

# **Parish Council Barton St David**

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## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Barton St David on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 commencing at 7.45 pm and held at Barton St David Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Ms C Heron (Acting Chair), Mr D Britton, Mr S Cabble, Mrs D Goodman, Mr P Robinson.

**In Attendance:** County Councillor: Cllr Mr Dean Ruddle, District Councillor: Cllr Mr Charlie Hull.  
Apologies: Cllr Mr Tony Capozzoli (District).

**Also Present:** 10 members of the public.

Cllr Peter Robinson began by nominating Cllr Christine Heron to act as Chair as Cllr David Pye is on holiday. Cllr Denise Goodman seconded the motion. Cllr Goodman to take the minutes.

### **Public Question Time**

It was reported that the drain at Hurtlepool had been dealt with, but other reported drains had not. Hurtlepool seems much improved considering the rain recently. However, other drains in the village such as by Gregory's Orchard and Peacock Hill are often blocked (even shortly after clearing) because of the drainage problem further up the hill. Cllr Heron suggested that the council looks into the drainage problems across the village, taking into account the prospect of an increase in usage due to housing developments.

Mr Eitzen reported that BT have not replaced the small amount of wire to improve telephony in the village. He will chase this.

It was reported that the 'Road Narrows' sign just past the pub is in the hedge, totally obliterated. Needs to be reported again to Highways.

### **Reports from County and District Councillors**

Cllr Hull reported the proposed development at the Fox & Hounds was refused. Proposed developments of 14 houses at Charlton Mackrell and 28 at Kingsdon were ongoing. He mentioned the environment strategy and mentioned the tree planting which had happened recently at Framboise's field near Plot Gate.

Cllr Tony Capozzoli had phoned Cllr Heron to say a Planning Officer had been appointed to look into the issues at Manor Farm and Jarmany Hill.

Cllr Ruddle mentioned the need for very careful consideration of the Precept amount taking into account projects that might need attention in the village, hitherto dealt with by District Council. Cllr Robinson mentioned that Liz Coppas (a fruit tree expert) would come and survey/identify any 'old' apple trees if needed by anyone in the village.

**Footpath Officer** – Nothing to report

**Police Report** – Mr Eitzen mentioned the new PCSO (John Winfield) had introduced himself and wants to be 'a presence' in the village.

### **88.19 Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given**

Cllr Heron reported that Mrs Lucy Lapwood had resigned at the previous PC meeting after 5 years. Cllr Heron said that Mrs Lapwood had been a fantastic Clerk: very efficient and supportive. On behalf of the council, she thanked Lucy for her hard work. The Clerk's post had been advertised in the Parish Newsletter and would be advertised shortly with SALC and SSDC.

Cllr John Lapwood had also resigned. Cllr Heron commented that he had made a valuable contribution to the work of the council, such as leading on road safety, risk assessments and the new notice board. On behalf of the council, she thanked John for his contribution. The Council needs to appoint/co-opt another Councillor. Cllr Dean Ruddle said that the District Council needed to know about the vacancy and that there is a process for this.

RESOLVED: Apologies received from Cllr David Pye – accepted.

### **89.19 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: None.

### **90.19 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: Recruiting the new clerk.

### **91.19 Minutes of Barton St David Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

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

**RESOLVED:** Minutes agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **92.19 Highway Matters**

Mrs Lapwood had been in touch with Gary Warren on the problems of parking at Mill Road and the yellow lines in Fairview Close which had exacerbated the parking problems. SSDC had found that permission had not been sought to apply yellow lines. Highways intends to remove these.

**Speedwatch** – Mr Charlie Painter said he had agreed to be the co-ordinator for the Speedwatch Scheme. He had met with the PCSO John Winfield and 2 volunteers, Roger Morgan and Cllr Denise Goodman, to discuss how the scheme would operate. Two locations were identified as places to ‘stand’; one nearby the bus shelter in High Lane and the other near the driveway of Northfield House. Both these locations have the required 60 metre ‘view’ in both directions. He suggested a 12-month trial. Three volunteers needed per session but more need to be recruited. He suggested the dates of the ‘Speedwatch’ to be advertised so people knew when it would happen.

**RESOLVED:** Another call for more volunteers was needed.

### **93.19 – Stocks Green Wall**

Cllr Cabble said Stocks Green wall was progressing well and being rebuilt by Les Hawes to the agreed specification. It should be ready for the carol service around the tree.

### **94.19 – Calendar of Meetings for 2020**

To agree dates for 2020.

**RESOLVED:** 20<sup>th</sup> January, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 27<sup>th</sup> July (August no meeting), 28<sup>th</sup> September, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 23<sup>rd</sup> November (December – no meeting)

### **95.19 Funding/Grant Requests**

Letters had been sent with regard to the funding grants to St Margaret’s Hospice and Age Concern, suggested at the last meeting. Neither organisation had yet replied.

### **96.19 Request for Funding**

Cllr Peter Robinson mentioned the Barton St David Village Hall and Playing Field Committee were suggesting 3 or 4 pieces of exercise/fitness equipment were being considered for the Playing Field and they were looking to the Parish Council to fund one of them. A villager had already agreed to fund one piece. The cost of each piece is between £1000/£1500. Cllr Heron said it would helpful

to get the advice of the County Public Health department who have expertise in setting up outdoor gyms.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed to fund one of the pieces of equipment.

### **97.19 Christmas Tree**

To agree a sum for the purchase of the village Christmas Tree.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to spend the same amount as last year, £75 for the tree.

### **98.19 Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED: Payment to Lucy Lapwood for November and expenses £265.04; payment to Mr P Eitzen – travel expenses to meeting £18.90; payment to Mr P Farrant – Grass cutting expenses and Christmas tree - £207.09.

### **99.19 Receipts**

Receipts in November

RESOLVED: No receipts received in November.

### **100.19 Bank Reconciliation**

To agree the bank reconciliation figures against the bank statements as at 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

RESOLVED: Figures agree.

### **101.19 Financial Regulations**

The Financial Regulations which were studied and amended by Cllr Christine Heron and Mrs Lucy Lapwood were discussed. Three possible alterations were put forward. Cllr John Lapwood had suggested the transfer arrangements between accounts be increased from £5000 to £8000. It was generally thought that this was not necessary. Cllr Christine Heron asked if it was still in order for councillors to request quotes/tenders rather than the Parish Clerk, thereby alleviating some workload from the Clerk. Cllr Dan Britton raised the question of clarity on what type of organisations could apply to the Council for a grant.

RESOLVED: Not necessary to increase the transfer amount between accounts – it will remain at a ceiling of £5000.

**Document agreed and signed** by acting Chair Cllr Christine Heron and minute taker Cllr Denise Goodman.

Agreed that individual councillors could still 'lead' a project and therefore request quotes/tenders if needs be.

Agreed a clear policy was needed on what organisations could apply to the Parish Council for a grant.

### **102.19 Budget and Precept**

The options provided by Lucy Lapwood were discussed. There was agreement that the £6000 option was far too low. There was a general feeling that the precept should be kept at its present level to meet its current obligations and future projects.

Additional items were identified for the budget 2020/21 (below).

RESOLVED: Final decision to be made on the precept and budget allocations in January. The council must get the precept application to the District Council well in advance of the deadline which is end of January 2020.

Add budgets for: Stocks Green wildlife garden £300, clerk's laptop/equipment £1000 (received funding for this last time), village signs £1,500.

### **103.19 Staffing**

This item had been discussed at **88.19**

### **104.19 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 Issues; decisions can only be made on items on the agenda under a clear heading with the business to be transacted). In 2020 the council should add to its workplan:

Undertake an infrastructure review of the village (see public questions on drainage).

A review of policies to make sure the council is comprehensive and current, and has clear, understandable policies (including a new grant policy see 101.19).

Next Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 7.45 pm at Barton St David Village Hall.