

PARISH OF BARRINGTON

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 14th December 2023 in the Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Rhodes-Kemp (Chairman), Priddle, Walker, James, Pow, Cooper, Kemp, the Clerk/RFO and District Cllr van de Weyer (part)
with no members of the public

1 Co-option of Councillor

There had been no further applications for co-option.

2 Apologies, welcome and introductions

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Quincey, Anscombe and County Cllr Kindersley.

3 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Walker declared a non-pecuniary interest under Item 9.2 as a customer of a business on the land .

4 Public Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance.

5 To approve the minutes of

5.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th November 2023

On a proposal by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr James, the minutes as circulated were agreed a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6 County and District Councillors' reports

6.1 District Council

Cllr van de Weyer reported on a review of the bus services 75 and 31 stating that usage had declined. More information was awaited on what the new service would look like.

A report had been published by the Audit Office on East West Rail which raised some concern but also recognised that there was a wider need for the rail link. There were various rumours in circulation on whether the Government wanted to pursue the project. Cllr van de Weyer was asked if he knew the Labour party view on East West Rail. He replied that he did not.

Due to the inadequate water supply in the district the LDP process had been suspended until the cabinet agreed a Water Resources Plan. Cllr van de Weyer added that it was unlikely anything would be heard until February.

Cllr van de Weyer referred to the recently agreed Civil Parking Enforcement which could be requested when issues arose.

Cllr van de Weyer was aware that the housing officer had been in touch with the tenants responsible for the anti-social behaviour.

The Chairman asked for an update on the footpath/caravan issue. Cllr Kindersley had said that there was no timetable for the appeal hearing, which she found disturbing, and asked that the planning officers contact the Planning Inspectorate and ask for an update. District Cllr van de Weyer agreed to do so.

The Chairman thanked Cllr van de Weyer for his report.

7 Matters Arising and Carried Forward from previous meeting

7.1 Update on purchase of signage and floats Cllr Priddle

Cllr Priddle advised that the signs had been produced and were in his shed awaiting installation. He added that some of the signs he would be able to install himself but might need help where holes needed to be dug. He would liaise with the Clerk and if needed she would arrange help from the contractor. -JP

7.2 Anti-Social Behaviour SCD

Cllr Cooper advised that for the first time in months she had witnessed a youth on a motorbike freewheeling on Glebe Road without a crash helmet on.

8 Finances RFO

8.1 To approve the payment of accounts listed below and to approve any further invoices presented to Council that are not on the schedule (if any):

V/N	Invoice	Description	Supplier	Amount
185-188		Staff Costs PAYE, Home Allowance, Pension October 2023	Staff	£2806.34
202	2899	Cut & strim sports field	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£240.00
201	2944	Strim ditches throughout village	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£432.00
200	2946	Cut Challis Green hedge & remove debris	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£432.00
199	2948	Remove large limb from Poplar	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£528.00
197	17077	Defib annual support	Community Heartbeat	162.00
196	0004	Digital mapping	Parish Online	£76.80
198		CAPALC Cllr Training	CAPALC	£75.00
192	27830	Signs	Minuteman Press	£390.03
		Section 106 Project		
190	01393	Valuation report	Bryant Land & Property	£210.00
194	0527	Agronomy Survey Nov 2023	PSD Ltd	£2695.20
195		Hire of village hall for open day	Barrington Village Hall	£60.00
193		Hire of Church for meeting	Barrington PCC	£25.00

On a proposal by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Cooper, the payment of accounts were agreed.

8.2 Balances and Bank Reconciliation 30th November 2023

BANK	Balance
Unity Trust Bank	153,189.29
Lloyds	100,783.40
CBS	1,500.00
Unity Trust Deposit	607,487.35
Lloyds 32 day notice account	167,820.11
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit	500,000.00
CCLA	810,083.43
TOTAL	2,340,863.58

8.3 Draft Budget/Precept 2024/25

Cllr Walker and the RFO had met to update the draft and clarify the headings which were now easier to understand. Currently the precept could remain as it was in 23/24 with a reduction in the cost to residents due to the additional homes. The Chairman advised that a Tree Survey had recently been carried out and that may identify a lot of issues with trees on Back Lane and the Woodland. The Arborist had been asked to include these areas this time.

The Chairman advised that she was still waiting for professional advice on the maintenance of Challis Pond. Cllr Priddle had noticed a heavier build-up of silt. This needed to be monitored and any modifications to the flow would probably have to be funded by the Parish Council.

Cllr Walker was asked if he could foresee expenditure items for the larger population of the village. He replied that the Section 106 funding would cover the main requirements. A suggestion of additional defibrillators and a bus shelter for All Saints Gardens was made. The Clerk to investigate the cost of a defibrillator with cabinet. It was believed that the Section 106 money only allowed funds for information signs relating to buses. Cllr Kemp agreed to investigate the planning consent.

-RK & Clerk

8.4 Update on Bank Mandate

Details of an alternative savings account with Cambridge and Counties bank was needed as the account applied for was no longer available. It was hoped that the application form submitted would be acceptable for the new account.

Cllr Cooper confirmed that she would take her personal details into the Cambridge Building Society in the next few days. That account should then be ready for further investment.

8.5 Village Hall Donation 2023/24 update Cllrs Rhodes-Kemp and Cooper

Cllr Cooper advise that she had raised over £600 in donations for the village hall through her weekly community coffee morning. Thanks were given to Cllr Cooper. The Finance committee was not aware of any further information relating to the request for a donation. Cllr Walker suggested that as the Village Hall financial position had changed, with the new electricity contract, the Parish Council wait and see how it works out.

8.6 Agreement of contribution towards newsletter 2023/24

The Finance Working Group had agreed to recommend a donation of £100 for this financial year. This was agreed by all Councillors. Details of the bank account to be forwarded to the RFO to arrange payment. **-LC**

8.7 Agreement of quotations for -

8.7.1 Cutting of hedge at back of Challis Green Pond

8.7.2 Clear Vegetation from ditch behind Primary School and between Heslerton Way green and flower meadow

8.7.3 Clean out ditches behind the school through the woodland to Daphmoir Close and along the side of Heslerton Way

8.7.4 Clean out ditches on five a side

The four quotations were all within budget and had been requested. The decision to agree the quotations was ratified.

8.8 Purchase of Tabards for village events

Cllr Priddle had suggested the purchase of tabards as at the present time volunteers used their own with different logos. He had raised the question of whether this was the responsibility of the Green Charity or the Parish Council.

After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Priddle would email the Green Charity and suggest that they organise this. **-JP**

9 **Planning**

9.1 Proposal -S73 to vary condition 2(approved drawings of ref:22/00898/FUL)Amendment

Demolition of existing bungalow and the erection of replacement four bedroom bungalow with detached garden studio to the rear (resubmission of 21/05285/FUL) to maximise the loft space/vaulted ceiling within the centre of the dwelling and construction of mezzanine within centre of dwelling for office and storage, including 2no rear facing dormer windows and 2no conservation rooflights to front elevation, along with cinema/play room in lieu of garage.

Site address: 7 Back Lane

Reference: F&L Developments Ltd

The 5th bedroom has been changed back to a snug

The Clerk to advise that the original objection remained.

-Clerk

9.2 Proposal -Permission in principle for construction of 1no Self Build Dwelling

Site address : Land at 31 Shepreth Road

Reference: 23/04447/PIP

A discussion took place on proposal, its setting, and the number of existing buildings on the site and how best to clarify what these were. It was suggested that a site meeting be arranged with the applicant (who was not in attendance) but Councillors agreed that any questions were best dealt with through the planning Officer.

The Clerk was asked to reply to the consultation stating that it was unclear how the proposal for the self-build dwelling fitted in with the local environment and also what was the development planning status of the numerous buildings shown. The Parish Council suggested a site visit was required to discuss the application further and to be able to respond properly.

-Clerk

9.3 Proposal -Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of new single storey rear extension

Site address -17 Bendyshe Way

Reference : 23/04244/HFUL

Recommendation -No Comment

9.4 Proposal -First floor and single storey rear extensions (Amendment)

Site address - 4 Daphmoir Close

Reference -23/03695/HFUL

Revised Plans

Recommendation - No Comment

- 9.5 Proposal – No. 1 High Street. Conversion of garage to form bed and breakfast unit (amendment)
Cllr Kemp referred to the original application and the comment made regarding a change of use application. The applicant had now submitted a Full Application and this would be an agenda item for the January 2024 Parish Council meeting to discuss the representation.

10 All Saints Garden (Redrow) Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

10.1 Occupancy and Numbers Cllr James

Cllr James believed that there were 112 occupancies at the present time. He added that it was now very difficult to work out as some were flats. The majority were part ownership. Cllr James stated that the building work had slowed down as the market properties were not selling. The builders were working on getting the buildings water tight and would review the speed of further work.

A discussion took place on the number of houses and the Section 106 agreement for the latest agreed 40 additional dwellings. This agreement, as far as Councillors were concerned, had not yet been finalised. Cllr James advised when questioned that the open space (paths and allotments) should be completed sometime in 2024

10.2 Provision of Litter/Dog Waste Bins – Clerk

There was no update available. The Clerk advised that there was a new Customer Services manager, Linda Beazley, who would now be contacted regularly for an update. **-Clerk**

10.3 Request for salt bins -Clerk

A request for salt bins had been directed to the Customer Services manager at the suggestion of the Local Highway Officer. Cllr James expressed his concern at the delay stating that if the weather deteriorated there was currently nothing to help with the ice.

The Clerk advised that the County Council could provide a salt bin, and keep it filled, while the Customer Services Manager arranged other bins. On a proposal by Cllr Rhodes-Kemp, seconded by Cllr Cooper, it was agreed that the Clerk arrange for the (initial) purchase and installation of one salt bin from the County Council to be installed at the end of the road by the green. She would keep Cllr James updated of progress.

-Clerk

11 S106 -updates

11.1 General Update and Field behind the Sports Pavilion/land swap-Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

The Chairman reported that considerable progress had been made regarding the land swap. An agreement was possible to swap areas of land to make a sensible functional rectangle shape. The Parish Council would though have to pay the legal fees. Cllr Walker was in the process of finding out if the width was adequate for the football pitch. The Chairman added that other facilities also needed to fit.

11.2 Architect's brief, tender process, the Business Plan and TOR-Cllrs Rhodes-Kemp/Walker

A draft brief had been sent out for Councillors comments. There had been some recommendations made relating to carbon neutral buildings. Cllr Kemp pointed out his was not the scope of works. Cllr Kemp added that the brief was to get Architects to present their ideas (including upon zero carbon and energy efficiency). The brief would be amended prior to publication. Cllr James congratulated Cllrs Kemp and Anscombe for producing a good document.

The Chairman advised that the Business Action Group should be meeting before Christmas and would be looking specifically at the sports clubs running costs and those costs for the future. There were sports club representatives in this working group.

The Terms of Reference had been agreed.

11.2.1 Surveys & Valuations

Cllr Walker advised that an agronomy survey had been carried out on the land behind the Pavilion. The Football Association had eight criteria. The field passed two. The Agronomist explained what would need to be done to bring the land up to FA standard.

The overhead cables might be slightly less of an issue with the new field alignment. Another meeting with Power Networks would be arranged to discuss altering the line of the posts or burying the cables.

A discussion took place on the proposed planning application for the Pavilion and whether parking areas would need to be included. Cllr Kemp agreed to look at the notes from the Pre-application discussions. **-RK**

11.3 Traffic Calming –Cllr Anscombe

There was no further update. The additional posts for the MVAS would be installed when the LHI works were carried out.

11.3.1 Update on costings following County Highways feedback on LHI meeting-Cllrs Rhodes-Kemp and James

The Chairman had urged the costings of the proposal put forward with County Officer James Chapman. He had advised that the proposal had to go to CCC Traffic Safety first. The Parish Council should have an indication of the costs but the end of February with a view to the work being carried out in April 2024. If

necessary an extraordinary Parish Council meeting would be arranged to agree the cost so there was no delay.

11.4 Archer Bridge – Cllr Anscombe

There was no update available.

12 **Village Tree Survey 2023**

The Tree Survey had been carried out. As advised earlier in the meeting, by Cllr Walker, the Arborist had been asked to include Back Lane and the Woodland this time. The Chairman and Cllr Walker had attempted to join the contractor on the walk around but he wanted to work alone. This was the last year of the current three year contract so going forward with the 2024 inspection the contractor would be accompanied.

13 **Update on outstanding grounds maintenance works (and quotation requests)**

The Clerk confirmed that she was pursuing a timetable for the approved quotations and was chasing the remaining quotations regularly. **-Clerk**

14 **Reports to be taken as read**

14.1 QEII woodland and Community Orchard

A report was not available. The Chairman suggested that a member of the Community Orchard working group be asked for a report a couple of times a year.

14.1.1 Tree Work Quotations -awaiting third quotation

The third quotation was still outstanding. The Clerk to urge with the Parish Council contractor. **-Clerk**

14.2 Footpaths -Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

Cllr Priddle confirmed that the Three Rivers footpath top surface was no worse.

The Chairman reported that other footpaths were in a reasonable condition. There was a huge pile of chippings left after the Willow tree work, which reduced slightly when some were moved by the working group. The remainder were wet and heavy and needed to dry out before further use.

14.3 Ditches -Cllr Walker

Cllr Walker explained that there were two stages to the ditch work, strimming and clearing. As advised under Item 8.7 quotations for some ditch work had been agreed.

14.3.1 Advice from 'Pudlers' re flooded grass area (Challis Green)

The Chairman had not heard anything from the Pudlers so agreed to follow up. **-RRK**

14.4 Play Areas- -Cllr Cooper

Cllr Cooper reported on the two following issues. She had met up with the Play Equipment Inspector on his first visit. He had been very helpful and offered to look at the latest RoSPA inspection and give a prioritised list of work that needed to be carried out. He could also provide a quotation to carry out those repairs if needed.

The Clerk was asked to forward the RoSPA report to the contractor. **-Clerk**

14.4.1 List of Play Area works required or scheduled

14.4.2 Confirmation of contractor for Play equipment inspections

14.5 Challis Green Pond – Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

An update was made to Councillors during the budget discussion earlier in the meeting. The Chairman advised that the quote for the cutting of the hedge at the back of the pond had been agreed and the contractors instructed to go ahead.

14.6 Green Charity -Cllr Priddle

The minutes from the last meeting had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Priddle would prepare an extract for the Parish Council.

Concern was raised by the Chairman over a resident reversing her vehicle out of her home across the green destroying the grass. Cllr Priddle agreed to put a note in the newsletter if there was a space. **-JP**

Cllr Priddle advised that Street light SC031 was on 24 hours a day. The Clerk was asked to report. **-Clerk**

15 **Other Correspondence**

15.1 Updated UMS certificate from Power Networks which includes Heritage lights

The Clerk advised that an updated certificate had been received and would be kept on file to ensure the next streetlighting contract quote contained the correct information.

16 **Highway Issues**

16.1 Joint working group with Foxton

Cllr Pow advised that he had spoken with representatives of Foxton Parish Council and the Local Highway Officer, John O'Brien, about setting up a joint Transport working group for Barrington and Foxton Parish Councils to discuss a range of common issues. It was agreed that this request would go on the agenda for the January Parish Council meeting. The Chairman advised that there had been working groups in the past

dealing with lots of issues alongside Foxton PC She added that the County and District Council also had to play their part in any decision making.

The Chairman advised that as there was now a full time Clerk, the Admin Co-ordinator post was no longer needed. Regrettably therefore, notice had been given to her on 27th November 2023 with the contractual one month's notice.

18 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting -11th January 2024

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm