

Minutes of Barston Parish Council

Barston Institute

12th July 2017 - 8pm

Chair Jez Emmett opened the meeting at 8pm.

Present: Cllrs. Bates, Lyon, Hadley and clerk Ken Flood were also present.

Apologies: None

Parishioners: 5 present

Minutes of May's Meeting: Read and approved

Matters Arising: Some discussion took place with regard to siting cameras as security and deterrent in the parish. Chair and Cllr Hadley would investigate potential sites and cost before September. The Chair asked the clerk to discuss the legal position with WALC. The Chair then suggested we revisit the discussion later in the meeting following Finance report.

Public Forum: Ivan Eley raised the matter of refurbishing the telephone box. The clerk told the meeting that a quotation for £1,000 was to hand; however, although we have the funds to proceed, councillors had deferred the decision because we have competing priorities for the funding e.g. Neighbourhood Planning and Cameras. The clerk also raised the subject of finishing the notice board refurbishment. Cllr Cookes said he was prepared to defer to next year due payment to him in relation to the notice boards in favour of the phone box project. While his generous offer was gratefully received, The Chair deferred decision until September.

The subject of fly tipping blue asbestos in Ryton End Lane was raised. The matter had been handled both inside and outside the Council. Mr Eley said that the material was still there awaiting specialist attention. The clerk stated that he had advised MBC through the Chair and his liaison and directly with Cllr Bob Sleigh. The elapsed time in dealing with this matter was noted with some pragmatism borne of experience.

Some discussion took place in relation to Best Kept Village, flower troughs and hedge cutting and the clerk stated that we were due to cut hedges again this year at a cost of £1000. It was suggested that we enquire about support from MBC.

Having experienced 7 break-ins in the parish recently, the subject of Neighbourhood Watch was raised in context of possibilities of extending Roger Derwent's successful but localised arrangement. As always, this requires parishioners with Mr. Derwent's passion and commitment to get involved - always the challenge. The Chair proposed setting up a Whats App group, which was enthusiastically received and Cllr Lyon suggested Barston Watch stickers combined with the installation of the cameras. The meeting requested a piece in the next Newsletter due in August.

Eastcote Garden Centre: Richard Cobb letter to the effect that the Secretary of State had refused to intervene in relation to the nursing home and dwelling application approved by MBC gave rise to expressions of disappointment about how 'local democracy' had been completely ignored by MBC. Cllr Bates asked about whether the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan had contributed to MBC's decision. The clerk said that in his opinion, it was a done deal and nothing would have changed the outcome. He suggested that we now need a media campaign about local

democracy particularly in the light of the West London Grenfell Tower debacle. Cllr Lyon was asked to coordinate the media campaign; however, the Chair stated that we must now focus on contributing to the consultation. The clerk said that conserving the mature trees would be important. Cllr Cookes sought reassurance that no further funding would be spent on the matter and he was given such assurance from the members.

Finance: The clerk stated that the last statement showed a balance of £5349.74. He had cheques for signature that included Richard Cobbs fees, Grasscutting, Newsletter etc. He stated that while all invoices to hand had been settled for grass cutting, Andy Kirby was querying a missed payment, which would be looked into.

A discussion followed about how increased Precept would afford projects such as cameras; however, we need to decide about what our priorities are.

Planning Matters: Planning request in relation to Eastcote Paddock had been dealt with.

Airport: Our submission to the PIR was discussed (the document pack is on our website). Although we reprised the position, the members are not confident of any improvement action by BAL or CAA. The Chair asked Cllr Lyon to organise a media campaign. The Airport Fund currently stands at £5468.21; however, when accounts are settled there will not be much if anything remaining.

Development Plan: The Chair raised the subject of the Plan or a Design Statement with Cllr Bates, particularly in view of the value of any money from Eastcote Garden Centre. The meeting discussed Richard Cobb's point about the importance of Neighbourhood Plans to levels of contribution to parishes as a result of building (25% to those parishes with a plan, 15% to those without), the meeting voted that the clerk should progress Parish Design Statement. Cllr Bates was unable to do this work before September and therefore Roger Derwent agreed to be coopted to get it done. A piece would go in the Newsletter.

Highway Matters: Cllr Emmett reported that MBC were not taking any action with regard to the burnt area on Barston Lane and that he would ask that a No Through Road sign be put at the top of OAK Lane.

Environment: Roger Derwent commented that he had invoices for flowers and plants.

AOB

Parishioner John Emmett updated the meeting on the problems he and his neighbour are experiencing with flooding from the main road. MBC have refused to replace the kerb to negate the problem but will install a new gully.

The subject of Brownfield Sites was raised following a circular from MBC - no action is needed.

The clerk explained that BPC could now opt out of external auditing from next year and Cllr Cookes proposed we do that. It was seconded by Cllr Bates and approved. The clerk gave his grateful thanks to Simon Wilcox for his internal auditing support.

There being no other business, Cllr Emmett adjourned at 10.10pm stating that the next meeting date would be 13th September 2017.

Ken Flood Clerk 13th July 2017

