

PARISH OF BARRINGTON

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 9th January 2024 in the Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Rhodes-Kemp (Chairman), Priddle, Walker, James, Cooper, Kemp, Anscombe the Clerk/RFO 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, County Cllr Kindersley and District Cllr van de Weyer. The Chairman reported that she had received the resignation of Cllr Pow which she had reluctantly accepted.

3 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Kemp and the Chairman declared a non-pecuniary interest under item 9.3 as neighbours.

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 14th December 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 with the following amendments –

Item 8.3 First line, second paragraph, second line to read -Cllr Priddle had noticed a heavier build up of silt.

Item 14.6 second sentence to read -Cllr Priddle would prepare an extract for the Parish Council.

6 County and District Councillors' reports

The County and District Councillors were not in attendance. Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

7 Matters Arising and Carried Forward from previous meeting

7.1 Parking on the Green

Cllr Priddle advised that following the last Parish Council meeting he had spoken to the residents turning their vehicles on the green. He had also put a general note in the newsletter adding that the green was particularly bad at present because of the wet weather.

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
91		Electricity charges December 2023	Southern Electric	£199.14
203-205		Staff Costs PAYE, Home Allowance, Pension December 2023	Staff	£3302.40
	2965	Ranger Duties (litter/leaves/culvert debris/footpaths)	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£485.10
	2991	Lift trees Willow opp Church and Car park	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£348.00
	2992	Ranger Duties (Litter/leaves/footpath branches)	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£188.10
	2993	Clear ditch and ditch behind school	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£396.00
	2994	Cut of Challis Green	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£384.00
	12410	Payroll quarter ending Dec 23	Red Shoes Accounting	£73.50
		Play Area Inspection 13/12/23	Broadmead Leisure	£90.00
		Newsletter Donation	Barrington Newsletter	£100.00

	Tree Survey Dec 2023	Hallwood Associates	£504.00
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On a proposal by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Walker, the payment of accounts was agreed.

8.2 Balances and Bank Reconciliation 31st December 2023

BANK	Balance
Unity Trust Bank	144,343.72
Lloyds	100,776.40
CBS	1,500.00
Unity Trust Deposit	611,698.15
Lloyds 32 day notice account	168,143.16
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit	500,000.00
CCLA	810,083.43
TOTAL	£2,336,544.86

8.3 Agreement of Budget/Precept 2024/25

There had been no questions raised following the discussion on the budget/precept at the December Parish Council meeting. On a proposal by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Cooper, with all Councillors in agreement the precept amount for 2024/25 was set as £88,267 the same amount as 23/24. Due to the increase in the tax base this would result in a reduction in the parish element of each households' council tax.

The Chairman expressed her thanks to Cllr Walker and RFO for their work on the Budget.

8.3.1 Defibrillator Purchase costs

The RFO was aware of a recent purchase of a defibrillator with cabinet for £1699 plus VAT. It was recognised that the cabinet increased the price substantially. Less expensive alternatives were available.

A discussion took place on where a defibrillator could be installed on All Saints Gardens. It was also suggested that other locations around the village should have access also to the equipment.

This would be investigated by the Clerk.

-Clerk

8.4 Update on Bank Mandate

Cllr Anscombe had suggested that the Parish Council consider the investment company Flagstone who were formed in 2008, fully licenced, had access to better interest rates and would accept Parish Council investments. The downside to an account was that only one person could authorise payments although these could only be made back to the Parish Council. Proof that the applicant had at least £500k was also a requirement.

This would be reviewed by the Finance working group and the RFO.

-FWG

A discussion took place on the Cambridge Building Society account for which Cllr Anscombe had been given a password to access. The other signatories had not heard anything. Cllr Anscombe agreed to ask the bank to make contact with the other signatories so that full access to the account was available.

-PA

The RFO had observed that Cllr Cooper was not yet listed to authorise payments through the UTB account. She would ask for instructions to be sent to Cllr Cooper.

-RFO

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

Further correspondence had been received from the Village Hall Trustees and forwarded to the Finance Working Group. A request had been made for a £2500 grant. Cllr Cooper expressed some concerns. A discussion on the annual accounts took place where it was noted that the accounts for year ending 31st December 2022 were on the Charity Commission website. The accounts for year ending 31st December 2023 should now be available.

It was agreed that, to enable the Parish Council to consider the request for a further grant, the Clerk/ ask the Village Hall Trustees for a copy of their unaudited accounts for 1st January -31st December 2023.

-RFO

9 Planning

By way of introduction Cllrs Kemp and Rhodes-Kemp declared a possible perceived interest in proposal 9.4 but it was felt that this was not material to the discussion. Cllr Kemp also expressed disappointment that despite submitting fairly complicated applications and sometimes poorly explained amendments, residents failed to take the opportunity of attending the parish council to explain their proposals and thereby assist councillors in reaching a recommendation.

9.1 Proposal -Conversion of garage to form bed and breakfast unit (Amendment) Full Application

Application changes from Householder application to Full Application

Site address: 1 High Street

Reference: 23/02625/FUL

Cllr Kemp advised that this was now a full application noting the proposed material change of use but with no other amendments to the proposal. The issues raised by the parish council previously had not been addressed and remain valid. The Clerk to again lodge the parish council's objection.

9.2 Proposal -S73 to vary condition 10 (Biodiversity and net gain) of ref 23/00306/FUL

Erection of a detached storey-and-a-half residential dwelling with integrated single garage following demolition of the existing single storey dwelling and garage (Resubmission of 22/04398/FUL)

Site address: 15 Shepreth Road

Reference: 23/04717/S73

The applicant had submitted that there the biodiversity condition in the planning consent was not lawful. Cllr Kemp proposed that the decision be left to the Planning Officers and their legal advisers to determine. A no recommendation response from the parish council was appropriate in the circumstances. This was agreed by all.

9.3 Proposal -Two storey rear and single storey side extension replacing and extending single storey rear and side extension

Site address: 27 High Street

Reference: 23/04740/HFUL

Councillors discussed the proposal which had addressed some of the issues raised by the conservation officer on a previous application. There remain concerns with site access and traffic management during construction.

After further discussion it was agreed to advise the planning officer that the Parish Council were minded to support the application but there were concerns with access and traffic management during construction which needed addressing, perhaps by condition.

9.4 Proposal - Alterations to existing roof. Replacement of flat roof, Construction of new detached garage. Changes to the external material finishes

Site address: 3 Hayzen Close

Reference:23/04788/HFUL

Councillors could see no issues with the plans as shown and agreed a recommendation of support.

9.5 Proposal -Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of single storey front extension and single storey rear extension (Amendment)

Change of description

The amended application appears to remain the same bar the wording. Councillors agreed that, as on the original application, no recommendation be made.

9.6 Proposal -Single storey rear and side extension and erection of an outbuilding

Site address: 18 High Street

Reference: 24/00030/HFUL &24/00031/LBC

It was noted that two previous detailed applications had been made. The most recent had gained approval after much deliberation. This entirely new application was for a smaller extension and an increased size outbuilding. Councillors advised that the Conservation officer would need to look at this proposal carefully. Councillors also noted that the application had no red line to show access to the highway – as was required. It was unclear what the larger outbuilding would be used for. After discussion, it was agreed that no recommendation be made but pointing out that there was no red line to the highway; that careful consideration by the Conservation Officer was needed and that the Clerk should also request clarification of the proposed use of the outbuilding. If the planning officer was minded to grant permission, a condition that the outbuilding could not be used as a separate dwelling should be added.

10 All Saints Garden (Redrow) Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

10.1 Occupancy and Numbers Cllr James

Cllr James reported that he was finding it increasingly difficult to confirm the exact numbers as Redrow had no control over the shared occupancy dwellings. He was aware that a further three houses were now occupied making a total of 87. Paragon were the company who were managing the Shared Housing Ownership and enquiries could be made of them. **RRK**

10.1.1 Update on S106 Agreement for additional dwellings

The SCDC Section 106 Officer had advised that their Legal Department had no update on when the Section 106 Agreement would be finalised. The Chairman added that further financial contributions would therefore not be available anytime soon.

10.2 Provision of Litter/Dog Waste Bins

Cllr James reported that both litter and dog waste bins had been installed but were not accessible as they were the other side of a fence. There were still no bins on site that residents could use.

The Chairman advised that the next liaison meeting with Redrow and SCDC was to be held on the 25th January. She would raise this issue then.

-RRK

10.3 Update on CCC salt bin -Clerk

The Clerk was pursuing the costings and delivery information for a bin with a County Council officer, She had chased several times and would now ask for the help of Cllr Kindersley.

-Clerk

11 **S106 -updates**

11.1 General Update -Cllrs Rhodes-Kemp & Walker

The Chairman reported that the Brief discussed at the December Parish Council meeting had been put on the Government Contracts site for a short period before the Steering Group felt that it would be better to first speak with the interested local Architects/Project Managers to see if they were genuinely interested and understood the budgetary constraints. As discussed before, a Public Works Loan would need to be applied for to replace the Pavilion. Councillors were reminded that a loan was not possible for the Village Hall replacement as the building was not owned by the Parish Council. A village Referendum would need to take place in order to apply for a loan. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would be kept updated on the progress with the Architects/Project Managers.

11.1.1 Update on Field Measurements -Cllr Walker

Cllr Walker stated that an agreement in principle to the land swap had been made and it appeared that the length and width were adequate for a football pitch. For legal purposes the area needed properly measured plans acceptable to Cemex and Land Registry. These would cost between £400-£450 plus VAT. The area would also be staked out. Councillors agreed the expenditure.

In addition to the measuring, Cllr Walker added that the PC had already been provided last year with a quotation of £2700, by the Agronomy Surveyor to produce CAD drawings for; the location of new sports facilities to include general layout, design in principle with NGB guidance, liaison with stakeholders and a cut and fill analysis.

A discussion took place on whether all this information was needed at the current stage. Cllr Walker agreed to go back to the Agronomist to request a quotation for a workable layout only.

11.2 Traffic Calming –Cllr Anscombe

Cllr Anscombe advised that he was waiting for the MVAS posts to be installed which would take place with the LHI work in March/April time. The final designs were currently with the County Council. Once the posts were installed, the traffic management working group would start looking at other traffic calming options would be looked at taking into account the feedback from the village consultation/2020 Consultants report Cllr Walker pointed out that we had sent the 2020 to Highways some time ago for comment and discussion. Cllr Rhodes-Kemp offered to look into who was best placed to deal at Highways and resend **RRK**

11.3 Archer Bridge – Cllr Anscombe

Cllr Anscombe was please to report that he had found a company that supplied footbridges to local authorities. It was a straightforward system and gave an example of a 10 metre standard width bridge as costing approx. £12,000. With installation costs etc the cost would be around £25-30,000 which was a lot less than that quoted by the County Council. It was agreed Cllr Anscombe take measurements for a footbridge supply quotation.

-PA

It was recognised that a planning application may be needed and the consent of the County Council. The landowners either side of the bridge would need to be consulted, once identified.

12 **Village Tree Survey 2023**

The survey had been received and was being reviewed. The Chairman expressed her disappointment that Back Lane had not been included even though this had specifically been requested. Cllr Cooper suggested Back Lane could be the next project for the Parish Council. It was advised that some of the ditch had been cleared.

It was noted that there was a recommendation for the felling of four trees in the survey. A tree replacement plan was suggested. The Clerk reminded Councillors of the SCDC six free trees initiative in the Autumn. In 2023 the Parish Council had agreed to wait for the results of the village consultation before taking up the offer. Cllrs JW/RRK would take forward JW/RRK

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

A quotation for the tree work in the Woodland had been received from the village contractor. It was noted that there was still a lot of maintenance work to do around the village. The Clerk and Cllr Walker would arrange another site meeting with the contractor to attempt to tie him down on timescales.

JW & Clerk

14 **Proposal for a June 2024 Village ‘Event’**

Cllr Cooper proposed that a village event be arranged over the weekend of 8th/9th June during the Open Garden Weekend. She offered to arrange this which was agreed, Cllr Walker pointed out that there was a small budget in the precept 2024/25 for this purpose. Volunteers will be required

-LC

15 Reports to be taken as read

15.1 QEII woodland and Community Orchard -Clerk

15.1.1 Tree Work Quotations -awaiting third quotation from Herts & Cambs Ground Mtce

Three quotations had now been received for the works to the Hornbeam and Oak trees. On a proposal by Cllr Anscombe, seconded by Cllr James, the quotation from MG Tree Surgery Ltd for £800 plus VAT was agreed. Clerk to advise the contractors and ask that the chippings from the work be left on site. **-Clerk**

15.2 Footpaths -Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

The Chairman advised that wood chippings had been put down on Back Lane, whose benefit had only lasted a couple of days because of the very wet weather.. The Little Rivers footpath also had the same problem.

Cllr Cooper pointed out that there was an increase in dog fouling on the footpaths and asked for a reminder for residents to pick up, in the newsletter. JP/ RRK

15.3 Ditches -Cllr Walker

Cllr Walker had circulated an update to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

Concerns were raised over the ditch which ran past Challis Green pond up to the houses. This needed clearing. It was advised that in the past South West Water had carried out the work. The Chairman was aware that the water was tested regularly.

It was noted that the shrubbery at the back of the pond still needed to be cut back. The quotation for the work had been approved and the contractor urged to carry out the work as soon as possible.

Cllr Priddle reminded the meeting of saplings growing from the side of the ditches. The contractor had mentioned these himself, at the last site meeting, and agreed they should be cut back. It was suggested that this could be a task for the Ranger. Clerk to follow up with the contractor. **-Clerk**

15.3.1 Advice from 'Puddlers' re flooded grass area (Challis Green)

There was no further update although even after the recent very heavy rains any accumulation had self drained.

15.4 Play Areas--Cllr Cooper

As discussed at the last Parish Council meeting the play equipment Inspector had now come back with a list of outstanding jobs, highlighted in the RoSPA report, with costings. The quotation included several repairs to safety surfacing too. Cllr Cooper referred to the quotation for the MUGA suggesting that the whole area be revamped to include additional equipment. The Rugby Cement Benevolent Fund might contribute some funding. It was agreed that improvements to the MUGA area be investigated.

Cllr Cooper then proposed that the Parish Council give the go-ahead to the quotation, excluding the MUGA and embankment slide which the Parish Council contractor had already been paid for, at a cost of £1943 plus VAT which was within budget. This was agreed by all Councillors. Clerk to give the go-ahead to the contractor. **-Clerk**

15.5 Challis Green Pond – Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

The Chairman reported that she had at last been able to contact Fen Ditch contractors and she had a site meeting arranged on the 29th January. Advice on the silt build up would be sought. **-RRK**

15.6 Green Charity -Cllr Priddle

The next meeting of the Trustees was to be held on the 16th January. A report would be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

16 Other Correspondence

Correspondence received was discussed under agenda items.

17 Highway Issues

17.1 Proposal for Danger Warning Signs

The Chairman suggested that it would be a good idea to have some Warning signs ready in the village for floods etc. They could be stored at her home when not in use.

The Clerk advised that she had asked the Local Highway Officer to provide the signs and was waiting to hear back.

18 Personnel Issues

An update was made to Councillors on recent issues relating to staffing.

19 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting -8th February 2024

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm