

**BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2023 AT 6.00 P.M.
IN THE READING ROOM, LITTLE BARRINGTON**

Present Cllr Jan de Haldevang - Chairman
 Cllr R Wingfield – Vice-Chairman
 Cllr Sue Cleal
 Cllr Ali Hope
 Cllr Alex Pierre-Traves

Clerk: Mrs Tan Marchant

Apologies: Cllr Dom Morris, GCC

In Attendance: Cllr Tony Dale, Cotswold District Council
 6 members of the public

33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

34 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 October 2023 were APPROVED as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

35 ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES

Cllr de Haldevang said he was aware of continued concerns about speeding on the A40. He said this had been an agenda item for more than 20 years and had raised its head again in the last five. He had hoped that Dan Tiffney would be at the meeting for this reason. He said that the Highways authority grade roads with a hashtag and number, basically representing speed and number of incidents, and #49 previously attributed to the A40 had now risen to #29 last year. It had been an item on the Highways' agenda last week.

A member of the public wondered why the speed cameras on the A40 several years ago had been removed and Cllr Dale responded that they were converted to mobile camera vans, which are much more effective than the static ones as people are less aware of them. He said that residents making clear there is a local community issue with speeding would be far more effective than a permanent camera.

Cllr Hope echoed that speeding is the problem and even 60mph on the A40 is too fast, let alone 70mph. As far as putting a roundabout there is concerned, Cllr Dale said there would be pros and cons to this, including light pollution, the cost of major development works, upgrade of roads, etc., all of which would be of concern to Barrington residents. Because of the scale of development at Upper Rissington, creating a much busier through route, putting a large roundabout there would not be until sometime in the future and would be a major undertaking.

A member of the public suggested that putting in 40mph signs would be much cheaper than a roundabout. Cllr Wingfield echoed this, and Cllr de Haldevang said he will again pass on these concerns.

36 ADJOURNMENT FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Dom Morris had given his apologies. He had emailed an update of local affairs, and most applicable to the parish was that Halfpenny Bridge at Lechlade is set to reopen. Cllr Morris also reported an £87.9M pothole fund boost for Gloucestershire.

37 ADJOURNMENT FOR COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Tony Dale reported that the CDC budget consultation has now closed, and the district council is preparing its budget for the next financial year. It will be a difficult task as all authorities are struggling with underfunding. There will be significant steps taken to save money and ensure budget balances. The district council will continue to provide waste collection, planning, etc. and all the non-statutory services, such as leisure centres, car parks, toilets, etc. Car parking fees will be increasing, broadly in line with inflation, and leisure centres are being run more efficiently through a new contractor, Freedom Leisure.

Electric vehicle charging installations have started in Bourton-on-the-Water and will be carried out next week. A resident asked what kind of chargers and Cllr Dale said he would find out and report back.

One of the most significant changes is that each of the four councils that comprised the shared services have voted to end the contract with Publica. This means that over the next couple of years the four councils will take back the services that were shared. Shared services came about as a cost saving measure ten years ago, and that saving has now been achieved. The individual councils now want to provide services that their own residents want.

Cllr Dale said that the green economic growth strategy is due to be reviewed. There is a wish to add extra things, i.e. apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds, focus on AI, and greater focus on changes in technology and farming. The car parking strategy is out for review. The district council currently own fifteen car parks across the district and manage twenty. They will be visiting each of the key settlements across the district and ascertaining what their desires are.

Finally, Cllr Dale said that if anyone feels there is inadequate parking anywhere in the district, and if they can come up with a solution (i.e. gravel bays) then please let them know. Cllr Cleal asked about the ability of the older generation to pay at car parks (without using mobile phone apps), and Cllr Dale said that debit cards continue to be acceptable, but cash is not because of the costs involved.

Cllr Dale was thanked for attending the meeting and for his comprehensive report.

38 ADJOURNMENT FOR DANIEL TIFFNEY, GCC AREA HIGHWAYS MANAGER

Mr Tiffney was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr de Haldevang said that his report last week was that potholing and road edges were budget priorities. There is a further budget for line marking as well. He currently visits the Barringtons every six weeks.

39 PLANNING

Planning No	Date Received	Details
23/02947/TPO	21/09/2023	Green Close Cottage, The Green, Little Barrington. Trim yew tree identified as T1. Remove secondary growth beyond the red lines. These works are required to allow light and access to the lawn area and

		to reduce the encroachment on adjacent structures. Barrington Parish Council had no objection to this application. PERMITTED 15 NOV 2023
23/03022/AGFO	27/09/2023	Land Northeast of Barrington Downs Farm - Agricultural or Forestry Prior notification for a modern steel framed agricultural building. Barrington Parish Council had no objection to this application. PERMITTED 20 OCT 2023
23/03182/TCONR	12/10/2023	Barrington Grove Middle Road Little Barrington Burford Gloucestershire OX18 4TE - T1 Holly - Fell to ground level - It is a self-set tree that is not a good specimen and is inappropriate for its location. T2 Bay - Reduce by 50% - It is too big for its location and needs to be significantly reduced in size. T3 Cherry - Fell to ground level - It is too close to the corner of the building, and it obscures the view of the Cedar beyond it. Barrington Parish Council had no objection to this application. PERMITTED 2 NOV 2023
23/03466/TCONR	03/11/2023	Church of St Mary, Great Barrington. One beech tree east of the Church: much too close to the Church: fell. Three hawthorns too close to the Church and two young wild cherries south of the Church: too close and / or shading the Church, and / or will grow too big: fell. One Irish yew shading and close to the Church: prune hard. Details of trees and reasons for felling in BJUFC tree report. Barrington Parish Council had no objection to this application. DECISION AWAITED

The planning applications were noted, and Cllr Wingfield pointed out that the last one had been granted in the last few days.

40 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

- a. Cllr de Haldevang gave an update on the speed cameras and said that the Great Barrington camera had captured data which resulted in about 40 letters being sent out to offenders. The camera is now considered to be slightly too close to the 30mph sign and will therefore have to be moved. The Little Barrington camera was recently vandalised. It has been repaired, and a pole extension is awaited to put the camera back. In the meantime, the figures will obviously be slightly distorted. It seems that an early morning speed camera is needed because the speeds at that time are quite alarming. Ten letters per week have continued to be sent out to repeat offenders, and for the first time, the letters are going to new offenders. This proves that the cameras are having the desired effect. Unfortunately, cameras being damaged may also be a sign that the initiative is working.

- b. Cllr de Haldevang said that WIVTAG, which effectively stopped the 18ton ban through Burford, has now resulted in OCC starting a serious area weight restriction project. They have agreed that Lechlade and the Windrush Valley are two zones that they are wanting to include in co-operation with Gloucestershire.

41 WINTER PREPARATIONS

Cllr de Haldevang said he would organise the grit bins before the onset of winter weather, including the three that need repairing.

42 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH & FLY-TIPPING

Cllr Cleal said that she now has all the relevant postcodes, but CDC still want more information when fly tipping is reported, such as distances and precise locations. The Chairman suggested using the App *What3Words*. Cllr Cleal continues to send any relevant information on the village WhatsApp group.

43 WELCOME LEAFLET

Cllr Pierre Traves said that he had finished the first draft of the Welcome Leaflet. He wanted it to be quite simple but useful. His intention is that it will go out now and be reviewed in six to twelve months. He is not expecting huge numbers coming into the district so the reproduction costs will be small. Tan has offered to help in its design, so just the content needs to be finalised.

44 RIVER POLLUTION

Cllr Pierre Traves said he had met with the Rivers Trust in the summer. In essence, they are funded by Thames Water but act independently, and their mission is to measure the pollution in the Windrush. They are asking for two things: - volunteers to do checks every couple of weeks, and, in terms of cost, they are asking if the parish can afford £300 per year. The checks would require getting a meter and solvents to perform the tests, and then dip strips, all part funded by TWA. Cllr Pierre Traves is hoping for more detail but said that a decision is not needed straight away.

The Chairman said that we could offer agreement in principle. Cllr Wingfield raised a particular Health and Safety concern: if members of the community take part and then have an adverse reaction, this would need to be raised with the Trust. He said that the Trust need to be informed by TWA when the sewage sluice gates are opened, so that any of our community who would be undertaking the testing could be forewarned.

Cllr Hope asked if the sum of £300 would be a one-off contribution, and Cllr Pierre Traves said he thought it would reduce after a year but would make enquiries.

45 AUDITOR

The Clerk was pleased to confirm that John Yeatman was again prepared to audit the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024.

46 ASSET REGISTER

The updated Assets Register had been circulated. The Chairman pointed out that the additional grit bins would need to be included once installed.

47 EVENTS

- a. Advent Drinks – 17 December 2023 - this year in Great Barrington Village Hall, with carols at 5.00 pm followed by drinks at 6.00 pm.
- b. Spring Tidy Up – Saturday 6 April 2024 – details to follow nearer the time.
- c. D Day Anniversary - 6 June 2024– The beacon lighting will take place in Great Barrington to commemorate the 80 years anniversary as part of the National beacon lighting.
- d. Coffee Mornings – Cllr Pierre Traves brought up the fact that coffee mornings seemed to have faded away. Cllr de Haldevang said they had taken place every other Saturday in the Little Barrington Reading Room, but wondered if two per month were too many. He suggested that they start again in January, and he would circulate details via WhatsApp. Cllr Pierre Traves said he would be happy to manage it on the first or second Saturday, once a month. A resident at the meeting, Sheila Illman, indicated that she would be happy to be a volunteer.

48 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a. Financial Statement 1 October to 30 November 2023 - The Clerk gave a summary of transactions during the last two months. A copy of the Statement is attached to these minutes.
- b. The Clerk reported that two invoices had needed to be approved by email between meetings, which were in respect of annual website hosting and defibrillator annual support in Great Barrington. Cllr Pierre Traves said that he checks the LB defibrillator every couple of weeks, but he's not sure when the annual check is carried out. Cllr Hope said that he would be organising another defibrillator training session next year.
- c. Cllr Hope queried whether the contribution from the Windrush Valley Flower Show had been received, and the Clerk responded that it had not.

49 BUDGET & PRECEPT 2024-25

The Clerk had circulated details of the existing and proposed budget, with details of the precept requested in previous years. It was noted that two years ago, the precept had been increased by £500 in readiness for the purchase of speed cameras, and now that this aim had been achieved, the recommendation was that the precept be reduced by £500 in the next financial year.

After discussion, it was unanimously APPROVED that the precept for the next financial year be reduced by £500 to the sum of £3,200.

50 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

All meetings are held in The Reading Room, Little Barrington, at 6.00 p.m.

Friday 15 March 2024	Parish Annual Meeting
Friday 17 May 2024	Parish Council AGM
Wednesday 16 October 2024	Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 11 December	Parish Council Meeting

The meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman