

MINUTES BARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

BARSTON MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

WEDNESDAY 20TH JANUARY 2016

Present: Cllrs. Cookes; Read; Lyon; Bates; Harman and Clerk K Flood.

Chair Robert Cookes opened the meeting at 8.00pm.

Apologies

There being no apologies, the Chair duly signed the minutes of November's meeting and, with no matters arising, he moved directly to item 8 on the agenda.

Development Plan

The Chair welcomed Mike Blomer (Hampton-in-Arden), who had been invited by Cllr. Bates and had very kindly agreed to share Hampton's experience in relation to their development plan.

Mr Blomer spoke for 20 minutes of the process they had followed. He emphasised that in Hampton's case, the plan was instigated in 2011 and completed in August 2015.

He talked about the initial consultation process and response levels from residents and businesses and how they had found the required competences in their community. He highlighted the support available from both Solihull MBC (particularly from Emma Tinsley) and grant availability from DCLG. He emphasised the essential synergies needed in any neighbourhood plan and Solihull MBC's overarching strategy. He toughed on the various supervisory hurdles and controls that they needed to navigate.

Mr Blomer responded to a range of questions from councillors and parishioners. His responses were all considered and indicated that on balance, Hampton believed that their efforts had been worthwhile and that the community could articulate the essence and shape of what was right for their community. He talked about the potential advantages of their community's access to higher levels of community investment levy (CIL).

The Chair thanked Mr Blomer for sharing his insights and advice and Cllr. Cookes comments were supported by a round of applause from all those present.

Following discussion, Cllrs. Bates and Harman agreed to put together a piece for February's Newsletter explaining our intent and inviting participation from our community. Cllr. Harman said it was important to get sight of Solihull's Local Plan and Cllr. Read subsequently provided copies of same.

Precept

Ken Flood moved to increase the precept for Band D from the current charge of £14 to £24, which would produce an additional £3,000 to enable us to commission various items of much needed refurbishment. This was approved by the councillors by 3 votes to 1, Cllr Read voting against the motion.

Airport

Cllr. Read confirmed that CAA had not yet published their decision which was due on 20th November 2015. He then responded with clarification to questions from the floor about claims for compensation.

Planning

There were no planning items.

Financial

The clerk sought and received confirmation that the members had awarded St Swithen's an annual grant of £250. A further payment of £400 was made to the Barston Memorial Institute. The clerk's salary and outstanding payments to Mike Lynn in respect of the Newsletter were duly signed. The Chair presented the invoice for hedge trimming; a quotation for the bus shelter repair and £10 contribution to hedge trimming from a parishioner (Mr Gerry).

A.O.B.

Cllr Lyon asked for action on the drainage problem on Barston Lane/Wood Lane and Hampton Road.

Mrs Wilcox raised the matter of the ingress of verging on Barston Lane.

Mrs Eley registered (via the telephone) that the road problem in Oak Lane had not yet been remedied.

The clerk confirmed he would take the matter up with Tom Rogers.

Cllr. Harman spoke about the need for a village refibrillator which would cost about £1,000. Cllr. Bates suggested housing the appliance in the telephone box. The increased precept could fund this in due course.

The Chair read a letter from Mary Daymond Barston United Charities, requesting the members permission to Liz Johnson succeeding the late Margaret Forrester on the charity, who together with Gwen Eley had been nominated by the council. Cllr Cookes clarified the purpose of the charity and the request was approved.

The clerk confirmed he had applied for £973 under the Transparency Fund.

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 10.20pm advising that the next meeting would be on 9th March, 2016.

Ken Flood 21/01/16 (draft)