

Minutes of Barston Parish Council

Barston Institute

11th January 2017 - 8pm

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

Apologies

Apologies were given for Chair Robert Cookes.

Minutes

The minutes of November's meeting were discussed. Minor change was requested by Cllr. Lyon to put right precise comments made by Nigel Reeves relating to Eastcote Garden Centre's current application. Following the amendment, they were duly signed.

Matters Arising

Minutes for the special meeting of 20th April 2016, were also signed by Cllr Bates. Chair asked that they be placed on the website. There were no other matters arising.

Open Forum

Five parishioners attended; the Chair expressed a preference to deal with any issues in agenda order.

Planning Matters

242 Henwood Lane, Holly Cottage Barn and Oak Tree Cottage were discussed. Councillors had no objections to the first two applications and the third has since been withdrawn. Cllr. Lyon stated that The Pines new access request has been refused by Solihull MBC. Some discussion took place regarding Eastcote Nursery and its planned change of use to a doctor's Surgery but that was cursory.

Airport Matters

Cllr Lyon reported on the meeting between Barston, CAA and BAL in mid-November. She reported that BAL refused to consider a change in route. Cllr. Lyon went on to say that she had reconsulted with John Steel QC; however, this time, the QC was less positive about Barston's case for a judicial review. Steel stated that given time and analysis by his chosen noise experts, he confidently believes he could find that error in law that would be the basis of our application.

As we do not have sufficient funding to commission John Steel QC, a decision was taken to commission his preferred noise expert to review the noise data that formed the basis of CAA's decision. That opinion would inform Barston's next actions. Cllr Lyon has briefed the noise expert and expects his opinion before the end of January. Cllr Lyon stated that this opinion might carry weight with BAL's post implementation review due in May 17. Cllr Bates suggested that we must encourage parishioners via February's Newsletter - to write to BAL and register complaints.

Some discussion took place, particularly with David Read about assertions made by BAL in relation to the decision making criteria, early in the consultation process. Mr Read refuted BAL's assertions but offered to use his contextual understanding look at the data again with a view to advising Cllr. Lyon. A special meeting might be needed in February 17.

Highway Matters

Cllr Emmett reported that the troublesome gully in Eastcote Lane has been repaired and two defunct signs removed from the lane. He reported that Barston Lane would need to be closed near to The Pines to correct drainage issues. Drainage on Hob Lane near to Archers would be dealt with in April 17.

David Read raised the subject of the need for double salting on Knowle Road, particularly on Waterfield Hill and also raised matters in relation to obscured signage on the hill, particularly at night. Cllr. Emmett said he would progress the matters.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Bates reported that there had been no progress since November as they are still waiting for a meeting with Maurice Barlow. Ian Sharpe is chasing Mr. Barlow. Cllr Lyon shared her disappointment about the pace of progress with this important initiative saying it has now gone on for 18 months. The clerk ask Cllr Bates if she wish some money to be reserved for the project and she replied that printing costs would be minimal.

Financial Report

The Clerk reported that BPC held a balance of circa £3,300 in December, having paid £1062 for Bus Shelter refurbishment. A further £750 and £1,000 has been reserved for Notice Board and Phone Box refurbishments. Having received a VAT rebate on legal costs, a cheque for £562 was presented to the Airport Fund, the balance replacing the £300 vat element in BPC's £1,800 contribution to the Fund.

AOB

Some discussion took place regarding speed through the village and ways to remedy same.

There being no other business, Cllr Emmett adjourned at 9.20pm stating that the next meeting date would be 8th March 2017.

Ken Flood Clerk 26th January 2017