

Barston Parish Council

8pm 9th September 2020 Barston Memorial Institute

Minutes

Presentations

Chair presented the trophies and £50 vouchers to the winners:

Best Kept Garden Shield: Albert & Lorraine Day - Gladstone - Knowle Road.

Most Colourful Garden Cup: Kenneth & Jean Jones - Mowbray - 10 Eastcote Lane

The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to judges Jane Emmett and Jenny Wilcox.

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. Paul Hadley & Lee Bould and David Elliott and Trixie Harman

Minutes January 2020

Minutes of July 2020's meeting were read and approved by the Chair Cllr. Jeremy Emmett.

Matters Arising

- Work is yet to start on Barston Pound, Cllr Cookes explained that it was to do with the contractor's serious illness.
- Road sweeping has been done well in an around the village but less satisfactorily around the crossroads.
- The bench at Eastcote has been refurbished by Cllr Kay Sumner and husband Pete. The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to them.
- Two CIL funding applications have been received and will be covered in Finance.
- Village map project - update brief by Christine Abbott given. It is being finalised and is now ready for final checks and consultations.
- Newsletter re-established in August.
- CIL accounts and Precept-base accounts were confirmed as been reported-on separately and Certificate of Exemption has been sent to SBK Littlejohn auditing.

Open Forum

Parishioner Jenny Wilcox asked Brendan Breheny about why Cherrytrees requires a complete rebuild. Mr Breheny responded and talked particularly about heating costs. Other parishioners joined a wider discussion on the subject. The Chair clarified that the Parish Council had already given its decision on the matter to Solihull MBC and further clarified that objections were unanimous based on the importance of the heritage value of Cherrytrees to the community. The point was also made that councillors had previously supported Mr Breheny's application to refurbishments and extend his property.

Finances

The clerk reported that the accounts had been finalised with CIL receipts added to Barston's accounts and pointed out that due to the revenue exceeding £25,000 the council will require a full audit in 2021. The current fully up-to-date financial position as follows:

Lloyds Bank account (including CIL £13,799.42) as at 14th August 2020 - £28,466.46

The above figure included £1,688.87 VAT reclaim

September 2020 Precept £7,243.50 received 3rd September 2020.

We need to plan expenditure as new Precept level is set in early January 21.

Aside from normal disbursements, checks were signed for website annual costs and maintenance, village map and road sweeping.

Cheques covering engraving and gift vouchers were signed.

CIL Applications

Two applications have been received from Barston Institute and St Swithen's House (Mary Dymond). A contribution of one thousand pounds was voted to St Swithen's for car parking refurbishments. The clerk was asked to contact David Elliott about the specifics of his application on behalf of the Institute.

Planning

Planning applications for the following had all been processed - all but cherry trees had been approved:

- Care home
- Agricultural buildings
- Wood Lane
- Garages
- Cherrytrees
- Barston farm
- Bulls Head
- 309 Barston Lane

Cllr Cookes confirmed the following for Solihull SMB approvals

Highways

- No truth in the rumour about speed bumps in Barston.
- The Chair expressed his frustration regarding the response from Solihull MBC about gullies. It was held to be unsatisfactory and he would escalate the matter.
- Simon Pile confirmed that the dangerous tree on Knowle Road had been removed.

Airport

No update or matters raised.

Security/GDPR

The Chair spoke about the NFU bulletin and ITV News / Mail on Sunday, which should appear on the 19th September.

The Chair also gave updates on how footage and license details have assisted the Police regarding:

- Trailer theft
- Car at the ford - (drug related)
- Care Home
- Camper Van theft
- Malt Shovel theft

AOB

Christmas Lights - SMBC have objected to lights across the carriageway. Discussion about how to take the project forward was delegated to Cllr Lee Bould.

Three options would be put to councillors regarding choice of replacement village signs type.

The meeting concluded at 9.20pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday 11th November 2020.