

Minutes of Barston Parish Council

Barston Institute

8th March 2017 - 8pm

Vice Chair, Jez Emmett opened the meeting at 8pm.

Present: Cllrs Emmett, Bates, Hadley and Clerk Ken Flood.

Apologies

Apologies were given for Chair Robert Cookes and Rowena Lyon made apologies that she would be unable to join the meeting until 8.30pm.

Minutes

The minutes of January's meeting were approved and duly signed.

Matters Arising

There were no special matters arising and therefore any other items would be dealt with during the agenda.

Open Forum

The matter of building work at Grange Cottages was raised and the Chair read a response from Mike Stephenson at Solihull MBC clarifying the position in relation to the rear of the properties. A parishioner said that the issue was in relation to a two storey garage. The Chair said we would look into the matter. Minutes from the village meeting of 20th April 2016 still needed to be put on the website.

Planning Matters

There were no outstanding planning matters. We had not heard from Nigel Reeves regarding the Garden Centre proposal. The Chair suggested we contact Nigel Reeves for an update.

Financial Report

The clerk reported that there was nothing to report other than £1,000 had been reserved for neighbourhood planning and £1,000 for Phone Box refurbishment which could now proceed. The Notice Board at Henwood Lane requires refurbishment. We are limited to contributing £7.42 per parishioner from Parish funds to the Airport Fund and this would be a maximum of £300. A full financial statement was being prepared for the AGM.

Development Plan

Cllr Bates and her 4 parishioners had met with Maurice Barlow who advised that given the costs of a typical plan - £10,000 to £80,000, his advice was that Barston should limit itself to producing a Parish Design Statement. All present agreed.

Highway Matters

Cllr Emmett reported that kerb repairs at Barston Gate Farm would likely be delayed for 3 months. Drainage pipe repairs on Barston Lane, near The Pines would not now take place in April as scheduled and he was not clear when these would now happen. He reported that attempts to treat damage verges in Elvers Green Lane, using topsoil had been an abject failure. Imminent repair work has been scheduled for the top of Hob Lane and Solihull has refused his request to place a refuse bin at the ford.

Airport Matters

Cllr Lyon read a response from CAA refusing to continue ADR in favour of Post Implementation Review (PIR) due in May.

Cllr Lyon further stated that the recent call for funding for ADR had produced £2,700 from 10 donors; however, 2 donors contributed £1,750. The Airport Fund stands at £5,250; however, £1,700 has been reserved for Rupert Taylor's work on population count. Indications are that that this work could cost more - as much as double due to its complexity.

There was agreement that Rupert Taylor's opinion that (based on the noise data) CAA should have chosen Option 5 and his independent checking of the number of Barston parishioners affected by the noise are central to our being able to make a case in law.

CAA's withdrawal from ADR leaves us with two options - 1. An application for Judicial Review and 2. Reliance on the PIR. Cllr Lyon has little confidence in the PIR process; however, neither does she feel she has the legal competence to lead of a JR application - she would wish John Steel QC to lead on that and we simply do not have the £10,000 in funding to support his costs.

Councillors discussed the options and concluded as follows:

1. While important, given our resources, Rupert Taylor's costs must not exceed £1,700. It could be valuable for PIR.
2. Cllr Lyon will make available £800 to any parishioner(s) who wishes to lead on the JR application - David Elliott may consider taking this forward.
3. As ADR will not now take place, the latest contributions of £2,700 will be returned to the donors (Rupert Taylor's costs and JR Application fee will be covered by the remaining fund).

Barston has clearly been out-gunned by the potential of larger parishes to hold CAA and BAL to account. Our thanks go to those who did contribute; however, in the end, without the proper legal support, Cllr Lyon felt she might fall guilty to wasting those additional valued contributions.

AOB

There being no other business, Cllr Emmett adjourned at 9.30pm stating that the next meeting date would be 10th May 2017.

Ken Flood Clerk 9th March 2017