

Minutes of Barnwell Annual Parish Meeting **held on Tuesday 17th May 2016 at Barnwell Village Hall**

Present: Councillors Heather Hanlon (Chair), David Brown, Chris Soans, Graham Wise, Parish & District Councillor Geoff Shacklock

In attendance: Nicki Phillips, Parish Clerk.

1. **Apologies** – none
2. **Minutes of the Parish Meeting** held on 15th May, 2015 were approved and signed.
3. **Matters Arising** - none.

Chairman's Report – It has been a fairly quite time for the Council so far this year with no major problems to report.

Towards the end of last year our clerk, Lorna Lovell, left us to take up a full-time post. We were fortunate to be able to appoint Nicki Phillips as our clerk and we are very pleased to have her on board.

Much of the work on the trees which was organised and paid for by the County Council, has been completed. However there is still more to be done on the willows and we are keeping in touch with the County Council to ensure that this work is completed as agreed. Our thanks go to Councillor David Brown for undertaking to liaise on our behalf and for keeping an eye on the works as they progressed.

David also undertook to oversee the work on the brook. This is now complete and a 2 stage channel has been established in line with Environment Agency guidelines.

Earlier this year David agreed to become our Flood Warden, little knowing that his help would be needed sooner than expected. On 9th March we quite a significant flood down Hemington Road and around both corners of the junction at the Montagu Arms. Although it threatened to flood some properties, thankfully this did not happen. David investigated the possibility of having some permanent channels cut into the banks of the brook which would take away water from the road in the event of a flood, but this work was deemed too expensive and too difficult to justify by the County Council. Thank you David for all your efforts on our behalf – much appreciated. We would recommend that anyone who thinks that their property could be affected by a flood should acquire some sandbags and store them in readiness.

The repair work on the South Bridge at Oundle is now well under way, but as yet there is no firm date for completion.

At our last council meeting Councillor Nick Bould, who is our Council's representative on the Friends of Barnwell Country park, reported that the Friends were proposing to increase the size of the park by 40 acres and were seeking our support of a proposal which they were intending to send to the Gloucester Estates Trustees, having read the proposal and seen the benefits which the extra land would bring to the park and therefore the community I sent a letter of support on behalf of our Council.

Our vicar, Catherine Levens will retire this month and it is hoped a full-time vicar will be appointed for the benefice to succeed her. We wish Catherine and her husband Peter well in their retirement.

Sometime ago the Community Group purchased a defibrillator for the village, since then we have been trying to sort out the installation of this in a central position in the village. This has proved quite challenging and potentially expensive. However, Nick has now been quoted a figure of £1000 to connect it to the electricity supply. Councillor Wendy Brackenbury has kindly offered us £500 from her Empowerment Fund towards this cost, and Councillor Geoff Shacklock has offered £300 from his fund. We would like to thank Wendy and Geoff very much for their generous help. In addition to this, I have applied to Waitrose for us to be considered as a recipient of their token scheme. As yet I have not heard if we have been accepted.

Since the autumn of last year we have been in contact with James Scott concerning Barnwell Cricket Club. James advised us that he had taken over responsibility for the administration of the club and was concerned that lack of facilities at the Recreation Field was leading to lack of fixtures. Councillors felt that more effort should be made to engage players from the village itself so that it becomes truly a Barnwell Cricket Club. James advises, however, that under 16's cannot play at present for insurance reasons. It was also felt that the club should be asked to contribute from the fees that they charge towards the cost of mowing the field to cricket pitch standards rather than recreation field standards. We hope that this can be agreed.

We have reached a point with the Neighbourhood Plan where we need some professional advice. I have contacted a consultant who is going to look at what we have done so far and then advise on how much more we need to do and quote for the cost of his help. I will then apply for a grant to cover those costs. We are now down to 3 people working on this plan and we would really appreciate some more people getting involved, so if you know of anyone who is interested please let me know.

Thank you all for your help and support over the past year and that concludes my report.

Heather Hanlon

4. Questions from the floor – none

There being no further items for discussion, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.45pm.

Minutes taken by the Parish Clerk, N Phillips