

BARNWELL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting
Held on Tuesday 20th January 2015 at Barnwell Village Hall

Present Councillors Heather Hanlon (Chair) Geoff Shacklock
 David Brown Phil Holden Chris Soans
 County Councillor Wendy Brackenbury
 PCSO's Arthur Pereira and Tony Greening
 Parish Clerk – Lorna Lovell

15/01/1225 Public Forum – no speakers.

15/01/1226 Apologies for Absence – District Councillor Derek Capp, Councillor Graham Wise, Councillor Nick Bould.

15/01/1227 Declarations of Interest – none.

15/01/1228 Minutes – minutes of the meeting held on the 18th November, 2014 were approved and signed.

It was then decided to go to agenda items 6 and 7.

15/01/1229 Police Crime Figures – PCSOs Arthur Pereira and Tony Greening gave the policing report.

Crime since 1st December – Barnwell Country Park – wire had been cut to the CCTV camera, Barnwell Workshops – there had been an attempted access to a motorhome by levering the rear door.

Please secure all sheds and outbuildings and garages.

Lowest crime increase – since April 2014 to present day the local policing area (East Northants North area) has experienced the lowest percentage increase in crime of 2% compared with all other areas in Northamptonshire.

Arrested – Northants Police had just charged a person living in the East Northants North area, with a Domestic burglary within our area relating to a crime committed last year.

The PCSOs also advised that there would be a Special Constable Recruitment event at the Rose & Crown in Oundle on the 24th of January, and also gave out leaflets on Neighbourhood Watch/Street Watch schemes, for if anyone was interested or would like to become a Co-ordinator. The PCSOs then left the meeting.

15/01/1230 Highways – The Highway Warden, Jonathan Harrington updated the Parish Council on what he had been involved in since becoming the Warden and raised a couple of issues that he would like to pursue,

namely obtaining a weight restriction to curtail the increasing number of lorries on the A605, and a Barnwell roundabout on the A605.

The Chairman advised Mr Harrington that the issues could not be pursued on behalf on the Parish Council until they had been debated and approved at a Parish Council meeting, this way other ongoing or planned issues/projects that may have bearing could be considered also.

If he did wish to contact the Highways he should make it clear that he was acting as private person/resident, not as a representative of the Parish Council.

The Chairman confirmed that the issues would be discussed at a future meeting. Mr Harrington then left the meeting.

15/01/1231 Matters arising:-

Water Voles Information Board – Councillor Soans had updated the wording, including mention of the Environment Agency, logos would also be obtained. The Clerk had been back to Fitzpatrick Woolmer to ask if there could be any movement on cost, they had responded that they didn't think there could be but suggested forwarding what was required for another look. Councillors discussed adding a 'ghosted' photograph of the brook to the sign, although it was acknowledged that this would have to be carried out later in the year.

The Clerk confirmed that she had checked with ENC planning department who confirmed that siting the information board should be allowed under permitted development, when the site, size and height was known it would be advisable to confirm with ENC.

The Clerk had also contacted Councillor Brackenbury to ask whether any Empowerment Fund grant would have to be spent in this financial year, i.e. before the 31st March, Councillor Brackenbury had responded that yes it had to be spent by NCC by the 31st of March, but then the recipient would have a period of up to a year to spend the grant. She added that she was now in a position to offer up to £1,400.

It was resolved to have a site meeting to discuss where the information board would be sited, and also to progress in applying for the Empowerment Fund Grant.

15/01/1232 Planning:-

- (a) New Applications
EN/14/02333/FUL – Glebe View, Church Lane, Barnwell
- (b) Pending
EN/14/01778/TPO – Lime Trees (basal growth) – pending consideration
EN/14/01224/LDE – Barnwell Moorings – pending consideration
- (c) Results
EN/14/02053/TCA – 14 Main Street, Barnwell - may proceed
EN/14/01930/FUL – The Croft, Church Lane – granted with conditions

EN/14/02038/TCA – Willow, Main Street – consent granted
 EN/14/02113/FUL – Keepers Cottage, Barnwell Wold – application permitted

(d) Enforcement Issues – 9 Well Lane – nothing to report.

15/01/1233 Finance:-

- (a) Account Balances (cash book balance) –
 Community A/c - £3,144.04
 Business Saver A/c - £5,606.28
- (b) Incoming Funds –
 Business Saver a/c Interest received 08/12/14 – 70p
 NCC Section 136 Grass Cutting payment received 08/12/14 - £992.14

(c) Outgoing Cheques for Authorisation -

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount £
100301	Lorna Lovell	159.66
100302	ENC	20.33
100303	E.on Energy Solutions Ltd	37.52
100304	E.on Energy Solutions Ltd	99.08
100305	Lorna Lovell	162.37
100306	Heather Hanlon	20.00
100307	E.on	142.29
100308	TG Marriott & Sons	504.00

- (d) 2015/16 Draft Budget/Precept - the Clerk presented budget monitoring information for the current year, and the draft budget for the 2015/16 financial year showing that to balance the budget a precept of £8,377 would be needed. The Clerk explained that the increase is mainly due to maintenance for the village green trees and noticeboard, and potential election costs in May. The Clerk recommended that even though there would be a resulting deficit for the 2015/16 year, that the precept should be increased from £6,000 to £7,500, drawing on reserves for the remaining requirement. The effect on the increased precept to the parish element of Council Tax Band D charge would be £6.40 for the year.

Councillors discussed this and resolved to agree the budget and increase the precept to £7,500 for the 2015/16 financial year. The Clerk to deal with the application for the precept.

- (e) Pay Award - the Clerk reported that a 2 year pay agreement had now been reached of 2.2%, this covers the period April 2014 to March 2016, and includes paying a one-off payment with December salaries and a new annual salary with effect from January 2015.
- (f) Appoint Councillor to verify Bank Reconciliations – paragraph 2.2 of the Financial Regulations approved at the last meeting stated that a member, other than the Chair or a cheque signatory should be appointed to verify all bank reconciliations produced by the RFO.

The Council resolved to appoint Councillor Phil Holden to verify the bank reconciliations.

15/01/1234 Report from Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) - Councillor Hanlon reported that Community Rights had approved the grant requested, and the sum of £970 should now be in the Parish Council's account, this must be spent before the end of the financial year. The Open Day is planned for the 18th April, and the next steering group would be held on the 21st January. Mick Burns had also set up a face book page to inform residents of the development plan's progress. A Neighbourhood Plan forum is to be hosted by East Northants on the 12th February to which Councillors Hanlon and Shacklock, and Dorothy Warner would be attending.

15/01/1235 Footpath/Cycleway to Oundle – Councillor Shacklock reported that plans to link into the Greenway had hit a stumbling block, and ideas would be welcome regarding moving forward.

15/01/1236 Village Trees – a letter had been received from Sheila Gilder from Northamptonshire Highways regarding the responsibility for the maintenance of the village green trees. It stated that greens in local authority ownership (i.e. the Parish Council) are managed by that authority under the Open Spaces Act 1906, or by a scheme of regulation under the Commons Act 1899. Therefore, as the Parish Council is the owner and had the land registered as a Village Green it is responsible for its management and maintenance.

The Clerk advised that on the basis of the Parish Council being responsible for the maintenance, an amount of £1,380 had been allowed for in the 2015/16 budget based on a quote received.

A discussion was also had regarding other village trees and the pending consent to maintain the village trees.

Councillors acknowledged that the Parish Council was responsible for the management and maintenance of the village green trees, and resolved to carry out maintenance work at the appropriate time later in the year. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to obtain further quotes.

Councillors also resolved to organise the annual village working party to trim the trees before the next meeting. However, prior to this the Clerk should obtain an update regarding the planning application.

15/01/1237 Village Grass Cutting – the Clerk had contacted the current grass cutting contractors, Turney Landscaping Ltd, who had confirmed that they would continue cutting for the 2015 season at the same price, i.e. 7 cuts at £140 per cut plus VAT.

The Clerk also confirmed that a letter had been received from Northamptonshire Highways offering £992.14 (the same amount as 2014) towards the Section 136 highways mowing.

Councillors resolved to accept both the Highways department and Turney Landscaping Limited's offer for the 2015 mowing season.

The cutting of the cricket field was also discussed and the Clerk was asked to obtain a quote from Turney Landscaping Ltd for this also.

15/01/1238 Village Noticeboards – a request was made by a resident at a previous meeting for the Parish Council to consider having further village noticeboards, possibly siting them at Castle View, Armston Road, and Chancel Terrace.

The Councillors discussed this, but felt that it would be costly, in terms of the upkeep of the noticeboards and in administrative costs, in addition to Parish Council's being encouraged to disseminate information electronically, therefore it decided not to support the request.

Regarding the current village noticeboard, the Clerk had enquired with ENC whether planning permission was required for moving it to a site on the village green. The advice had been given that if it was to be sited on Parish Council land then permission shouldn't be required, but it might be advisory to let the authority know once the exact site is known, just in case.

The Councillors resolved to have a site visit to decide the best position for the noticeboard and for the Clerk to advise East Northants Council.

15/01/1239 Appointment of Flood/Emergency Warden – as no one had still come forward from the community to take on this role, Councillor Brown offered to become the warden.

It was resolved to appoint Councillor David Brown to the position of Flood/Emergency Warden.

15/01/1240 Cricket Field Lease – nothing to report.

15/01/1241 Footpath to Armston Road – Councillor Hanlon reported that there had been a site visit on the 5th December, were Sarah Barnwell, Councillors Wendy Brackenbury, Heather Hanlon, Geoff Shacklock, and Mrs Sandra Cartledge discussed what needed to be done.

Mrs Cartledge had also written to residents to ask for support for the work, 5 letters had been received and copies forwarded to Sarah Barnwell, County Councillor Wendy Brackenbury, and District Councillor Derek Capp.

Councillor Hanlon reported that Sarah Barnwell hoped to have some preliminary costs in the coming week or so with regard to siding out of the existing section of path. She confirmed that it was likely that it would also require surfacing, although the extent of that wouldn't be properly verified until the siding out has been completed. She added that she was hopeful that they would be able to reinstate the existing section in the coming financial year.

15/01/1242 Community Website – nothing to report.

15/01/1243 A.O.B – the Clerk advised that there was an election briefing at ENC on 5th February, she and Councillors Hanlon and Shacklock were planning to attend.

The Clerk also advised that the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities had recently been published and comes into force with effect from April 2015. Among other things the code requires Council agendas and minutes to be available to the public on a website. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting but highlights the need for a website in the near future.

It was noted that there had been activity at the pumping station in Armston Road, churning up the road, making a mess and smell. The Clerk to investigate with Anglian Water.

Councillor Brackenbury advised that the County Council was holding a seminar on faster broadband.

Meeting closed at 21.25pm.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 17th March 2015, 8pm, at the village hall.