

BARNBY IN THE WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 9th JANUARY 2025 at 7.00pm.

Attendees: Cllr Graham Bett (Chair), Cllr Jackie Parker (Vice-Chair), Cllr Derick Parker, Cllr Neil Gribby, Cllr Carina Jukes, Cllr Rachel Clipsham, Helen Cowlan (Clerk)

Public: 1 member of the public was present.

At the start of the meeting Cllr Bett extended a formal welcome to new Parish Councillor Rachel Clipsham.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Powell – it was resolved to accept the apologies. Apologies were also received from Cllrs Lee, Oldham and Derby (District / County).

2. **Declarations of interest**

None.

3. **Contributions from the public, District and County Councillors**

Cllr Lee – although unable to attend, an update has been received from Cllr Lee who confirmed that he is aware of recent issues with hare coursing in the area. He also advised that while there were no specific agreed outcomes relating to the Government's decision to move to a Unitary Authority system, updates will be shared as they become available. It is not yet known what the impact will be at Parish Council level other than, potentially, removing the District level.

Healthcare group update – an update from the recent healthcare meeting was received and included information about the Pharmacy First Campaign (which aims to relieve pressure on doctors' surgeries and minor injury/A&E departments), that a Living Well booklet will be circulated, and about bereavement support. Further details, including how to find more information, will be shared for inclusion in the village newsletter. Thanks were given for the information.

4. **Approval of minutes**

Cllr Gribby requested that the minutes be worded to clarify that charges, and their subsequent payments, are made for advertising (rather than contributions being made). **RESOLUTION – it was resolved the wording of November's draft minutes be adjusted.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th November be approved as being a true record, in accordance with the above update being included - proposed Cllr D Parker, seconded Cllr Jukes.

5. **Matters arising from the minutes**

Beckingham Camp – it has been confirmed that a new provision is being built, people have been observed on site, and have also been walking with Barnby. Beckingham Parish Council are updating their website and can be contacted for further information if needed.

Village Hall windows – Cllr Bett has made contact with a contractor who will assess possible options, which may include windows being removed and regalvanised, and then replaced. Secondary glazing could be problematic due to building regulations. A site visit is planned for 10th January.

Newsletter – thanks were given to Cllr Gribby for a great job being done with the newsletter.

6. **Finances**

a) **Payments made since last meeting (Nov)**

Parish Council -

None made.

Village Hall –

Chubb £70.06

Bank charges £30.02

Anglian Water £64.72

Gravel (D.Parker) £88.80

Banana Print (D.Stanton) £8.86

Event expenses:

Y. Wellard £23.54 (Harvest)

D.Parker £38.46 + £277.53 (Harvest + Fireworks)

M. Burgess £12.09 (Harvest)

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C.Powell £15.00 (Harvest)
G.Powell £65.90 (Fireworks)
WaterPlus £70.45

(Regular / pre-approved monthly costs for banking, website and Clerk).

b) **Upcoming payments**

Parish Council –

None

Village Hall –

PAT/fire alarm testing – approx. £300

PPLPRS music license for 2025/26 expected to be approx. £250 based on similar events to those held in this financial year.

RESOLUTION – it was resolved that payments be approved (unanimously voted).

RESOLUTION – it was resolved that the Clerk obtain quotes for the alarm system – for a new panel and a new system.

c) **Income received** (since Nov meeting)

Parish Council -

None

Village Hall -

Pilates Hire 135

Events £70.00

SSE Electricity £949.83

Hall Hire £40.00

The Clerk provided an overview of communication from, and with, SSE who had confirmed that a large credit balance (due to credits/refunds) was correct and would be refunded to the bank account accordingly. The Clerk confirmed that a smart meter is being installed later in January which should ensure that billing will be more accurate due to automated meter readings, and that caution will be taken until certainty about billing has been provided.

d) **Summary of finances**

An overview of current balances was given as part of the budget and precept reviews – Parish Council £12572.24 and Village Hall £6190.30.

e) **Budget for 2025/26**

An overview of year-to-date receipts and payments against budget was given, along with reasoned expectations for expenditure for the next financial year of 2025/26. Discussions were held about increasing or decreasing allocations, and whether or not to allocate 'stepped' funding each year towards future costs (rather than taking all out of one year) – for example election costs and technology. The laptop owned by the Parish Council is becoming problematic and won't support newest Windows updates. Subject to quotes being obtained it was suggested that the laptop be replaced sooner rather than later (without ringfencing future funds).

The Clerk gave an overview of current recommendations encouraging Parish Councils moving to .gov.uk websites and emails – not only does it bring a more professional and consistent approach to show Councils being within the government layers, having dedicated email addresses for Parish Council business provides transparency as well as making processes easier in the event of there being a Freedom of Information request. Our current provider has confirmed that changing the website / domain comes at no additional cost, and that providing .gov.uk emails would cost approx. £21 p/mth (which is broadly in line with other providers and would not make sense to change simply for that).

RESOLUTION – it was resolved that the website could be moved to .gov.uk. but not to move to .gov.uk emails until this becomes compulsory.

RESOLUTION – it was resolved that the Clerk get quotes for a new laptop and bring to the next meeting.

RESOLUTION – the budget for 2025/26 was unanimously approved.

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f) Precept

An overview of monies held was given in terms of what constitutes Parish Council, and what is Village Hall. After much discussion and debate, it was agreed to increase the precept. It was agreed that budgets for both PC and Village Hall be reviewed together before making decisions about precepts.

RESOLUTION It was resolved to increase the precept by £476.53 to £5241.78 which equates to an increase of 8 pence per week for an average band D property. Proposed Cllr Jukes, seconded Cllr D Parker (5 votes in favour, 1 vote against (would have preferred slightly less)).

7. Planning Matters

- a) 23/01819/HOUSE – Grove Farm, Long Lane – *single storey rear extension*. **Decision of no objection submitted on behalf of Parish Council / awaiting NSDC decision** (info only).

Additionally, no further information has been received about Chestnut Lodge in terms of what, if any, action is being taken by NSDC's Enforcement Team for alleged breaches.

RESOLUTION – it was resolved that the Clerk contact NSDC to establish their stance / proposals.

8. Village Committee report

The Festive / Wreathmaking event made £70. Edwina Hayes is playing on 15th Feb and is budgeted to make approx. £500 if 50 tickets are sold. Cllr Parker to confirm the contact names for tickets, for Cllr Gribby to add to the newsletter. There has been a suggestion to do a Patron Saint night, details of which are to be decided. Next Committee meeting is 14th Jan.

9. Village Hall Hire

The Clerk gave an overview of invoices and arrears for Hall Hire. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved that the Clerk contact the hirer again to confirm current position and potential impacts on budgets and auditing, as well as ability to hire in the future. Cllr Bett will also speak to the hirer to confirm position and establish intent to pay. Intention for arrears to be cleared by the end of January with any future invoices within two weeks of invoice date.**

10. Card tables

After getting quotes, it was proposed that 5 car tables be purchased at a cost of £34.95 each plus delivery. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved that the Clerk will purchase the tables to be delivered to Cllr D Parker's house.**

11. Alarm system

The alarm system continues to make a beeping sound despite a previous sensor and battery replacement. Concerns were raised about the potential effects on events and hall hire, and that it may be necessary to take remedial action sooner rather than later. **RESOLVED – it was resolved that the Clerk will approach local electrician for advice and also approach local contractors for quotes for panels / systems.**

12. Correspondence

No correspondence of note had been received at the time of the meeting.

13. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – 13th March 2025 at 7pm.

Notes: additions for the next meeting's agenda should include whether or not a slide could be placed on the Green, as well as the quotes for the alarm system and new laptop.

Meeting finished at 20:30

.....Chair

.....Date

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