

BARROW cum DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN BARROW VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 26th APRIL 2018

PRESENT: Mr G Judge, Chairman
Cllr Karen Soons, Suffolk County Council
Cllr Ian Houlder, St Edmundsbury Borough Council

24 Electors
Clerk in attendance: Mrs K Bowe

Mr Judge, Chairman of Barrow cum Denham Parish Council welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council.

1. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 20th April 2017, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record. This was proposed by Cllr Wilcock, seconded by Cllr Ford and agreed by attendees.

2. COMMUNITY AWARD

This award was introduced 4 years ago to recognise people who give up their time in this village for the community. The nominations this year were: Dr Viv Hughes, Kim Judge, Richard Johnson, Alma Wright and Pearl Ashman.

The judging panel was Cllr Pearson, Cllr Wilcock and Sue Houlder (last years winner). It was a difficult decision but it was decided the worthy winner was Kim Judge. Kim was presented with an engraved vase. The other nominees were presented with a bouquet of flowers.

It was confirmed that the village street cleaner had decided to retire. Cllr Judge thanked her for her 22 years of service and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

3. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Chairman read out his report, a copy of which appears in the Minute book. He advised that all parishioners were welcome to attend the monthly meetings and had an opportunity to raise items of Community Interest for discussion.

Although it has been a relatively quiet year, there are issues that should be reported on. The a14 overnight closure caused a major issue for a number of residents in the village. A strong case Was presented to Highways England, requesting compensation but to date a formal claim has not been made as we have been waiting for Highways to undertake a survey of the damage caused.

The Parish Council remains disappointed with the lack of police presence at our monthly meetings and the annual meeting. The lack of police presence would not be such a concern if we received a regular and relevant report however, this is not the case and the only report we receive is a generic report covering a wide area.

Drainage continues to be an issue, The Parish Council have had numerous meetings with the County Council but they have made it clear that any new drainage infrastructure would

need external funding. The Parish Council have already agreed to carry out work on the pond opposite the Three Horseshoes Pub and the pond of the corner of Brittons Road. Speeding continues to cause problems within the village, the Parish Council have agreed to fund some traffic calming measures on Bury Road. Cllr Judge urged people to take responsibility and consider the implications of their disregard to the speed limit. A lot of the problems lies with local residents.

The Parish Council works hard to keep the community informed, last year we improved our own website and have started posting information on the Barrow Facebook pages. We continue to deliver the quarterly newsletter 'Newslink' free to every household in the Parish.

During the course of the year, Cllr Ponder moved away, meaning he resigned from the Parish Council. Our search for a replacement took longer than anticipated but we are delighted to welcome Andrea Hudson to our ranks.

The Chairman thanked both his fellow Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk.

It was highlighted that the meeting structure had changed from previous years and after the finance report there will be a Q&A session involving Cllr Judge, Cllr Soons (West Suffolk Council) and Cllr Houlder (St Edmundsbury Council).

4. FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Report was given, a copy of which appears in the Minute book. This is the first year that we are no longer receiving the Parish Revenue Support Grant and the Local Council Tax Support Grant. The only funds we received was the precept. The precept remained the same last year. The decision was made to increase it slightly for 2017/2018 to £24,272, however due to an increase in the number of households within the parish in the last 12 months, the amount per household remained the same at £33.99. The Income for the year is made up of the precept, allotment income, burials, bank interest, rents and recycling credits.

The main expenditure was the maintenance of public areas (£13,008), and administration costs. The Parish Council paid out £270 during the year to local charities and associations including a contribution to Newstalk, Royal British Legion and Barrow Good Neighbours

As at 31 March 2018 the Parish Council had £76,463 in the bank. VAT of £3,718 is due back to the Parish Council. Net wages of £200 were owed by the Parish Council. This has left the Parish Council with total funds of £79,981 (2016/2017 £74,376).

5. Q&A

The Chairman invited parishioners to ask questions.

Q1) Potholes - I understand budgetary constraints and bad weather, but the drain cover on Colethorpe Lane has now nearly fallen in

A1) The potholes on Colethorpe Lane are unacceptable. Cllr Soons has been very proactive and will chase Highways again. This has been reported a number of times and if they are not filled within the statutory time, a formal complaint and claim can be made.

Cllr Judge and Pearson met with a senior County Council Officer, some potholes have been filled and some were missed. He confirmed that their policy is to fill others nearby at the same time. Unfortunately, this has not been happening.

The best way to report a pothole is via the online reporting tool on the West Suffolk Website. If a pothole has already been reported and not fixed, email Cllr Soons and she will chase on your behalf, ensure a reference number is included.

Although there were no further questions, Cllr Soons confirmed that there had been a reorganisation of the Highways Department. The School had received a quote to extend the yellow zig-zag lines and Cllr Soons had agreed to put forward the entire cost of this from her locality budget.

Cllr Judge confirmed that some surplus Section 106 monies were being used to extend the carpark at the Village Hall and replace the path to the playing field. The Parish Council have requested to use some for a new path to the Town Estate Room but this is being met with obstacles. Cllr Houlder to chase.

Cllr Houlder highlighted the fact that he had some locality money to spend, either as a grant for a community group or contribution towards a project. He was asked if he could contribute towards the repairs to the war memorial. Cllr Houlder to confirm.

It was agreed that the new format was better and people value the opportunity to ask questions.

With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:40pm.

Signed:
CHAIRMAN

Date: