

BARROW cum DENHAM Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON THURSDAY 29th APRIL 2021

PRESENT: Mr J Pearson – Chairman, Mr R Ford, Mr D Holmes, Ms. A Hudson, Mr Z Kronbergs, Mr P Wesley, Mr R Rawlings, Mr T Bragg

Cllr Ian Houlder, West Suffolk Council

12 Electors

Clerk in attendance: Mrs K Bowe

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

1. To approve Minutes of the last meeting, held Thursday 16th May 2019 (there was no Annual Parish Meeting in 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic)

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 16th May 2019, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record. This was proposed by Cllr Ford, seconded by Cllr Wesley.

2. Parish Council Report

Cllr Pearson congratulated the Barrow Good Neighbours and the Clerk on their efforts with the volunteer programme during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Parish Council supported this scheme with a donation.

One local pub has reopened, and the second pub is due to open on 17th May. The village Hall in reopening and bookings are coming back. The grant from the Government helped to keep the village hall running during COVID-19.

There are no active applications for developments being considered. The District Council is working on forming its 2041 plan. The Parish Council is in the process of making a Neighbourhood Plan. The number of houses to be included in the NHP is approximately 77 once the development on Barrow Hill is completed. The NHP is progressing albeit slowly. Originally NHP's were introduced to promote development not to reduce it. The aim of the NHP FOR Barrow cum Denham is to protect the village from overdevelopment.

The Doctors expansion is underway. This will include additional parking, accessed via the new development.

The Parish Council have welcomed two new Parish Councillors, Cllr Rawlings and Cllr Bragg. The Parish has also welcomed a new Priest in charge. She has several plans including rewinding of the church yard which the Parish Council have been consulted on.

The problem with drainage never goes away. We are in a dry time, so it is not currently an issue. The Parish Council are applying pressure to Highways. The Parish Council are trying to get quotes to dredge the pond as Highways believes this is causing the issues.

There is section 106 money available from the latest development, this is ringfenced for sport and leisure facilities/new community building.

Mrs Ashe was asked to give an update on the school expansion. The new building was completed in September. The cost of the build was met by S106 money. The builders did the most amazing job ensuring the project was completed on time despite the difficulties which came with lockdown. This meant that the year 5's could stay at Barrow. The builders added a new pedestrian access and some additional car parking for staff. The new teaching block has been built in such a way that it can easily be expanded. There are currently 165 children on role from Reception to Year 5. The school is currently full in all year groups apart from Year 5. The expansion will complete this year when the Year 5's move into Year 6. The school has received some enquiries for the coming year for Year 5 spaces.

The school is a popular choice. Next years intake is full with a waiting list. Showing that it is a very viable school.

The school was open during lockdown for key workers and vulnerable children. 30% of students attended during lockdown. There was a full online offering for all students. The school was accredited as a demonstrator school. The remote provision went down very well. There was a great response from Parents.

CONNECT – the teaching school is going from strength to strength providing support for existing teachers and teacher training.

When Plumtree closed, the school put in an application to take over the preschool to ensure the provision was not lost, however the local authority had identified a preferred provider.

3. Finance Report

Cllr Pearson read out the finance report. See Appendix one for the report and appendix two for the income and expenditure statement.

4. Question and Answer session:

The floor was opened up for questions. There were no questions.

Cllr Pearson confirmed that Cllr Soons will be called regarding the jetting of drains. Highways have had longer to fix potholes due to the pandemic. Potholes were taking up to six months to fix. This is now down to 15 weeks.

Cllr Kronbergs confirmed he has spoken to a resident about the Town Estate Rooms. Initially it seemed positive that something could be done about the long lease being granted to the Nursey. It is now looking less positive. This will be an agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Houlder congratulated the Parish Council on how well residents are kept informed, despite the village getting larger. Cllr Houlder stated that the consultation date for the two new dwellings at the Three Horseshoes Pub has been extended and he encouraged residents to make any planning representations on the planning portal. Currently only three residents have objected.

5. Any Other Business

The meeting as closed at 7:35. Cllr Pearson thanked everyone for attending.

Signed by _____
Cllr John Pearson – Chairman

Appendix One

Barrow cum Denham Parish Council **Finance Report for 2020/2021**

Income

Our Parish Precept for 2020/2021 increased slightly on the previous year by 3.4% to £25,170. Bank interest received in the year was £28 compared to £90 in the previous year. This is a result of falling interest rates by the bank.

Expenses

Included within administration costs are accountancy costs, audit costs, bank charges, clerk's salary, insurance, printing and subscriptions. Most of these costs have remained at a consistent level with previous years and no unusual one-off costs included.

The Parish Council paid out £1,050 during the year to local charities and associations. These include contributions to Good Neighbours, EACH and SARS.

As with other years the main cost of the Parish Council is the maintenance of the public areas – allotments, footpaths, cemetery, churchyard, greens, playing fields and street cleaner. The cost for 2021/2020 was £10,651 compared to £19,565 in the previous year. There were additional costs in 2019/2020 which were due to extensive work on pond landscaping and the ditch around the playing field. The grass cutting costs also reduced in 2020/2021.

Other repair and maintenance costs include £1,908 for the new Notice Board.

Funds

As at 31 March 2021 the Parish Council had £108,462.79 in the bank. VAT of £1,853.64 is due back to the Parish Council. Net wages and PAYE of £174.40 were owed by the Parish Council. This has left the Parish Council with total funds of £110,141 (2019/2020 £99,953).

Appendix Two

Barrow Cum Denham Parish Council

Income and Expenditure for 2020/2021

Income	2020/2021	2019/2020
Precept	25,170	24,325
Allotments	900	720
Crozier charity	1,250	750
Interest received	34	113
Burials	1,124	1,424
Rents	327	426
Recycling	3,802	3,974
Grant for Neighbourhood scheme	0	8,910
Grant for Speed Sign	0	2,000
Grant for Notice Board	1,500	0
Newslink donations/adverts	360	1,840
Section 106 monies	0	2,889
Recovered from VHC for playing field grass cutting	1,330	2,030
Total income	35,797	49,401
Expenditure		
Administration	10,164	9,641
Village maintenance	10,651	19,565
General repairs and maintenance	3,249	3,956
Neighbourhood Plan Costs	495	4,455
Grants and donations	1,050	270
	25,609	37,887
Excess of income over costs	10,188	11,514
 Funds brought forward	 99,953	 88,439
Surplus for the year	10,188	11,514
 Funds carried forward **	 110,141	 99,953

** Includes Croziers bank account balance