

PARISH OF BARRINGTON

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 8th February 2024 in the Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllrs Rhodes-Kemp (Chairman), Priddle, Walker, Cooper, Anscombe, Quincey. County Cllr Kindersley (part), District Cllr van de Weyer (part), 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 Kemp and James.

3 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Priddle declared a non-pecuniary interest under item 9.1 as a neighbour.

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 11th January 2024

On a proposal by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Cooper, 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 that the District Council was in the process of setting their budget which had been approved by the Cabinet. The Council was looking stable financially. He referred to the Cambridge 2040 proposal stating that he was aware that a Civil Service paper had been drafted but not shared yet. The brochure for development of land at Foxton, which had been rejected for the LDP, had been revised. Cllr van de Weyer could not find anything more. He explained the history of the site adding that this may be related to the proposals for housebuilding by Michael Gove MP. Cllr van de Weyer advised that there had been rumours that the Thakeham developers were also having discussions with Mr Gove, and were actively lobbying the Government outside the LDP. Cllr Kindersley referred to the news of a Development Corporation which had been set up and which would mean new sites would have to undergo a public consultation. It was noted that these consultations were a box ticking exercise and a waste of time. The Chairman asked to be kept up to date as the Parish Council needed to be alive to these issues to be in a position to respond.. Cllr van de Weyer would keep us informed and forward the link to the brochure.

-AVW

6.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

He advised that the Combined Authority had proposed an increase in the bus subsidy from £12 to £36 per household. He referred to the subsidised bus service through Orwell.

The County Council had reviewed their weed killing policy and were now going back to spraying twice a year. Communities were able to opt out.

There is to be a return of the programme of clearing of gullies on highways so hopefully flooding would reduce.

The Chairman advised that around two weeks previously, it had been announced that the policy regarding hedgerow cutting post nesting had been changed. Farmers were now able to cut their hedges whenever they wanted. A number of charities were petitioning. Both Councillors agreed to find out about the changes from their Councils.

-AVW & SK

Cllr Priddle asked about the congestion charge proposals which Cllr Kindersley confirmed had been dropped. Cllr Priddle also asked which services were under threat from cuts in the County Council budget. Cllr Kindersley stated that rather than cuts it was more a case of changing the way people worked. For example, there were proposals for two new Special Needs schools locally which would help save on the cost of travel to schools or residential costs of placements out of county for these pupils which are funded by the County Council.

Cllr Kindersley asked that as he had a large number of Parish Council meetings to attend could the Parish Council consider hybrid meetings. This would save him a lot of time and also mean that he would be able to attend more meetings not having to travel and assist with the CCC Carbon Zero target. The request would be added to the next meeting agenda for Councillors to discuss how this could work. The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their updates.

7 Matters Arising and Carried Forward from previous meeting

7.1 Update on defibrillator costs

The Clerk advised that a location with an electricity supply needed to be identified for the equipment. There were many defibrillator suppliers with or without cabinets. Cllr James would be asked to investigate the All Saints area for a suitable site. It was noted that Glebe Road should also be considered but the same issue of an electricity supply would need to be investigated.

-MJ

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
218		Electricity charges January 2024	Southern Electric	198.67
219-220/217		Staff Costs PAYE, Home Allowance, Pension January 2024	Staff	£1368.70
	2996	Clear large fallen tree from Back Lane	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£576.00
	3023	Clear out ditches on five a side	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£1920.00
	3009	Cut back vegetation from ditch behind school	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£396.00
	3009	Cut back ditch and vegetation Challis Green pond	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£708.00
	3043	Flail wild flower area throughout village	Herts & Cambs Ground mtce	£276.00
		Section 106 Project		

On a proposal by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Cooper the payment of invoices was approved.

8.2 Balances and Bank Reconciliation 31st January 2024

BANK	Balance
Unity Trust Bank	141,742.44
Lloyds	100,769.40
CBS	1,500.00
Unity Trust Deposit	611,698.15
Lloyds 32 day notice account	168,562.87
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit	500,000.00
CCLA	813,587.65
TOTAL	2,337,860.51

8.3 Update on Bank Mandate

Cllr Cooper to contact UTB to refresh her details for access. Cllr Anscombe to ask CBS to contact the other signatories so that they also have access to the Parish Council account.

The Finance Working Group had discussed the Flagstone investment suggestion at their earlier meeting and agreed to get feedback from other Parish Councils using the company..

8.4 Village Hall Donation 2023/24 update on further information request Cllrs Rhodes-Kemp and Cooper

The accounts for year ending 31st December 2023 had been circulated to Councillors. The donation had been discussed at the earlier FWG. It was agreed a representative of the Trustees would be invited to meet with FWG to clarify a couple of entries on the accounts..

Councillors agreed that some of the items did need clarification. A discussion on the size of electricity costs took place. Village Hall Trustees to be asked to meet with PC

-Clerk

8.5 Finance Working Group update

8.5.1 Ratification of proposals made at the meeting of 8th February 2024

Purchase of a Container

Cllr Walker explained that the Cricket and Bowls Club wanted to purchase an ISO container for the storage of machinery and equipment particularly while the Pavilion was under construction. A 'second hand unit was available for £1100 but its life couldn't be guaranteed. A new container would cost £3240 including VAT and the Clubs would contribute £1100. Cllr Walker had been advised that this was something that the Rugby cement Benevolent Fund might consider funding. The FWG felt that a new container was preferable and an application for funding would be made to Rugby cement. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council would have to pay the upfront cost pending any receipt from the Benevolent Fund. Should no external funding materialise the cost would be applied to the S106

The container would be positioned behind the sports Pavilion and could be moved into another position if necessary. On a proposal by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Cooper the FWG recommendation was ratified. Cllr Walker to liaise with the sports clubs. -JW

Streetlighting Energy Contract

As part of the budget discussion, the Clerk had obtained a quotation through the Broker, Utility Aid, for a contract to follow in October 2024 when the current contract expired. The quote was comparable to the current one but was only valid for a short period of time. It was noted that there had been some reference to a reduction in energy prices from April so this would be monitored as the Parish Council contract did not expire for another six months. It was agreed that the Clerk request an up to dated quotation for the March Parish Council meeting. -Clerk

8.6 Claims for Parish Council expenses

Councillors were reminded that they were able to claim mileage and expenses when representing the Parish Council if they incurred expenditure. The Chairman added that this was now particularly relevant due to meetings with Architects etc in connection with the building projects.

8.7 Ratification of Approval for Expenditure on Legal Advice

Councillors agreed the expenditure should the Parish Council be invoiced.

9 **Planning**

9.1 Proposal -First floor rear extension and garage

Site address: 14 Glebe Road

Reference: 24/00160/HFUL

It was noted that the previous permission, granted on appeal, had expired. It was agreed to recommend Support.

9.2 Proposal -Construction of detached cart lodge in addition to approved new detached bungalow (22/00898/FUL)

Site Address : 7 Back Lane

Reference: 24/00253/FUL

Concern was expressed over yet another application for this property. The developer now wanted to extend the footprint of the property further to provide cover for cars. Cllr Anscombe pointed out that the cart lodge was shown on the plan as being on the site of the large tree. This had not been mentioned in the application. It was agreed to Object in Principle to the application on the grounds that this application, within the conservation area, was a consequence of the previous S73 approval.

9.3 Proposal -S73 to vary condition 2 (Approved Plans) of planning permission 22/00898/FUL) Construction of detached cart lodge and to omit use of pantiles to main house roof in lieu of slate tiles throughout

Site Address : 7 Back Lane

Reference : 24/00074/S73

This was a very sensitive site with the roof structure now visible from the High Street in at least two directions. The applications was previously approved for a 1.5 storey building with dormer windows, against the background of a sensitive planning history, to prevent visibility from the High Street. Both the applications on this agenda together make substantial material changes such that the operative part of the original planning permission, as highlighted in the Officers 'delegation report' for a single dwelling.

Councillors agreed to recommend Object to the application referring to the operative part of the original permission being eroded by this further S73 application. The lack of provision of sufficient design and finish information, to meet the original condition 11, would be emphasised adding that such a condition should still apply.

It was also agreed that the background to the comments, prepared by Cllr Kemp in his absence, be forwarded to support the Parish Council's recommendation.

9.4 Proposal -Single Storey Side Extension

Site Address: 4 Malthouse Way

Reference: 24/00334/HFUL

There were no concerns raised. A recommendation of Support was agreed.

9.5 Correspondence relating to Planning Issues received from SCDC

The Clerk had circulated a letter from the Chairman of Bourn Parish Council, Cllr O'Brien, expressing the concerns of their Councillors over the SCDC Planning Department. The opinions of other Parish Councils were being sought on a vote of no confidence.

A further letter had been received and circulated from the Leader of the District Council, Bridget Smith, pointing out details of planning engagement with Parish Councils.

While Councillors agreed that the Planning Officer should have taken the initiative on the 7 Back Lane application and discussed the proposal with the Parish Council they did not support the vote of no confidence. They added, however, that Planning Committee decisions were not as robust as they could be.

-Clerk

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

10.1 Occupancy and Numbers

The Chairman advised that as far as she was aware the number was still 90. It was confirmed that all S106 money due to date had been received. Further funds would be forthcoming once the S106 for the additional 40 dwellings had been finalised.

10.2 Update on CCC salt bin -Clerk

The County Council had advised that the price of a bin would be £140 plus VAT. They questioned the position of a bin as they would not maintain the bin on the All Saints site as the development had not been adopted. A map of CCC land was requested to see if a site could be identified close by.

10.3 Update on Bins other side of Fence

This had been brought to the attention of the Liaison Committee at the recent meeting. The Parish Council had been advised that this was only temporary and the bins would be relocated when the fence was moved.

11 **S106 -updates**

11.1 General Update -Cllrs Rhodes-Kemp & Walker

11.1.1 Update on Field Measurements -Cllr Walker

Cllr Walker reported that the Chairman and he had a meeting with Cemex, in order to agree the new plan for the field, but they were told that Cemex hadn't yet checked it. Until agreement was confirmed there was no point spending money marking out the area. Another meeting was scheduled for March. Cllr Walker had received the land registry documents now which he would share with Councillors.

There was a question raised about a boundary fence and who would pay for it. It was envisaged that the cost should be shared.

A drawing had been prepared by consultants which showed all that was planned would fit in. In order to be more certain the extent of levelling work needed to be assessed. A quote for £810 +VAT for this report had been received which compared with the previous quote of £2700+ VAT discussed at the last meeting. On a proposal by Cllr Rhodes-Kemp, seconded by Cllr Quincey, with all Councillors in agreement it was agreed to arrange for the report.

11.1.2 Update on Architects

A discussion had taken place with a Project manager with many years' experience of this kind of project. He was no longer prepared to take on that role but would give consultancy advice. One thing he did point out was that, in his view, the Pavilion was capable of refurbishment.

A discussion took place on an updated Brief. Cllr Anscombe expressed his concern as to the way the Parish Council was approaching the work. The proposed timetable was explained by the Chairman who

added that residents were pressing for something to happen. The Parish Council needed to deliver as soon as possible.

Councillor Anscombe pointed out that the option to refurbish was not reflected in the Brief. It had also been pointed out that the services to the Pavilion, in particular the electricity supply, needed to be checked..

It was agreed that the Brief would be amended to include reference to a refurbishment. The last bullet relating to planning permission would be removed. The amended Brief would then go to the Steering Group Meeting on the 12th February for approval before posting on Contract Finder.

11.1.3 Proposal for Public Works Loan -Referendum

It had been agreed at the earlier FWG to hold a separate meeting to discuss the process. The Clerk had prepared a guide, based on CAPALC advice.

It was noted that, as a Parish Council, a Business Plan would have to be provided to support an application.

11.2 VAS –Cllr Anscombe

There was nothing to report. Cllr Anscombe was aware that the VAS on Shepreth Road needed to be recalibrated.

11.3 Archer Bridge – Cllr Anscombe

Due to time spent on other Parish Council business there was not an update for this meeting. There was also no further progress on land ownership.

12 Village Tree Survey 2023

12.1 Schedule of works from reports 2022 and 2023

The Chairman had circulated a schedule of works based on the last two surveys. This had been discussed at the earlier FWG group where it was agreed to support a proposal for the urgent work to be carried out up to a maximum cost of £3,500. The other works would then be scheduled for the next Financial Year. On a proposal by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Priddle, the amount of £3,500 was agreed, A meeting had been arranged with a contractor on the 12th February to discuss the urgent work with advice sought on priority.

12.2 Tree Maintenance Plans-Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

The latest survey had suggested that a Professional Woodland Management Plan be set up. To date one tender for this had been received with others sought.

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

The Clerk and Cllr Walker had met with the contractor at the end of January, Many scheduled works were underway. Quotations outstanding were for the removal of the tree overhanging Daphmoir Close, removal of brambles overhanging the ditch, with the cutting back of ivy around the base of trees and the clearance of the ditch behind the Woodland. The contractor had also been asked to clear away the cuttings from the wildflower grassed area following the recent cut.

14 Village Hall and Parish Notice Boards plus defibrillator sign repairs

The Village Hall Trustees had advised that the notice board was in need of repair and also the defibrillator sign was damaged. The Clerk advised that the notice board was included on the Parish Council Asset Register. It was agreed that the Clerk arrange a quotation for the repair. She was also asked to include the Parish Council notice board where the hinge to hold the cover open needed to be replaced.

The Clerk would also arrange a replacement defibrillator sign.

-Clerk

15 Reports to be taken as read

15.1 QEII woodland and Community Orchard

The Chairman referred Councillors to the Tree Report circulated. She would see if the volunteers could provide a regular update on the Community Orchard in future.

-RRK

15.2 Footpaths -Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

There was no update made.

15.3 Ditches -Cllr Walker

Work was in progress on the village ditches. Cllr Walker referred Councillors to the ditch by the five a side pitch which had recently been cleared. He advised there was a blockage restricting the flow under the road which would need to be investigated. Clerk to arrange.

-Clerk

15.4 Play Areas--Cllr Cooper

The repair work agreed at the last Parish Council meeting was scheduled to take place in March/April. The Clerk advised that the repair to the slide mound was also scheduled for the better weather.

15.5 Challis Green Pond – Cllr Rhodes-Kemp

The Chairman had circulated a report. She advised that a meeting had taken place with Paul Harvey, Fen Ditch Contractors, who had made a number of suggestions to improve the flow of water and reduce silt intake and would provide a quotation. Cllr Priddle asked if the pond could be made deeper. The Chairman thought that this may disrupt wildlife and it would quickly refill but would ask Mr Harvey. She added that the flow to the pond needed to be maintained as his pond was a vital part of the ditch system and we needed to avoid flooding. Paul Harvey had also stressed this at his visit. **-RRK**

Cllr Cooper asked if the volunteers could be given a budget for expenses as the West Green pond volunteers. The Chairman advised that they were given expenses when requested. She would remind the volunteers of this. **-RRK**

15.6 Green Charity -Cllr Priddle

Cllr Priddle had circulated a report to Councillors.

15.7 Back Lane update/Plan Cllrs Walker/Rhodes-Kemp

The Chairman and Cllr Walker had met with a local volunteer who had given advice on what could be planted. She had pointed out where the Muntjac have eaten the shrubbery and suggested making piles of fallen twigs/branches to provide wildlife habitat. The volunteer had offered to meet with a team of volunteers in March/April when the weather was better. Cllr Cooper advised that the weekend of the 8th/9th June was the National 'Kings Volunteering' weekend and suggested arranging a session around that time. She reminded Councillors that weekend was also the date for the village event/open gardens.

16 Other Correspondence**16.1 Emergency Plan Query update of information on approved plan**

A query had been received from a resident asking if there was a Plan in place which there was. The Chairman offered to update the contacts in the plan which would then be added to the Parish Council website. **-RRK**

17 Highway Issues**17.1 Update on Danger Warning Signs**

The Local Highway Officer had referred the request to the Drainage and Resilience Team and was awaiting a reply.

18 Exclusion of Public and Press

To consider, in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, whether it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for Item 19 of business on the grounds that the item relates to a confidential staffing matter.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

19 Personnel Issues

An update was made to Councillors on recent staffing issues which had now been concluded. The Chairman thanked Cllr Anscombe and the Personnel Committee for their work on this.

20 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting -14th March 2024

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm