

**BARINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER 2021 AT 6.00 PM
IN THE READING ROOM, LITTLE BARRINGTON**

Present: Cllr J de Haldevang – Chairman
Cllr S Cleal
Cllr A Hope

Officer: Mrs T Marchant - Clerk & RFO

Apologies: Cllr J Bainbridge
Cllr Tony Dale, Cotswold District Council

In Attendance: Mr Richard Wingfield
10 members of the public

24 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

Richard Wingfield had expressed an interest in becoming a parish councillor. In the absence of any other candidates, Richard's co-option was duly approved and a Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was signed by him. The Clerk would send him by email a copy of the Code of Conduct, the Good Councillors Guide, and the Register of Members Interests for completion.

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

26 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 2021

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 May 2021, previously circulated, were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

27 ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public present did not wish to speak at this point.

28 ADJOURNMENT FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Dom Morris, the Gloucestershire County Councillor for Fairford, Lechlade and surrounding villages including Barrington, introduced himself. He started by asking for a moment's silence in memory of Conservative MP Sir David Amess who died this week after being stabbed at his constituency surgery in Essex.

Cllr Morris briefly explained his background and then outlined his current responsibility for highways and roads and the challenges that that brings, including the contentious issue of potholes. He said that he empathised with the problem of speeding and realised it is the second most important issue after the safety of our roads. He felt that it was important that town and parish councils were empowered with a number of options for dealing with the problem of speeding, as every parish is different. Cllr Morris said he was campaigning on the issue of sewage being dumped into rivers, which he feels is a national disgrace, and flooding and rural crime are also on his radar.

Cllr Morris was thanked for his address.

29 BURFORD EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC ORDER (ETRO)

Cllr de Haldevang presented this item and stressed its importance. Burford Town Council has run a twenty to thirty year campaign to try to stop heavy lorries going through their town. They have raised £330,000, they have installed signage, and they have cameras up and running. They have a small operations room on Burford High Street where they operate five cameras and effectively do the work of the police. They have the delegated authority from OCC to issue fines. If hauliers are based within 4.8 miles of the bridge, then they can apply for a permit. The experimental ban is for 7.5 tonnes on the road and the eighteen month trial period expires in January next year. The ban has effectively created a 17-mile barrier for any HGV which needs to cross the Windrush River. The success criteria set by Burford Town Council and agreed by OCC is a 50% reduction in HGVs if they do not increase by that amount elsewhere.

On the basis of all this, WiVTAG was created. There are now fifteen parishes, fifty-one haulier businesses and about twelve farms within the traffic action group. The objectives are firstly to be objective, constructive and helpful, to challenge that OCC should revoke the ETRO, and to use the existing local transport policies to apply a regional solution for a regional problem. The plan is to continue to meet with Council Officers to help them understand what the problem is. A media campaign has been launched and a flyer circulated to every home encouraging everyone to write to their MP about the reality of the situation. These letters must be sent by the end of November, including to the Witney Gazette and the Oxford Mail.

Cllr Morris congratulated the Chairman and the Parish Council for the work that has been put into this initiative.

30 BARRINGTONS TRAFFIC CALMING/MANAGEMENT

The Chairman said that the hard reality is that our village, being the next turning off the A40 after Burford, is just one of the few places you can cross the Windrush. It is also a short quick run from Lechlade to Stow and beyond. It is critical to the farm and local traffic. It is rarely policed because it is on the border of the two counties, and it has therefore become a rat run.

He said that the parish has been involved in speed watching since September 2019, during one week per month. There are currently five teams of volunteers, three in each team. But more volunteers are needed. The average during rush hour is 136 cars, and about 10% of these are speeding. GCC are now actively engaging with the problem, and traffic count cables have been laid across the road. Potential measures to deal with this problem are (a) white entrance gates to the village, (b) 'Smiley faces', and (c) chicanes. However, the latter two would require power and street lighting, so village gates are the only real option.

The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council purchase its own radar gun, so that it is not dependent on that supplied by the police and allows greater flexibility. He said that Highways have come up with a number of solutions, including the entrance gates previously mentioned, also ANPR cameras, but the problem with them is that the data has to be gathered here, which is not really an option. Or reduce the speed limit to 20mph, which is already part of the '20 is Plenty' campaign. He also said that the speed limit between the two Barringtons needs to be reduced to 30mph (*this was later amended to the speed limit of 40 mph in the middle of Great Barrington only*). Another option is the 'Leaffield Plan' which is to park cars on the road to slow traffic, which is perfectly legal and can work well, and could be in the form of a chicane. This would need to be carefully considered and monitored, so as not to impede farm or other essential traffic.

Mr Goeldenbot pointed out that Sat Navs currently direct traffic through the village, which is part of the problem.

Cllr Morris again commended the work the parish council is carrying out in this respect, and also suggested that the Chairman make contact with Bob Passmore of Quenington Community Speedwatch to discuss Auto Speed Watch.

31 WINDRUSH RIVER POLLUTION (WASP)

Cllr de Haldevang circulated evidence of sewage filmed in the local river. He asked that all residents write to their MP to complain about this practice. He also cautioned that residents do not swim in the water, nor allow their dogs to do so.

32 VILLAGE TIDY UP

An additional autumn tidy up is proposed this year because the volume of litter, especially in Little Barrington up to the A40, is getting worse, and one clean up a year is not enough. The proposed date is November 6th and residents are strongly encouraged to turn up.

On a similar note, Cllr Cleal said she had recently met with the CDC Officer in charge of fly-tipping. She had received posters to put up in laybys saying No Fly Tipping, indicating that CTV cameras may be in operation, and a second poster Why Are You Dumping Your Rubbish? The CDC department will have two new members of staff in November, and she will meet with them and discuss what else can be done in the area to prevent fly tipping. She also has posters about dogs which will be put up shortly.

33 DRAINS

Cllr Wingfield raised the problem of blocked drains in Great Barrington. He was advised that the person to contact is Dan Tiffney at GCC, and it is hoped that representatives of the parish council will be able to meet with Mr Tiffney on site.

34 WINTER GRIT

The Chairman confirmed that grit for the forthcoming winter season is on order and due to be delivered next month. Four new grit bins will be installed to replace damaged ones.

35 STRIM STREAM & SOUP

Philippa de Haldevang thanked everyone who had turned out for the Strim Steam and Soup event in quite appalling conditions. The event had been very successful with 18 people turning up on the day. The green was prepared for the wild flower meadow, with the seeds being sown on the following Monday. Several rough areas have been left which will not be cut.

36 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE OAK TREE

The Chairman advised that two oak trees are on order, one for Little Barrington and one for Great Barrington. There still needs to be a decision on exactly where the trees will be planted.

37 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Cllr Cleal said that quite a lot of the Neighbourhood Watch information she receives is not relevant to this particular community. However, anything important she does receive is circulated via the village WhatsApp group.

38 COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Harvest Festival Lunch, 9 October – was very successful with 58 people attending.
- WiVTAG Town Hall Event, 11 October – had been attended by Parish Councillors.
- Autumn Village Tidy-up, 6 November – reported above.
- Advent Drinks – will be held on 4 December. Volunteers are needed please.
- Carols and Christmas Tree Competition, 19 December. Each parish will have a Christmas tree and the vicar will judge which is the best.
- Spring Village Tidy-up, March 2022.

Minkie Puddick mentioned that there would be an informal tea in The Reading Room tomorrow week, 23rd October, organised by Emma Field.

39 PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Decisions

- 21/01504/LBC The Black Dog Cottage, The Green, Little Barrington. Listed Building Consent for external repairs and restoration works, including works to front boundary wall, replacement chimney stacks and repairs to window surrounds. **PERMITTED**
- 21/02057/FUL The Smithy & The Old Forge, The Green, Little Barrington. Linking attached dwellings to form one dwelling. Rear extension, internal and external alterations. **WITHDRAWN**
- 21/02058/LBC The Smithy & The Old Forge, The Green, Little Barrington. Listed Building Consent for linking attached dwellings to form one dwelling. Rear extension, internal and external alterations. **WITHDRAWN**

Planning Applications – Decision Awaited

- 21/02858/FUL Barrington Downs Farm, Barrington. Change of use of agricultural buildings to create 1no. residential dwelling and erection of bat roost at secondary site. **Barrington Parish Council has no objection to this application, other than to hope that the bat shed will blend in with the character of the area whilst remaining suitable for purpose.**
- 21/02859/LBC Barrington Downs Farm, Barrington. Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations to facilitate change of use of agricultural buildings to create residential dwelling. **Barrington Parish Council has no objection to this application.**

The Chairman advised that the owner of The Smithy & The Old Forge had withdrawn his application after the Parish Council had registered its objection, and the new owner did not intend to link the two dwellings.

40 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Financial Report for the period 1 April to 30 September 2021, previously circulated, was noted. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Two invoices had been presented for payment, in respect of publicity materials and envelopes for the WiVTAG campaign. These payments were approved in principle.

The Chairman proposed to purchase a radar gun, as previously mentioned, and this expenditure was approved. The cost was expected to be in the region of £80.

Finally, Cllr Hope said that more litter picking equipment needed to be purchased because the District Council had none available, and this was approved in principle.

41 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Forthcoming meetings will be held in The Reading Room on the following dates:

- Friday 10 December 2021 at 6.00 p.m.
- Friday 18 March 2022 at 6.00 p.m.
- Friday 13 May 2022 at 6.00 p.m.

The meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.

Chairman