**BARSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2020**

**BARSTON INSTITUTE**

Vice Chair, Cllr. Paul Hadley opened the meeting at 8pm by welcoming all.

**Present:** Cllr., Paul Hadley, Cllr. Robert Cookes, Cllr. Kay Sumner; Cllr. Lee Bould and clerk Ken Flood.

**Apologies.**

Cllr. Jez Emmett (Chair) .

**Minutes.**

The minutes of November 2019’s meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

**Matters Arising.**

* Hampton parish council had declined a request from BPC to fund one ANPR camera at its end of Henwood Lane. Hampton had sought advice from the police and based its decision on that.
* Documents page on the website, which for some unclear reason had become a hidden page, has now been rectified by the clerk to make all documents (which have always been there), viewable by parishioners.
* The clerk confirmed he had replied to David Keeney about its decision relative to the re-opening the disused pathway in Oak Lane.
* The rebuilding of Barston Pound has been organized by Cllr Cookes for a start in February 2020.
* Cllr Cookes escorted Sue Hughes (SMBC) around the parish to discuss hedge cutting. Cllr. Cookes pointed out:
  + the tree foliage canopy near Henwood Lane,
  + the area opposite Eastcote loop,
  + sunken road ironwork in Hampton Lane,
  + overhanging trees near John/Rita Gerries’ property, and
  + the reduced footpath width from Firs Farm towards the village.

He now awaits response from Ms. Hughes regarding the position in relation to a possible financial contribution or SMBC remedy.

**Public Forum.**

Simon Pile used Fix My Street to report a major pothole on Barston Lane.

A parishioner suggested that **CIL funds** might be used to setup the post box as a book exchange.

Additionally, based on the exemplar of a recent emergency (threatened burglary) broadcast by a parishioner over WhatsApp, she went on to suggest the commissioning of a graphic designer to create a map of the community showing house names for the purpose of making clear to all parishioners – who lived where e.g. where particular residences are to allow responsive support in case of emergencies.

Declaring his personal interest, the clerk spoke of the email and photographs sent by Elizabeth Flood regarding the Cinnamon development (Wyevale Garden Centre). Buildings are now at roof height and their intrusion on the vista is clearly evident. Mrs. Flood has also written to Albert Josephs Commercial Director of Cinnamon asking for a meeting to discuss planting new trees to provide cover and retain privacy.

One point of view felt it was the residents’ responsibility to bear the cost of remedy. Cllr Cookes expressed his understanding that the development had impacted adversely on the previous low level ‘green vista enjoyed by the residents. He went on to express that based on his experience; it would be challenging to grow new trees successfully because of restricted sunlight.

Mrs. Flood had requested BPC’s consideration in helping to defer the cost of planting. The clerk advised that a meeting with Cinnamon regarding precise plans for fencing and landscaping is the first step.

Discussion ensued about the purpose of CIL funding and further consideration of this matter is required as an agenda item in March; however, the clerk pointed out that the effective management of CIL funding and BPC’s accountabilities in that regard, requires formal costed proposals to be put forward for BPC’s appraisal and decision relative to each.

**Financial Matters.**

The clerk reported that the balance at bank as of 8th January 2020 was £13, 158.10. (including all January payments).

Cllr Sumner recommended that the CIL funding should be accounted for separately within the accounts. The clerk agreed to adopt her recommendation.

Councillors agreed to maintain the Precept at its current level.

**Airport Matters.**

David Elliott spoke about BAL’s launch of Your eAirport newsletter. BAL has a new Chief Executive Officer.

**Planning Matters.**

Cllr Cookes reported that planning for:

The Cottage Barston, Shrublands, 1 Eastcote Lane and Oak Tree Cottage had all been approved since the last meeting. Cherrytrees had been withdrawn and Barston Farm, 2 Eastcote Lane and The Barn in Walsall End Lane are all awaiting decision.

**Highway & Environmental Matters.**

No matters raised.

**Security and GDPR.**

No matters raised

**Any Other Business**

No matters raised..

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm

The next meeting is March 11th 2020.