

Minutes of the Meeting of Barston Parish Council (BPC)

7.30pm Monday 4th July 2016

Barston Memorial Institute

Present: Cllrs. Bates (Chair); Lyon; Alison Rolf & Clerk: Ken Flood

Apologies

Cllr Bob Sleigh.

Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of 11th May 2016 were duly approved and signed. Minutes of the interim meeting of the 7th June were read and approved.

Matters Arising

Highways issues had been discussed with Tom Rogers, action is unacceptably slow and will be escalated. We have received an invoice from Kirby Grass for £155. There is still no movement on Development Plan.

The defibrillator box has been installed and the unit itself will be installed on 28th July.

David Read returned his silverware for Best Kept Garden. It is still not clear who has the other item.

The banking mandate has been actioned to include Cllrs. Bates and Lyon and remove all ex councillors with the exception of Cllr Cookes.

Airport matters will be dealt with under that agenda item.

Public Forum

David Read (parishioner) asked why the interim meeting held on the 7th June had not been notified. The clerk explained that the meeting in question was held to approve a Letter before Claim to CAA - it was not a public meeting and that Ward Councillors Bob Sleigh and Alison Rolf attended to make BPC quorate. An update on Airport matters would be dealt with under that agenda item.

David Read stated that cheques still required 3 signatures. Councillors voted that going forward, the requirement should need only two signatures.

Trixie Harman raised the subject of hedges and field verge incursion on to the footpath on Barston Lane near to the dangerous bends (the Firs to Oak Lane). She stated that there was hardly any footpath left. The clerk clarified that that particular stretch is the responsibility of the land owner and that farmers could not attend to hedge growth before mid-September; however Cllr Rolf undertook to email Tom Rogers re the matter.

David Read raised the damaged gullies on Waterfield Hill also saying that the reason for the delay being the need for traffic control (given by Tom Rogers) was not valid. Additionally, the gully near Barn Nurseries is still not remedied - there is a fundamental problem with the underground water pipe. Wood Lane suffers similar problems and there are drainage problems at Bradford Cottage.

The clerk repeated from earlier meetings that Solihull MBC requires complaints about gullies, potholes and drainage to be reported directly using Solihull MBC's portal. David Read said that strong written communication was needed. Mr Read said that there was 100 outstanding jobs on Solihull's work list but that there was capacity only to deal with half of those - it is unfortunately those who shout loudest who get attention.

David Read asked about planning in relation to 24 Eastcote Lane and 2 The Scrublands. The clerk reported that all planning communications are immediately forwarded to councillors for response. If there are objections, he forwards them back to Solihull. Some discussion took place in relation to the current robustness of that process and as to whether planning applications had been missed. The Chair undertook to check (subsequent investigation showed that while nothing had been missed, the resignation of ex councillors Cookes and Read had left Cllrs. Bates and Lyon to deal with everything and planning responses may have suffered in the interim).

Roger Derwent asked about change of use at Barston Nurseries and was informed that no objections had been raised during May's meeting. He also asked about development at the ex Garden Centre and the field on Oak Lane. The Council had no update on previous statement regarding these matters.

David Read and Trixie Harman raised the subject of car transporters causing potential hazard on our country lanes, particularly in relation to the garage on Barston Lane. David Read raised the issue of trading in cars on Knowle Road and the clerk confirmed that he had written to Solihull and had a response that they would investigate.

There was an implication from members of the forum that Airport matters were interfering with other equally important community concerns. The clerk said that the community asked for action to be pursued on 20th April and that had entailed considerable work. The Chair said that resignations in May left on two councillors and that we would be back to full strength following elections on 24th July.

David Read asked why the letter from John Steele QC had not been put on the website as promised. The clerk replied that there were matters raised in John Steel's letter that he did not wish BAL or CAA to view at this time e.g. his view that although we had a case, we were unlikely to be able to afford the cost of judicial review that information could affect adversely our negotiation position.

Planning

As per that discussed in the Public Forum.

Highways

As per that discussed in the Public Forum.

Development Plan

Cllr Bates said that no action had been progressed.

Airport

Cllr Lyon reported that following our Letter Before Claim to CAA, we had asked CAA and BAL to engage in ADR as a requirement of the Court before pursuing an application. CAA had agreed to ADR. David Elliott and Roger Derwent asked who would be involved and Cllr Lyon said that she and the clerk would undertake the negotiations.

Finance

The clerk's salary and expenses were duly signed off and settled. A cheque to HMRC covering the current salary was also signed together with a cheque to cover Newsletter costs, grass cutting and flowers from the tubs.

As soon as the new signatories had been recognised by the bank, Cllrs Lyon and Bates would set up a separate bank account for the Airport Fund and the clerk would present reconciliation of the contributions and outgoings. He would process a reclaim for £650 VAT.

Cllr Lyon reported that we had had £250 contribution from Chadwick End.

AOB

As per that discussed in the Public Forum.

Next Meeting: 14th September at 7.30pm

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.40pm.