

BARNBY IN THE WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2nd SEPTEMBER 2025 at 7:00pm.

Attendees: Cllr Jackie Parker (Chair), Cllr Graham Bett (Vice-Chair), Cllr Carina Jukes, Cllr Derick Parker, Cllr Rachel Clipsham, County Cllr Janette Barlow, Helen Cowlan (Clerk).
Public: Joanne Woolley (until co-opted in as Cllr)

1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Powell was not available to attend the meeting – it was resolved to accept the apologies. District Cllrs Lee and Oldham also sent apologies.

2. **Declarations of interest**

None.

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

Cllr Barlow gave an update on the Local Government Reorganisation and that Full Council (at NCC) had voted for the option of Gedling and Broxtowe joining with the City Council. Further information and outcome will be shared as available.

4. **Approval of minutes**

It was unanimously resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2025 be approved as being a true record – proposed Cllr Derick Parker and seconded Cllrs Jukes.

5. **Matters arising from the minutes**

Cllr Derick Parker advised that maintenance on the porch had been put on hold due to the discovery of a hornet nest which will be assessed and may need professional removal for health and safety reasons. A bee/wasp nest at the back of the Hall will be monitored – seasonal change may mean no action is needed.

6. **Parish Council Vacancy**

It was unanimously resolved to co-opt Joanne Woolley onto the Parish Council – proposed Cllr Derick Parker, seconded Cllr Bett. The Acceptance of Office form was signed enabling the role to start immediately, and Cllr Woolley was made aware to return the Declarations of Interests Form which will be sent by the Clerk.

7. **Finance**

- a) Current balances – Parish Council (inc reserves) £8191.58; Village Hall £6128.00. The Clerk will be reviewing allocated fund allocations now that maintenance payments have been made. Costs to consider ahead of the budget review (in addition to general inflationary increases) will include those for meeting legislative requirements, administrative costs and building reserves to ensure there is a buffer in case of election costs in the future.
- b) Payments made since last meeting (July) -
Parish Council
Mowing (N. Gribby) £38.72
Village Green fencing (Cllr D Parker) £100.59 (total)
Printing for Solar flyers (Cllr D Parker) £50.89
Hall maintenance (Cllr D Parker) £138.97 (total)
Hall maintenance (Contractor S. Pearson) £4200.00
Information Commissioners Office (ICO) £47.00 (annual)

Village Hall

SSE £209.18 (total/final bills)

BBQ Event expenses (K.Taylor, Cllr D Parker, G. Powell, Y.Wellard) £978.59 (total) for band, food and drinks

Cooking Pan (Y. Wellard) £34.99

Pest Control (Bees) £120.00

Water Plus (supply) £24.23

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NSDC Licensing £70.00

Banking fees £25.62

Valda (electricity) £28.35

RESOLUTION - it was resolved to approve the payments – proposed Cllr J Parker, seconded Cllr Jukes (unanimous)

- c) Payments upcoming (before next meeting) - waste water (Wave), event expenses, fire equipment servicing.

- d) Income received

Parish Council

VAT reclaim £174.24

Village Hall

Regular hire £240.00

Other hire £40.00

BBQ Event £1619.75 (gross)

- e) Electricity contract – **RESOLUTION – the one-year contract with Valda was formally approved / ratified in line with discussions at the previous meeting, and via email.**
- f) HSBC update – confirmation has been received that HSBC do not have an option to use the app via laptop or PC, therefore a mobile phone will be needed, and which can be used for all Parish Council business. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved that the Clerk buy a phone and SIM deal in line with approximate costs discussed at the meeting (phones up to £100 and the best value SIM only or monthly contact deal).**
- g) Clerk Pay Scale – the hourly increase backdated to April was noted.

8. Planning matters

- a) Chestnut Lodge - no updates have been received for this site, nor any other locally. Additionally, it was confirmed that no consultation request had been received in relation to proposals for a dog exercise park at Beckingham.

9. Village Committee Report

The BBQ event made £634.71 profit and was a success despite the band being more expensive than last year, and ticket sales being lower than hoped. The bar stock has been reduced. The Horticultural Show will be the 40th Anniversary of the event. The Village Lunch may not go ahead as planned due to a potential clash with an event being held by the pub (to be reviewed this week). There is a Treasure Hunt on 6th October. Plans for a firework event are being discussed and in liaison with the pub. At the last Committee meeting, it was proposed that consideration be given to getting wi-fi at the Hall, and to enable the use of car payments at events. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved the Committee / Clerk research options to bring to a future meeting so that the Parish Council has a clear understanding of proposals.**

10. Village Hall maintenance

The windows need cleaning inside and out, including the tidying of the putty, and a quote of £60 has been obtained. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved to book the cleaner – proposed Cllr Parker, seconded Cllr Bett.**

Fencing repairs will need to be carried out with an approx. cost of £100. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved to review in the Spring.**

All major maintenance works have been done. The bees in the cavity were not considered to be a risk. The hornets will need to be inspected as if they are African hornets, more formal action may need to be taken (in line with Government requirements). Cllr D Parker will monitor, and report back as needed.

11. Local Government Restructure

RESOLUTION – it was unanimously approved to let Cllr Barlow join the discussion of this item to share knowledge and information.

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Cllr Barlow gave an overview of the current position for the Parish Council to consider the opinions to submit as part of the consultation (alongside information that has been made available). There are different views about how the unitary authority could be formed – option 1b was the preferred choice at District and County level (Broxtowe and Gedling), although it is understood that City would prefer to join with Rushcliffe. One option could be for the City Council's current boundary to be expanded (so it would take in parts of more than one adjacent district). Concerns have been raised about ensuring value for money is gained from Council Tax funds through cost efficiencies. The Government has the ultimate decision.

Discussion points raised concerns about a unitary authority being too big and would not sufficiently cover wide ranging socio-economic differences across the County. Additionally, that there could be a loss of commonality and local knowledge. It was felt that whilst the number of areas could be reduced, it would not be practical for it to be City with one District, and then the rest forming another group. Consideration was also given to whether there needed to be any change at all.

RESOLUTION – it was resolved that the Clerk submit the views of the Parish Council in line with consultation processes.

12. Regulatory changes – Assertion 10

The Clerk gave an overview of changes which will be required to meet legislative requirements for technological and administrative practises including email addresses, data / IT policies, and website accessibility. Research into provers and costs is underway. The Clerk attended a recent NALC training session linked to this, the cost of which was covered by the other Parish that the Clerk works for. **RESOLUTION – as this / other training events benefit(ed) both Councils, it was resolved that this cost could either be shared, or that Barnby would cover a future training session of the same cost.**

13. Correspondence

- a) NSDC Register of Interests – Cllrs to update forms if needed.
- b) ALC AGM 15th Oct – no further action needed.
- c) NCC Winter Services – Clerk to request delivery of grit (free).

14. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – to confirm provisional date of 13th November at 7pm (may be subject to change depending on updates received about Solar Farm proposals).

Meeting closed at 20.30

.....Signed / Dated (Chair)