

Minutes of Barston Parish Council

Barston Institute

8th November 2017 - 8pm

Chair Jez Emmett opened the meeting at 8pm.

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

Apologies: Cllr Bates

Parishioners: 18 present

Minutes of September's Meeting: Read and approved.

David Read (parishioner) asked about the absence of agenda notices from the notice boards. The Clerk had been unable to post them last week due to illness. The Clerk stated that the meeting was posted on the website and in the newsletter. Other parishioners confirmed that they had been aware of the meeting; however, the Chair emphasised the importance of getting the notifications on to the noticeboards.

Matters Arising: The Chair referred to the project on which Cllr. Hadley is leading in relation to positioning ANPR CCTV security cameras in the parish. Two cameras had been installed by Cllrs. Hadley and Cookes and images were presented to the meeting. Cllr Hadley stated that the technology had a unit cost of £700 excluding fitting costs. Discussion ensued about the placement of a 3rd unit in the surgery at Eastcote crossroads. It was agreed that the unit would be covered by parish funds.

Discussion moved to the refurbishment of the village phonebook. Reversing an earlier decision to simply provide it with a fresh coat of paint, the meeting agreed that a complete replacement was appropriate. Cllr Cookes said that the precise cost was unknown as the quotation was over two years old.

As Cllr. Bates was absent, progress on the Design Statement was deferred until January 18's meeting.

The Chair confirmed that he has ordered the signage for Oak Lane at a cost of £180.

The clerk confirmed that he had received an invoice from Grant Thornton for £100 plus vat.

Public Forum: Trixie Harman announced that she planned to have a Barston historical event at the institute in spring 18. She asked for photographic displays from the various bodies for the event. She would also put a notice in the next newsletter.

PC Andy Timmins and his fellow officer Simon joined the meeting at this point and The Chair returned to the subject of ANPR CCTV and security. Discussions ensued in relation to suspicious number plate handling and the ability to determine the direction of vehicle travel. He moved on to inform the meeting about improvements in the 101 service. PC Timmins underlined the importance of using the service as its statistics influenced deployment of officers. He also briefed all about the current focus of 4 CID teams from Solihull and Birmingham East collaborating in relation to car crimes and stated that there had been 10 arrests to date. Some discussion took place about the

legality of cameras and PC Timmins said he would consult with Kath Hemmings at SMBC but did not believe there was an issue.

The Chair thanked both PC for their attendance and they withdrew from the meeting.

Returning to the Public Forum, a parishioner raised an issue about the home made fishing signs at the top of Oak Lane. The clerk would raise the matter with Ivan Eley. Another parishioner raised the issue about the land that is being sold at the top of Oak Lane and the worsening problem of it being used for fly tipping. Contacting the owners has proven difficult; however, the clerk promised to review records in relation to an address and to write to the owners about the problem if necessary.

Planning Matters: There had only been one application since September and the clerk had responded. Communications from councillors on planning matters have improved significantly.

Airport Matters: With Cllr Lyon's absence the clerk advised that a response to our submission to the PIR would be forthcoming in December 2017. David Elliott stated that he would attend a meeting on November 15 and asked that Cllr Lyon inform BAL that he was now officially the parish representative. The clerk said he would talk to Cllr Lyon about that communication in good time.

The Chair raised the matter of the Airport Fund and asked for all matter to be settled by January's meeting.

Highway Matters: The collapsed gully outside the Malt Shovels has been attended to. No tipping sign in Ryton End had been refused by SMBC.

Environment Matters: Cllr Cookes undertook to deal with obstructions caused by growth (mainly nettles) at the crossroads. Rita and John Gerry had a fence damaged and although SMBC had visited, the damage had not been recognised and dealt with. The Chair asked for a photo image as soon as possible.

Development Matters: Deferred until January 18

Finance: The clerk stated the balance as of 18th October 2017 stood at £5,888.62. Clearly we need to reserve approximately £2,750 for anticipated costs.

AOB: There being no other business, Cllr Emmett adjourned at 9.14 pm stating that the next meeting date would be 10th January 2018.

Ken Flood Clerk 9th November 2017