**Minutes of Barston Parish Council**

**Barston Institute**

**14th March 2018 - 8pm**

Chair Jez Emmett opened the meeting at 8pm.

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Bates
2. **Parishioners Attending:** 12 present
3. **Minutes of Last & Extraordinary Meetings:** Both read and approved.
4. **Matters Arising:**

* Chair asked clerk to follow up and resolve fishing signs with Ivan Eley.
* There being no feedback on CCTV Code of Practice, that would be implemented without change.
* An ANPR camera would be sited at Craddocks Nursery pointing towards Hampton in Arden.
* Falling deadwood from trees near Pete Sumner’s home had been dealt with.
* The St Swithens’ Lamp has yet to be rectified. Clerk had informed St Swithens of the position.

1. **Open Forum:**

A parishioner raised the matter of a serious pothole opposite Malt Shovels. Cllr Emmett would speak to SMBC regarding remedy. Another parishioner referred to work on Knowle Road to remedy drainage issues. The problem persists. Cllr Emmett would discuss with his liaison at the council. There was a general dissatisfaction with response from SMBC and the clerk suggested contacting Ashley Prior who heads up the SMBC Works teams.

1. **Finance Matters:**

The Chair asked about online banking. Cllr Cookes reported the absence of customer care attitudes at Lloyds Bank; nevertheless, he now had the forms for signatures that needed to be implemented through a visit to the bank by all councillors. This matter needed to be actioned before we could move on to online banking. Cllr. Cookes said he would liaise with Clls. Lyon and Bates on the matter.

The clerk reported a balance of £6,306.82 as of 16th February 2018. He confirmed that £1,900 had been received from Transparency Fund in January 18. There were no unpresented cheques; however, he has made provision of £2,500 gross for the phone box replacement and there were outstanding claims from Cllrs Emmett and Cookes totaling about £1,300 and Cllr Hadley (camera) for circa £700. Cllr Emmett expected to resell the old phone box for circa £1,400. All things considered, the clerk reported that we have headroom of circa £2,000 until September’s Precept.

1. **Airport / Fund Matters:**

Airport Representive (parishioner David Elliott) said the post implementation review report could be expected at the end of March or….going on past CAA form April!

In the absence of Cllr Lyon, the clerk spoke to the issue of the Airport Fund and return of the unused monies to donors**.** He gave the background as follows:

From first meeting in June 16, the barrister had underlined the need to go forward with any judicial review under the protection of the Arhuiss Rules, which applied to individuals only (BPC was never his direct client). Arhuiss limited liabilities to £10,000 and it was solely on that basis that we were prepared to proceed. As our experience of dealing with John Steel progressed, we noted that there were often inconsistencies in his advice and directions. We incurred other specialist noise expert expenses as a result of his direction; however, after nine months, having taken the decision to proceed, the intermediate solicitor advised Cllr Lyon that we could not now rely on Arhuiss. That insight brought everything to a full stop. Cllr Lyon believes she was misinformed and let down negligently by the barrister and subsequently registered her verbal dissatisfaction with the barristers’ advice stating that we would not be paying for same (having already spent good money on earlier consultations). No formal letter was issued and there has been no follow-up by Essex Chambers since spring 17.

Cllr Lyon had given a great deal of her time to the matter, had made her position clear but was now of a mind to ‘let sleeping dogs lie’.

The Chair requires the matter to be resolved formally and donors repaid before the AGM in May 18. Both he and the clerk would attend to the matter.

1. **Planning Matters:**

We had received 5 applications, one of which was objected to.

1. **Highways & Environment Matters:**

Already covered.

1. **Security Matters**

The Chair reported that the application for a £15,000 grant was looking good. Camera replacements were in hand and Cllr Hadley planned to install on 17th March.

Insurance would be dealt with by the property owners and reimbursed by BPC.

1. **Design Statement:**

We had received a request from Helen Dean (Balsall Common) to assist in their consultation process re their Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Her details were passed to the Chair who would respond.

The clerk said that no feedback had been received regarding the posted Village Design Statement and shared his view that with all due thanks to its author Roger Derwent, as it stands it is insufficient. The Chair stated that we should submit it and see what happens. The clerk agreed to do that but said the Statement was foremost for our benefit and needed more energetic leadership. A parishioner said that it needed to be broader than a village plan and encompass the whole community.

1. **AOB:**

Cllr. Cookes raised the matter of a letter he received from Mary Damon inviting Cllr Cookes’ spouse to join a local charity – it required approval from the parish council.

The Chair proposed and vice chair (Cllr Hadley) seconded to proposal.

The clerk said that Cllr Lyon had spoken to him about her standing down due to workload pressures. He said it would be helpful to think about co-opting a replacement so as to move forward from the AGM.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

1. **Next Meeting Date and AGM – 9th May 2018**

Ken Flood Clerk 15th March 2018