

BARNBY IN THE WILLOWS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON THURSDAY 13TH MARCH 2025 at 7.00pm.

Attendees: Cllr Graham Bett (Chair), Cllr Jackie Parker (Vice-Chair), Cllr Ben Powell, Cllr Derick Parker, Cllr Neil Gribby, Cllr Carina Jukes, Cllr Rachel Clipsham, Helen Cowlan (Clerk), Cllr Emma Oldham (District Cllr).

Public: 3 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Lee (District) and Cllr Darby (County) (passed on by Cllr Oldham).

2. **Declarations of interest**

None.

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

Cllr Oldham provided updates as follows:

- Potholes - Newark Road potholes will be repaired over the next few days.
- Combined Authority proposals – NSDC will hold a meeting next week to vote on an interim plan to try and influence the outcome to unite with other areas – looking to move to one of three options. From April to November, NSDC will work with Parish Councils to review sub-structures – it is unlikely that Parish Councils will be absorbed, and that they may have an opportunity to get more say and more responsibilities. It is anticipated that a consultation will be done. Caution needs to be taken in terms of Councillor structures to balance workloads, and the need for locality when being represented.
- Book / stationery share scheme – one in eight households where children live don't own books, and a scheme is being established where donations can be taken to designated drop-off points, to create packs to send to families in need (with primary aged children). Donations can also include notepads, pens and pencils, and other stationery which can be second-hand if in good condition.

Feedback and requests from members of the feedback were as follows:

- Supplies – it was noticed that there weren't any hand towels, and that hand soap dispensers were empty, which must be prevented for future events.
- Oven – it was felt that the oven needed a deep clean, or potentially a professional deep clean.
- Pans – a request for more saucepans was made to make cooking for events easier.
- Coat hooks – a request for coat hooks was made.
- King's Portrait – it was noted that this was not in its normal place.

Comments and concerns were acknowledged.

RESOLUTION – it was resolved that a stock review would take place, and clarification sought about if, and where, additional cleaning equipment was kept and items be proactively purchased as required (the Clerk will speak to the Caretaker) (unanimous agreement).

RESOLUTION – it was resolved that coat hooks could be purchased (Cllr D Parker to arrange) and that oven cleaning would be added to the agenda for the next Village Hall Committee meeting, to agree next steps (unanimous agreement).

RESOLUTION – it was resolved that pans could be purchased subject to quotes be obtained for review at a future Committee meeting – proposed Cllr Bett, seconded Cllr Gribby.

RESOLUTION – it was resolved that arrangements be made to make sure the King's portrait be returned.

Safer Neighbourhood Group – updates received included information about a spate of burglaries in Winthorpe, that all residents are encouraged to sign up to the Notts Alert system, and that Collingham Fire Station is hosting a bike marking session on 6th April 10am-12pm.

4. **Approval of minutes**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th January 2025 be approved as being a true record - proposed Cllr J Parker, seconded Cllr Jukes.

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5. Matters arising from the minutes

- Fire Alarm – the panel has been repaired and appears to have been put back on (Cllr Bett to check). Clerk clarified that any repairs and / or works should be completed by qualified contractors due to insurance requirements. Cllr Bett confirmed that research shows new panels costing approx. £120-£180 plus fitting costs.
- Hall Hire – Hall hire payments are up to date after further payments having been received.

6. Finances

a) Current balances

An overview of current balances was given – Reserves £7438.28 and total current account £9653.88. Further breakdowns / details will be provided after the completion of year end processes.

b) Payments made since last meeting (Jan)

Parish Council -

CHT (defibrillator) annual subscription £151.20

Clerk stationery £5.75

NALC annual subscription £114.62

Village Hall -

Bank charges £2.55

Electrical 5year service / EICR £396.00

Tables £199.95

Water Plus £23.84

PPLPRS music license for 2025/26 £269.02

SSE electric supply £16.34

Derick Parker (Edwina Hayes Event) £222.96

Wave / Anglian Water (waste) £66.05

Wilkins (PAT/alarm) £360.00

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

c) Upcoming payments

Parish Council -

Printer ink – previously approved

Laptop / screen subject to approval on item 6g

Village Hall -

Gas for heaters – approx. £60-80 tbc

Caretaker salary – **RESOLUTION – it was resolved to maintain the current number of contracted hours for 2025-26.**

RESOLUTION – it was resolved to approve all payments – proposed Cllr Jukes, seconded Cllr D Parker (unanimous).

d) Income received (since Jan meeting)

Parish Council -

VAT reclaim £42.78

Village Hall -

Pilates Hire £530

Other hire £20

Donation from children's party £45.00

e) Internal Audit

RESOLUTION - It was resolved to appoint Carole Binks as Internal Auditor (as hired previously) at cost of £60.00 – proposed Cllr D Parker, seconded Cllr J Parker (unanimous vote). Clerk advised that regulations are increasingly stricter and that a more in-depth audit will likely be required going forward with approx. costs of £200-£250 (to be researched further).

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f) **Electricity and Insurance contracts**

The electricity contract is currently with SSE and a fixed term pricing agreement ends in July 2025. The Clerk has approach SSE directly, as well as two 'brokers' who are used by other Parish Councils, to try and agree good pricing strategies (and will clarify what, if any, costs are to e paid for services). The insurance policy currently with Zurich and a fixed term pricing agreement ends in June.

RESOLVED – it was resolved that the Clerk research alternative options and quotes to bring to the next meeting for review and approval (unanimous).

g) **Laptop / equipment**

The Clerk provided examples of quotes for laptops and second screens, and advised consideration will be given as to how necessary packages could work e.g. transferring existing licenses / using free packages / buying new. **RESOLUTION It was resolved give a budget of up to £600 for the laptop and screen - proposed Cllr Gribby, seconded Cllr Jukes.**

7. **Planning Matters**

- a) 23/01819/HOUSE – Grove Farm, Long Lane – *single storey rear extension*. **Decision: NSDC granted planning permission** (info only).
- b) 25/00070/TWCA – Selmun, Front Street – branch / dead wood removal for four trees. **Decision: NSDC had no objection to works** (info only).
- c) Chestnut Lodge – NSDC confirmed that the site is under review to assess if planning terms have been breached, and what action will be taken if so.

Application received after the agenda was sent:

25/00347/FULM - Grove Farm, Long Lane – demolition of existing pig arc. New barn for horse stabling and related store, enclosed equestrian arena for personal use, including change of use of land and access track. **RESOLUTION: it was unanimously resolved (7votes) that a decision of no objection be submitted to NSDC with the understanding that proposals are for private use only, and that proposals be resubmitted if it becomes for commercial use.**

8. **Village Committee report**

After initially low tickets sales almost led to cancellation, the Edwina Hayes event went ahead and raised £224.73. The Ladies Lunch raised £152.50. At the next Committee Meeting, a VE Celebration event will be proposed, in the form of a 'bring your own' picnic on the Green on Mon 5th May (free event as no outlay).

9. **Slide on the Green**

As numbers of children in the village have increased, the Parish Council has been approached to consider some form of play area / equipment (for example, a swing and / or slide). Due to a number of considerations to review, including health and safety, insurance, risk assessments, maintenance plans, contractors, and grant funding, a great deal of research would need to be done as well as getting quotes for equipment itself. CIL funding could be used towards play equipment if approved within timescales for spending deadlines. **RESOLUTION – it was unanimously resolved that Cllr J Parker to start research, starting with NSDC for Planning requirements.**

10. **Land near sewage works**

Feedback has been received that the (private) lane and surrounding land was becoming messy due to vehicles accessing the area. Cllr Bett has already (previously) spoken to the relevant landowners/tenants and the situation will be monitored.

11. **Card tables**

A request has been received to donate some of the old card tables to the Church. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved to assess the condition of the tables first to see which might be suitable (due to some having suspected woodworm), and that the Church continue to borrow as needed in the meantime.**

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12. Hall Hire Agreement

Cllr D Parker proposed that the Hall hire agreement be amended to state that payment must be made within seven days of the hire date. **RESOLUTION – it was unanimously approved, and the Clerk will amend accordingly.**

13. Village Hall maintenance

Cllr D Parker identified a number of external areas in need of attention in addition to the windows – including fascias, porch and back windows. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved (unanimously) that Cllrs D Parker, Clipsham, and Bett would contact contractors for quotes / chase those previously contacted.**

Cllr Bett has met with a contractor who is preparing a quote for the windows, and although it is anticipated to be expensive, it will be brought to a future meeting for formal review. Paint left over from previous works on a window is in the storage room and could be used on other windows once next steps have been agreed. Cllr Bett may also get a quote for the windows to be painted.

Cllr Powell proposed the replacement of the fencing between the Hall's car park and the neighbouring property, which could be a gradual process to replace rotten wood. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved that Cllr Powell get quotes.**

14. Calor Gas cylinder security

Cllr D Parker highlighted that the gas bottles should be secured for health and safety, as well as to prevent theft, and will ensure adherence to Fire Safety Regulations. **RESOLUTION – it was resolved that Cllr D Parker purchase chain and locks (unanimously approved).**

15. Old website

Clerk advised that there is a need to form a plan to finally transition away from, and close down, the old website. Further research will be completed to understand how this will impact email and retention of associated filing systems. Updates will be given as available later in the year.

16. Correspondence

- a) School enquiry – to review an enquiry about historical school / resident information – information already circulated (info only)
- b) Newark & Sherwood Alliance for People and Nature – review document about pesticides already circulated) and collate comments – no further action needed.
- c) Urgent Treatment Centre – current position for opening hours (already circulated) – collate comments – no further action needed.
- d) Nottinghamshire County Show – 10th May 2025 (info only).
- e) Local Book and writing Donation Scheme – review new project launched by Cllr Oldham (already circulated). **RESOLUTION – it was unanimously agreed that the scheme will be supported by hosting a donation box, and sharing information on the noticeboard, in newsletters and on Facebook.** After the meeting Cllr Gribby took ownership of leading on tis, and will liaise with Cllr Oldham directly.

17. Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 8th May at 7pm (will comprise the Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Parish Council Meeting and ordinary Parish Council Meeting).

Meeting finished at 20.50

.....Chair

.....Date

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