.18 **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 20.18 the Clerks Pay Award.

06.18 **Minutes of Barton St David Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd April 2018**

To confirm and sign as a correct record, the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd April 2018.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting on 23rd April were signed as a correct record

07.18 **Planning**

The Following application was noted.

Application Approved

18/00584/FUL & 1800585/LBC

Erection of Greenhouse

Breadstone House, Silver Street, Barton St David

08.18 **Highway Matters**

To report any highway defects.

Parking at Fairview.

To consider parking issues raised at Fairview Close.

Members of the public reported that following the introduction of double yellow lines in Fairview Close a number of cars are now parking in Mill Road, and one in particular is allegedly parking too close to the T junction and potentially causing a hazard to other traffic using Mill Road, or turning into Mill Road.

Discussion followed regarding the general parking problem in Fairview Close which is partly caused by the Housing Association allocating 2 parking spaces per house. The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from a resident of Fairview Close requesting the support of the Parish Council with this issue.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed that the parking problem within Fairview Close was an issue for the tenants and the House Association to resolve. Cllr Pye agreed to look into the parking in Mill Road.

For Information.

The flooding at Hurtle Pool was once again discussed and Cllr Lapwood reported that the ditches on the south of the road have still not been cleared. The Footpath Officer who lives close to this land has the telephone number of the landowner, which he will pass onto Cllr Pye to enable him to make contact.

The situation regarding the flooding at Brook Lane was discussed and Cllr Pye reported that Somerset County Council Highways Department had been out to inspect the problem, and that some of the hedges have now been cut.

09.18 **War Memorial**

Update on Grant offer.

RESOLVED: The Clerk reported that she had received a grant offer from the War Memorials Trust and all of the required paperwork had been returned to them. However, listed building consent was still required. Cllr Pye said that he was in communication with the Conservation Officer regarding this matter.

10.18 **Request for advertising support for Wessex Resolutions CIC.**

To consider the above request and level of support if agreed.

RESOLVED: To publish this on the village website.

11.18 **Training.**

To discuss training requirements for Councillors and the Clerk.

The Clerk read out a number of training courses running in the near future run by SALC in Somerton.

RESOLVED: Cllr Pye and Cllr Lapwood expressed an interest in attending 'Being a Successful Chairman' (Cllr Pye to check his availability and let the Clerk know)

Cllr Heron and Cllr Lapwood expressed interest in 'Responding to Planning Applications'.

Cllr Lapwood and the Clerk expressed interest in 'The Code of Conduct Explained'

The Clerk to check availability and let Councillors know.

12.18 **Insurance Cover**

To consider who our insurance supplier will be, and if the insurance cover due for renewal in June is adequate.

Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated the three quotes received from Came & Co, the insurance brokers. She explained that if the Council sign up for a three year period that the insurance premium is reduced, as suggested by Came & Co Inspire appear to have the best cover although they do not cover Hirers Liability or Business travel.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to insure with Inspire for a three year period, giving a total annual premium of £383.07

13.18 **Accounts for payment**

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

Lucy Lapwood May wages £186.11 Office allowance £10.00 Travel £9.00 Total £205.11. Insurance £383.07. SALC Affiliation Fees £144.56 Sara Sounders Audit £75.00

RESOLVED: The accounts were agreed for payment

14.18 **Receipts**

Precept £10651.00, Council Tax Support Grant £30.00 Total - £10681.00

RESOLVED: The receipts were noted.

15.18 Bank Reconciliation

To agree the bank reconciliation figures against the bank statements as at 30th April 2018.

RESOLVED: The Clerk reported that due to the problems that the T.S.B. bank are currently having we have not received a bank statement for April, therefore no reconciliation was available.

16.18 Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

To consider, approve and sign Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

RESOLVED: The Council considered and approved as a whole, Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement. The Chairman and Clerk signed and dated as confirmation of approval and the minute reference was noted.

17.18 Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2017/18

To consider, approve and sign Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2017/18

RESOLVED: The Clerk certified the accounting statements followed by the Council who considered Section 2 – Accounting Statements and then approved as a whole. The Chairman signed and dated as confirmation of approval, and the minute reference was noted.

18.18 Certificate of Exemption from a Limited Assurance Review.

To consider if the Council meets the qualifying criteria to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, and to complete the certificate of exemption.

The Clerk read the statements to the Council which qualify the Council to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review.

RESOLVED: The Council was able to confirm that the statements apply and that neither income or expenditure exceeded £25,000.

19.17 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).

It was noted that garden rubbish is being dumped in Copis Lane, and that some residents garden grass cuttings are being left on the roadside grass verges, to be added to the next agenda

The progress with the situation regarding the S106 agreement at Fairview Close was discussed, however Cllr Cable who is dealing with this matter was not present, it was agreed to add this to the next agenda, along with the parking in Mill Road outside the houses in Fairview Close.

The state of the Bus Shelter was discussed and it was agreed to add this to the agenda and to update the work plan at the next meeting.

The cost of the finger posts were discussed and there is a possibility the £400 set aside for this project may not be sufficient.

Cllr Goodman asked if there is a possibility of removing or lowering the wall around Stocks Green, and removing the trees to open up this space. Cllrs felt that maybe a village consultation would be necessary before any further discussions.

Some concerns have been raised by residents regarding developments at Manor Farm.

Cllr Robinson proposed a vote of thanks in recognition of the Clerks work – unanimously agreed.

20.18 Clerk's Pay Award

To consider the Clerk's pay award in accordance with NALC and SLCC new pay scales and her contract, back dated from April 2018.

RESOLVED: To agree the pay award

The meeting ended at 9.25pm

Next meeting – Monday 25th June 7.45pm at Barton St David Village Hall.

Appendix 1.

[District Councillors Report 2018](#)

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 funds 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. It is expected that the new structure will be in place early next year and fully operational by May 2019. The programme has caused great anxiety for the council's officers, all of whom have had to apply and be interviewed for posts within the new structure. 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. The second big change that the transformation process will bring is that customers will be 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 both within and outside of the council area. The aim is a 7% return on each investment, and the CEO and Council Leader have been authorised to borrow up to £75m to make purchases. To date, 2 purchases have been made both in Yeovil, Marks & Spenser and Wilco.

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 to a more realistic level of development but this is some way off, and is made more difficult with the government's drive for more development. However, there is another wrinkle that is rearing its ugly head. With no Local Plan, the area planning committees have been doing their best to refuse developments that diverge from it. These have gone to appeal and many have been lost, but by no means all. The decisions of the Planning Inspectorate do seem very inconsistent which is making the decision process even more difficult. In their drive to have more houses built, the government have introduced a policy that where councils have 10% of their decisions overturned on appeal, the determination of major planning applications will be taken away from the local authority and made by government through the Planning Inspectorate. South Somerset is currently standing at 9.6%. To manage this situation, with immediate effect all major planning applications that are refused by area planning committees will now go to the Regulation Committee where they almost certainly will be passed.

David Norris
Cllr
Northstone Ward

Appendix 2.

Dean Ruddle County Councillors Report

It was a great honour for me to have been re-elected again in May 2017 as your county councillor for the Somerton Division which comprises of Barton st David, somerton ,Compton Dundon,Kingsdon,Long Sutton ,Charlton Mackeral and Keinton mandeville.

Being elected to both SCC and SSDC has a huge benefit which allows me to bring together officers from both the authorities adding additional benefits to the residents within our area.

I continue to serve as chairman of Somerton Town Council and I enjoy attending similar meetings in the parishes around the division to keep me fully briefed on the problems and challenges we all face in these difficult economic times.

I have listed out below some of the issue,challenges and achievements I have been involved in over the last year.

Continuing Library services within our local area.

Currently the library services within somerset are up for review.

The county council need to make saving of up to £400,000 from this service.

Subsequently some library are under threat of closure and unfortunately Somerton is one of them.

Working with the Friends of Somerton Library,officers of somerset county council and the Town council we are doing are upmost to keep this wonderful asset .

Barton st David pre-school.

A feasibility study request was submitted to our Corporate Property Team by the Service Manager for Early Years Commissioning on 26 February 2018. The aim is to indicate the likely costs and timeframe, and whether it is possible to establish suitable premises for early years on the school site. Construction of new premises for early years is often a costly project, with the average budets ranging around £500,000 for a new modular building. The capital allocation for early years is very limited, and although available Section 106 contributions would be invaluable for a project such as Keinton Mandeville it is likely to require further investment to meet the full cost involved.

Unitary Authority

The Unitary Conversation: SCC have invited partners including District Councils to enter into a conversation looking at options for introducing a Unitary model of local government into Somerset. Whilst

this is the very start of discussions it could see the abolition of the six current councils including the County Council and the establishment of one, two or some other configuration of single-tier authorities. Initial estimates show that between £18 and £28 million pound could be released annually to invest into front line services as well as providing the public with greater clarity through a single point of contact on public services. SCC has also stressed the increased role that Town and Parishes would be able to play in the governance of the County to ensure local participation and consideration. The next stage is for willing partners to debate the approach before moving to a business case(s) and then Government consideration

Highway safety improvement schemes.

I have secured many highway improvement schemes locally and will continue to fight our corner for better improvements.

I am very pleased that the village speed limit has been extended to Jarman Hill and the flooding issues have also been addressed.

County highway have also completed 180 miles of surface dressing and 16 miles of carriageway resurfacing has been carried out across 150 sites in the last year. In addition 18,315 of potholes have been filled.

Fit for the future

Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (the organisation that plans and buys healthcare services for Somerset residents) and SCC have agreed to work closer together than ever before and deliver a joint Somerset Health and Social Care Strategy called 'Fit For The Future'. The aim is to remove inequalities so that everyone gets equal access to the services they need; to get more high quality services in communities and closer to home; to invest in prevention so that people can stay healthy and as independent for as long as possible – and for everyone to have a strong voice in shaping any future proposals

I believe working together with the community is the best way of working. Everything I try to do as a councillor is about what's good for The Kingsdon and the rest of the area I represent.

I will continue to work with local people to try and help them achieve what they want.

Thank you
Dean