

BARNWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 2023 at The Village Hall Barnwell at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors D Brown (Chair), C Soans (Vice Chair), J De Bock, C Forrest, G Wise, T Herring, L Mailey

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Clerk), 2 x members of the public

24/03/826	To receive and approve apologies for absence Unitary Ward Cllr G Shacklock					
24/03/827	Public participation session Drain and potholes on Well Lane, traffic survey/roundabout on junction with A605. Clerk will look in to.					
24/03/828	To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. None					
24/03/829	To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 Resolved: Signed by the Chairman as a correct record.					
24/03/830	To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only No notification received as yet re date of planning committee meeting re The Montagu Arms hosing application – Clerk to contact Planning Officer. Redundant grit bin still needs emptying before removal – Cllr L Mailey volunteered to help.					
24/03/831	To receive a report from any North Northamptonshire Councillor present None					
24/03/832	To receive and approve the Balance of Account/Bank Reconciliation Resolved: Balance of accounts and the bank reconciliation approved					
24/03/833	To examine and approve the bank statements Resolved: Balance of £26553.46 at February 29 th 2024, statements approved.					
24/03/834	To note the failure of a number of BACS payments and the need to set up duplicate payments Resolved: Noted – reason for it not known					
24/03/835	To resolve to contribute towards the maintenance of the village clock. Resolved: Contribution of £185.00 approved. Clerk to ask for confirmation that the servicing is carried out.					
24/03/836	To resolve to contribute to the costs incurred by Oundle First Responders for checking and maintaining the Barnwell defibrillator. Resolved: Contribution of £100.00 approved					
24/03/837	To approve and authorise payments of the following invoices plus any others arising between the circulation of this agenda and the meeting (items marked *paid prior to meeting).					
	Cheque	Payee	Gross	VAT	Details	Power to pay
	100814	Barnwell Village Hall	£156.00	£0.00	Room Hire May - March 2024	LGA 1972 s111

	100815	N A Phillips	£28.46	£0.00	January expenses	LGA 1972 s111
	100815	N A Phillips	£25.04	£0.00	February expenses	LGA 1972 s111
	100816	N A Phillips	£348.90	£0.00	March salary	LGA 1972 s112
	DD10	HMRC	£5.60	£0.00	Clerk's March tax	LGA 1972 s112
	100817	Barnwell PCC	£185.00	£0.00	Contribution to clock maintenance costs	PCA 1957 s2
	100818	Oundle 1st Responders	£100.00	£0.00	Contribution towards Barnwell defib costs	PHA 1936 s234
	100819	N A Phillips	£32.94	£0.00	March expenses	LGA 1972 s111
	BAC	D Brown	£60.82	£TBC	Christmas light expenses	LGA 1972 s145
	100820	NALC	£16.80	£2.80	Complaints Handling training	LGA 1972 s111
	Resolved: All payments approved. Cheques signed by Cllrs Brown and Herring, BACS set up by Clerk and authorised by Cllr Brown.					
24/03/838	To resolve to apply for a Parish Council credit or debit card					
	Resolved: To check with the auditor as to the necessity of having a credit or debit card or is it in order for the Clerk or Cllrs to pay for items and then seek reimbursement as currently happens.					
24/03/839	To review the budget and make any adjustments necessary.					
	Resolved: To move funds from areas where there is an excess to cover the shortfall in other areas – budget version 4.					
24/03/840	To note the results of the half yearly internal finance checks					
	Resolved: Checks carried out by Cllr de Bock, no errors found					
24/03/841	To receive a report on the reserves held by this Council					
	Resolved: Report received					
24/03/842	To note the Clerk's Annual Appraisal					
	Resolved: Carried out by Cllr Brown, no real issues on either side.					
24/03/843	To consider and resolve the council's response to planning applications listed below plus any other planning applications advised by North Northamptonshire Council and available on its website between the circulation of this agenda and the meeting to which it pertains.					
	NE/24/00119/FUL: Proposed 2 Bedroomed Bungalow at The Spinneys Church Lane Barnwell PE8 5PG					
	Resolved: The building - Whilst the proposed materials are appropriate and the design is considered to be acceptable, the proposed dwelling is in reality a potential 3 bed bungalow, and as such is larger than a standard 2 bed property. The PC also feels that it is an error not to include such features as solar panels and water harvesting systems. Cllrs also have concerns that because of the proposed location close to the boundary with the Recreation and Cricket Field that the large windows overlooking the field could present a security risk to the property and residents.					
	Location/plot - whilst the building has been sited to make full use of the site the PC feels that being situated in such a wooded area that there needs to be considerable thought given to future proofing the property against the stresses and strains that will occur to the trees due to climate change, and which could cause severe issues for the owners if measures are not undertaken to alleviate these matters. Cllrs also feel that further and more in depth ecological surveys need to be carried out to prevent harm to the biodiversity present on this site. It is also felt that the proposed property is situated far too close to the boundary.					

	Neighbouring properties - currently there is a high, closely panelled fence between the plot and the neighbouring Recreation and Cricket Field which it is proposed will be removed and replaced with a low post and rail fence. As the field is used for a variety of activities and contains football goal posts it is felt essential that a similar fence to what is currently in place is needed to protect the home owners from loss of privacy, noise, and possible intrusion caused by activities on the Recreation and Cricket Field. It is also felt that families with children who are using the field may feel less at ease if they can be overlooked by the residents. BWPC feels that the siting so close to the boundary and with such a low fence has potential for complaints and conflict in the future, and it is further pointed out the the PC has plans to install further equipment on the field in the near future aimed at encouraging children and young people to use the facilities and whilst the PC would not seek to intentionally intrude on the occupants privacy, and have in the past, installed equipment away from this side of the field it may well be that particularly with items provided for children that this part of the field (North/East boundaries) are the only suitable location for these items, and it cannot be right that the enjoyment of this field by all village residents be potentially curtailed because of the siting of this property. Therefore BWPC objects to this application in its current form NE/23/01284/FUL and NE/23/01283/LBC: Replacement of two storey flat roof rear extension with two storey pitched roof rear extension (Re-submission of NE/23/00137/FUL) at 55 Church Lane Barnwell PE8 5PG Resolved: Barnwell PC has no objections to this application but requests that the Conservation Officer be asked to review and approve the material.
24/03/844	To note BWPC's response to planning applications received between meetings NE/24/00086/TCA: - no comment submitted
24/03/845	To note planning decisions made by NNC. NE/24/00086/TCA: T1-T2 Hornbeam - Sever and clear ivy from ground to 1.5m and remove all deadwood; T3 Elm - Fell at Church Lane Barnwell – approved
24/03/846	To receive a report from Cllr Wise on issues concerning highways Resolved: Cllr Wise to attend meeting with KIER and bring up matters such as potholes and road collapse if possible. Chairman has reported the handrail at Lathams. Cllr Herring to put out suitable appeal asking parishioners to join us in our efforts by reporting faults to Fix My Street.
24/03/847	To receive a report from Cllr Herring – Police Liaison representative & Neighbourhood Watch Resolved: Nothing to report
24/03/848	To receive a report from Cllr Soans on issues concerning public rights of way Resolved: Nothing to report
24/03/849	To note the results of the weekly safety checks at the children's playground, and Recreation Field and to resolve what action to be taken. Resolved: Inspections carried out by Cllr Forrest – no new issues. Cllr De bock to carry out inspections until the May meeting.
24/03/850	To note the results of the external annual inspection of the children's playground and Recreation Field and to resolve what action, if any, to be taken.

	Resolved: Inspections carried out by Wicksteed Leisure Ltd on January 24th 2024, no major issues found and appropriate action taken as needed. Having sought advice from the supplier and installer of the playground equipment it is noted that no secondary security devices can be fitted to the two small swings as stated in their email of 23.10.2023.
24/03/851	To receive an update on issues concerning the Recreation Field including possible installation of a 'Monkey Challenge' Resolved: Grant funding received with equipment to be installed on April 4th with a site visit by Cllrs to be made prior to that day to decide on the location. Cllr Brown to speak with field mower about the locations to ensure minimal obstruction to mowing. Payment to be made on receipt of invoice. Mowing quote from T G Marriott for the same cost as last year, quote accepted. Cllr Brown to speak with fencing contractor re replacement fittings/furniture for gate.
24/03/852	To receive an update from Cllr Mailey on visual speed indicator signs and other traffic calming measures Resolved: Report circulated prior to meeting. Some movement in the post situated on Armston Road may need remedial action at some point. Cllrs Brown and Mailey to check. Further work needed to establish full costing and suitability of equipment before grant application can be submitted. Cllr Mailey to continue to work on this.
24/03/853	To receive a report from Cllr Brown on issues around flooding and to resolve any action to be taken Resolved: Ongoing efforts to get work carried out by the Environment Agency but offer of site meeting accepted, Cllr Brown to arrange and circulate date and time. Ditch alongside the Recreation and Cricket Field cleared as instructed by Highways. Cllr Brown requested an authorisation to spend up to £250.00 on clearing the manhole and drain from the ditch to try to improve the waterflow – approved.
24/03/854	To receive an update from Cllr Forrest on issues concerning the village trees, including the results of the replanting survey Resolved: Lime bole trimming work carried out and volunteers thanked. Peterborough Diocese have carried out work to trees at the Recreation Field but unfortunately the contractors have churned up the waterlogged ground after entering the field by the wrong entrance despite the gate code being provided. Clerk has informed the land agent but received no reply as of yet. Replies received to letters sent out re tree work carried out by third parties. Plan of possible sites where additional trees can be planted to be circulated for discussion at the May meeting. Willow tree still in need of work as could obstruct or bring down power lines – Cllr Forrest to report to Fix My Street
24/03/855	To receive an update from Cllr De Bock on the Community Orchard Resolved: Tidy up needed when the weather improves. Cllrs Brown and Soans to install bench as soon as possible with £50.00 authorised for materials needed.
24/03/856	To receive an update on maintenance of the Council's assets including streetlights Resolved: Faulty streetlight near 'Whitefriars' repaired – no other issues.
24/03/857	To receive an update from Cllr Herring re participation in the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landing commemorations. Resolved: No real interest so no further action needed.

24/03/858	To receive an update from Cllr Wise on the CommMini Bus scheme Resolved: Flyers advertising the trial trips printed and distributed with the PC agreeing to pay for the printing. Two further trips planned but residents have arranged private car sharing in the meantime.
24/03/859	To review and approve the Action Plan for 2024/25 Resolved: Cllr Brown to circulate for comments prior to the May meeting
24/03/860	To consider what the Council can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the area. Resolved: To adopt the Biodiversity policy as a first step. Cllr Soans to look at Biodiversity plan and tailor it for Barnwell
24/03/861	To approve and adopt the Biodiversity Policy Resolved: Policy approved and adopted.
24/03/862	To consider whether to change to a gov.uk domain Resolved: Not to change
24/03/863	To note the application for a photograph portrait of King Charles III Resolved: Portrait applied for, to be displayed in th Village Hall
24/03/864	To receive an update on the application of AONB for the Nene Valley Resolved: Cllr Soans to continue to attend meetings on behalf of BWPC. AONB now called National Landscapes.
24/03/865	To confirm the date and other arrangements for the Annual Litter Pick Resolved: Date set for April 13th 2024, 20 sets of litter picking equipment ordered from NNC and to be collected by Cllr Soans, litter collected to be deposited adjacent to the ex BT kiosk for collection by NNC, flyers and posters printed, ready for distribution.
24/03/866	To encourage members to check and to respond to PC emails Resolved: Reminder that some items are time critical and may need a quick response. A BWPC WhatsApp group to be set up to alert Cllrs to the need to respond. A request to use the projector and screen at all meeting made with Cllr Mailey volunteering to set up templates.
24/03/867	To resolve to apply to the Rural England Prosperity Fund for a grant to further enhance facilities at the Recreation Field Resolved: Cllr Herring to make an application for funding for a mower for the orchard and wildflower areas.
24/03/868	Correspondence: Brochures for village signs and street furniture – no action needed.
24/03/869	To set the date and time meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting Resolved: May 21st at 6.45pm
24/03/870	To confirm date of the next meeting of the Parish Council (APCM) as 21st May 2024 Resolved: date confirmed to start at 7.00 pm after the Annual Parish Meeting
24/03/871	To close the meeting The meeting closed at 21.30pm

Signed:

Dated: