

PARISH OF BARRINGTON

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 9th November 2023 in the Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Rhodes-Kemp (Chairman), Priddle, Walker, James, Pow, Anscombe, Cooper, Quincey, the Clerk/RFO and County Cllr Kindersley (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 Cllr Kemp.

3 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no interests declared or requests for dispensations.

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 12th October 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 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

He had asked for an update on the footpath enforcement issue from the CCC Enforcement Officer, and Rights of Way Officer, but hadn't received a response. He suspected that this was to do with the appeal and the difficulty getting an appeal date from the Planning Inspector.

The Cemex liaison group meeting had been moved back to the 23rd November 2023.

The Planning Officers had undertaken to get the planning consent finalised for the cycleway. Cllr Cooper had seen people observing wildlife on the site.

Cllr Kindersley was aware that the District Council had received written communications from all District Councils in Suffolk commending them on their four-day week initiative. The Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, Bridget Smith, had recently written to parishes providing an update.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kindersley for his update.

6.2 District Council

Cllr van de Weyer was not in attendance.

7 Matters Arising and Carried Forward from previous meeting

7.1 Update on purchase of signage and floats Cllr Priddle

Cllr Priddle reported that all the illustrations were with the sign maker awaiting a quotation.

7.2 Anti Social Behaviour SCD Cllr

There was no update as Cllr van de Weyer was not in attendance. Cllr Cooper advised that the area had been quiet recently so felt that there may have been some action.

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
167		Electricity charges September 2023	Southern Electric	£186.27
168-174		Staff Costs PAYE, Home Allowance, Pension October 2023	Staff	£2198.48
165		Soil for Community Orchard planter	J McBride	£24.00

166		Challis Pond green bin	Sally Gilbert	£45.00
	2840	Cut Sports Field	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£144.00
	2886	Ranger Duties October 23	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£297.00
	2887	Ranger Duties Sept 23	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£168.30
		Poppy wreath	Royal British Legion	£40.00
		Annual Grant MWS	Melbourn MWS	£1000.00
	1772	Re-pollard Willow trees	Shelford Tree Service Ltd	£900.00
		Renewal of website domain	Lo-ho Ltd	£72.00
		Section 106 Project		
	2837	Cut of field behind Pavilion	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£552.00
	5514	Leaflets for open day	Printworks	£165.00
		Asbestos survey	Absolute Asbestos Surveys Ltd	£354.00

8.2 Balances and Bank Reconciliation 31st October 2023

BANK	Balance
Unity Trust Bank	£159,261.46
Lloyds	£100,790.40
CBS	£1,500.00
Unity Trust Deposit	£607,487.35
Lloyds 32 day notice account	£167,461.89
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit	£500,000.00
CCLA	£803,107.92
TOTAL	£2,339,609.02

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

8.3 Draft Budget/Precept 2023/24

The Finance working group had met and produced the first draft of the budget. Cllr Walker explained that the forecast so far was a reduction in the precept requirement adding that since the first draft had been produced, a lot of tree work had been identified. There was a current concern over a Willow tree overhanging the Challis Green play area which the contractor had been made aware of. Over the year there are generally some emergency tree works required. Cllr Walker added that the annual Tree Survey was about to be arranged.

Councillors were asked to look at the draft budget and advise the Clerk of any issues or concerns. The Finance working group would meet again to review with an update prepared for the next Parish Council meeting on the 14th December.

-Cllrs

8.4 Update on Bank Mandate

The Clerk advised that the paperwork for the Cambridge Building Society was now complete and new signatories needed to take their identification into a branch. An application for Cambridge and Counties bank had been started with forms signed. UTB had confirmed Cllr Cooper as a signatory.

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

The Chairman advised how the Village Hall Trustees had investigated their energy charges going forward. They had now negotiated a deal, starting from November 2023, for approximately £400 per month which was not a great deal more than they paid pre 2020. The Trustees had been asked to prepare a working budget and come back to the Parish Council with details of the financial help they now needed, if any. Cllr Cooper added that she was aware that some figures have been produced.

8.6 Mobile Warden Donation 2023/24

An invoice for £1000 for the current year contribution had been received and approved earlier. Cllr Cooper advised that there were four residents currently using the service which was estimated to cost around £360 each per year. Councillors were aware that the numbers could increase. After discussion it was agreed to set a budget of £1800 for 2024/25 which would then be able to cover another member if needed.

9 Planning

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

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

Cllr Kemp had circulated his comments to Councillors which were discussed. Not all Councillors were concerned over the extension into the loft space but the Chairman advised that there had been huge objections by neighbours to previous applications regarding overbearing plans. All Councillors shared the issue of parking concerns. After further discussion it was agreed to recommend 'object' to the application.

Recommendation Object

1. to the mezzanine floor with dormer windows as an unacceptable material change to the layout and density of the property. The dormer windows, even to the rear, in effect change the character of the development to a two-storey building where a single storey was deemed acceptable.
2. to the loss of parking provision by way of a garage without details as to how policy T1/3 will be met.

10 All Saints Garden (Redrow) - Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

10.1 Occupancy and Numbers Cllr James

Cllr James reported that there were now 84 properties occupied with a further one the next day and likely to be more by the end of the year. This included the social housing. All agreed that the area was starting to look very nice.

10.2 Provision of Litter/Dog Waste Bins – written update prior to meeting from Administrative Co-ordinator

The Admin Coordinator had advised that there was no further update. She continued to follow up regularly.

11 S106 -updates

11.1 Proposal to progress separate Pavilion project; Cllrs Walker and Rhodes-Kemp

There was to be a working group meeting update on the 13th November where the latest proposals made by the steering group would be presented to the council for a discussion on the next steps.

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

Cllr Walker advised that as the land allocated to the Parish Council was an odd shape, Cemex had been asked to consider swapping areas to make the field more serviceable. They had sent back details of potential areas which would be shared with Councillors at the meeting on the 13th November. It was suggested that a land valuation be carried out to establish the exact site lines.

A discussion took place on a possible option to make a bid for the whole area the cost of which would need to be included with the proposed application for a public works loan. It was also suggested that should there be more development the Parish Council could ask for more land as part of the agreement

11.3 Surveys

11.3.1 Asbestos survey -update

A Management survey of the Sports Pavilion and the Bowls Club had taken place. The report still to be received. Cllr Walker confirmed that he understood that no severe concerns had been raised.

11.3.2 Agronomist survey -update

This survey was also undertaken. The report to be received.

11.4 Traffic Calming –Cllr Anscombe

Cllr Anscombe reported that he had purchased another battery and would use this for the Shepreth Road MVS. He had liaised with the Chairman over the work included in the successful LHI bid so could now get an application prepared for the extension to the speed limit and gateways. The posts would be installed with the LHI work advised as next March 2024.

11.4.1 Update on County Highways feedback on LHI meeting-Cllrs Rhodes-Kemp and James

The Chairman and Cllr James had met with the Highway Officer, James Chapman, who had prepared a report based on the discussions which was now awaiting costings. The Chairman was told to try and include the 20mph speed limit in this work which would be a better deal. She had also been told that the Parish Council would probably have been more successful with their 20mph application if the speed limit was throughout the village. The Chairman added that as much as possible was included in this proposal which would include the top up of funding using Section 106 funds.

11.5 Cycle path Lighting -Update on response from Developer -Clerk

Following the last meeting a letter had been sent to the SCDC Planning Director, and copied to other parties, as agreed. A response had been received from Alice Kirkham, Redrow Senior Planning Manager. Ms Kirkham stated that she was at the liaison meeting on the 5th October when it was reported that Redrow was not in a position to confirm the final lighting proposals suggesting that it might be better dealt with via a discharge of condition on the planning consent. Discussions needed to continue with highways, planning and ecology officers so all available options could be considered. Ms Kirkham concluded by stating that it was

very important that if they were to achieve completion of the cycleway in 2024 clearing of the vegetation needed to be started now.

The Chairman advised that this explanation was exactly what happened at the meeting and she asked for it to be minuted at that meeting that a decision on lighting had been deferred with no date given for revisiting.

11.6 Archer Bridge – Cllr Anscombe

Cllr Anscombe had no update. He added that the measurements needed to be taken so that contractors could see what was possible. As reported at the October meeting, one of the landowners had offered help.

12 Reports to be taken as read

12.1 QEII woodland and Community Orchard

The Chairman, Cllr Walker and the Clerk had walked around the wood with the contractor earlier in the day.

12.1.1 Tree Work Quotations -agreement to obtain quotations for Oak and Hornbeam

A third quotation had been requested from the regular contractor.

12.1.2 Community Orchard Grant balance

Cllr Walker had been advised that the Parish Council was holding £415 of funds which is the balance of a grant for the Community Orchard in 2021. An invoice for £24 had been agreed earlier in the meeting leaving £391.00. It was agreed that the Community Group be asked if this balance could be transferred to them.

-Clerk

12.2 Footpaths -Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

The contractor had advised that another cut was scheduled which would include the woodland.

12.3 Ditches -Cllr Walker

Cllr Walker stated that nothing had happened since the last walk around. The contractor was still to clear the vegetation. Due to recent flooding the grassed area below the horse trough was being investigated as it remained very wet. There was some pipework in October carried out in the area by the water company, following a burst pipe, which had now been concluded. It was agreed that the 'Puddlers' would be asked for their point of view, or specialist recommendation sought, if needed.

-Cllr Rhodes -Kemp

12.4 Play Areas-update on quotes for Swing Frame Inspection/New Inspector required -Cllr Cooper

There was no further update on the swing frame inspection which would be followed up. The Clerk had been advised that if the frame was taken apart it would be unlikely it could be reinstated.

-Clerk

12.4.1 Quotation for Play Equipment quarterly inspection – Clerk

The current contractor had advised he was no longer qualified to carry out the inspections. A quotation had been received from another contractor, Broadmead Leisure Ltd, who would carry out a quarterly inspection for £75.00 per visit. This was agreed. The Clerk to confirm the contract and ask that a meeting with Cllr Cooper takes place on the first visit.

-Clerk

12.4.2 List of Play Area works required or scheduled

Cllr Cooper would be putting a list together. She expressed her concern over the current contractor and his willingness to help with some of the minor repairs. It was agreed that once the list was compiled, if necessary, another contractor would be asked to help.

-Cllr Cooper

12.5 Challis Green Pond – Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

12.5.1 Update on fencing replacement/repairs -Ratification of decision on quotation made by Finance Working Group Cllr Walker

It had been confirmed that the funding of the repair/replacement could come from the Section 106 outside community space allocation. Clarification of the work was discussed with the contractor who would carry out the work in the Spring. The quote from Herts and Cambs Ground Maintenance, for £2700 plus VAT, was agreed. A quotation had also been requested to cut the vegetation along the bank at the back of the pond.

12.6 Green Charity -Cllr Priddle

Due to the timings of the meeting a report would be made at the December Parish Council meeting.

13 Outstanding grounds maintenance works update

13.1 Meeting with Grounds Maintenance contractor 9th November 2023-verbal update Cllrs Walker/Rhodes-Kemp

Councillors were advised that the Chairman, Cllr Walker and Clerk had met with the contractor earlier in the day to discuss outstanding works, regular scheduled work and Ranger duties. A walk through the woodland area had also taken place.

The contractor had agreed to provide quotations on the Oak and Hornbeam work in the woodland, Back Lane trees, tree work on the green identified by Cllr Priddle and as advised under Item 12.5.1 the back of the pond. Quotations for other works identified had also been requested including removal of a low branch on Challis Green Play Area

14 Other Correspondence

14.1 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment -Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

Details had been circulated to Councillors. It was agreed that there was no need for accommodation in Barrington.

14.2 CAPALC Warm Hub Funding

Details had been circulated to Councillors As there were no SCDC grants available this year CAPALC had pointed out that the Section 137 power could be used. The information had been forwarded to the Village Hall Committee.

14.3 Six Free Trees

Details of the offer for six trees, or a single more substantial tree, had been circulated to Councillors. A discussion took place on tree planting in the village with Cllr Pow expressing the importance of tree planting and offering to help with a project. The woodland and Back Lane would be the areas to focus on for new trees.

The Chairman advised that there were questions in the recent village survey about trees so suggested Councillors wait for the results which should be available soon.

15 Review of Insurance Schedule 2023/24

15.1 Review of schedule and update of Asset Register for renewal quotations 2024/25a

The Clerk advised that the Admin Coordinator was in the process of carrying out a review of the asset list. Values would then be compared with the current insurance schedule and used as a basis for quotations in 2024 for the policy which expired in May.

16 Highway Issues

16.1 LHI 2024/25 -Applications until 12th January 2023-Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

This would be the route for a second application if needed, which could be topped up with Section 106 funds, once full details were agreed of the current application.

17 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting -14th December 2023

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm