

BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2023 AT 6.00 P.M.  
IN THE READING ROOM, LITTLE BARRINGTON

Present            Cllr Jan de Haldevang - Chairman  
                      Cllr James Bainbridge - Vice-Chairman  
                      Cllr Ali Hope  
                      Cllr R Wingfield  
                      Cllr S Cleal

Officer:            Mrs Tan Marchant - Clerk & RFO

In Attendance: Cllr Tony Dale – Cotswold District Council  
                      11 members of the public

Apologies:        Cllr Dom Morris – Gloucestershire County Council

53            WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and Members of the Public to the meeting.

54            MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last Meeting held on 16 December 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

55            CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2022/23

The Chairman gave a summary of his Report for the year 2022/23 and a copy is attached to these Minutes.

56            REPORT OF THE BARRINGTON CHARITY

Cllr Bainbridge gave a summary of the Charity Report for the last financial year. A copy of the Report is attached to these Minutes.

57            GUEST SPEAKER – COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Tony Dale was welcomed to the table. He said his term of office will end in May but he fully intends to stand again. He said it had been a privilege to serve our small strong community over the last four years. He said the key issues in the area he serves are speeding, social support, and local services.

Regarding CDC in general, Cllr Dale said that one of the most important achievements of the District Council was the continuing provision of leisure centres in Bourton and Cirencester, when so many others in the country are closing. This success is due to the installation of solar panels and air source heat pumps, both of which contribute to lower heating bills.

Cllr Dale was thanked for his report.

Alex Pierre-Traves reported on plans for the celebration, put together by himself, Helen Lord and Jacky King. The Inn for All Seasons have kindly offered their premises for residents to watch the Coronation live on a big screen during the day on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, with refreshments provided. The evening celebration later that day will comprise a buffet supper and Ceilidh band in the Village Hall, Great Barrington. The event will be entirely sponsored by grants from Richard Wingfield and £2,000 from the National Lottery. The Little Barrington Charity had also offered support, but in view of the large donation from the National Lottery, extra funding was not required. There will also be a raffle and an auction to raise funds for local charities. Contributions would be most welcome.

Jacky King has produced a leaflet which will be circulated to both villages starting next week. Cllr de Haldevang has offered to give free Ceilidh lessons on Friday 31 March and Friday 21 April, both at 6.30 p.m. in The Reading Room, Little Barrington.

The event will be free, with alcohol provided to toast the health of the new King. As there will not be a pay bar, it is suggested that residents bring their own alcohol for the remainder of the evening. The Chairman asked if there are any local DJs able to assist when the band is not playing.

#### 59 ASH DIEBACK

Cllr de Haldevang reported that ash trees are continuing to be lost at a rapid rate. GCC do have a replanting scheme, but it is not known how soon this will happen or how long it will take. A resident voiced concern about the massive impact it is having, not least with the increased noise from the A40. It was asked whether the reduction could be staggered, but in fact diseased trees need to be dealt with as a matter of urgency. Cllr Wingfield cited a case where a tree crashed onto a car because it hadn't been felled quickly enough, and for this reason highway land is dealt with particularly quickly.

#### 60 TRAFFIC CALMING

- a. Community Speedwatch - Cllr de Haldevang said that the Speedwatch initiative continues with twenty or so volunteers. Recent appeals have been sent out to drivers via two village newsletters – the Bourton Browser and the Rissington Breeze.
- b. Speed Cameras - The Parish Council has gained police and GCC approval and is planning to go forward with the purchase of two speed cameras. The estimated total cost will be £2,814, with one at the entrance to Great Barrington and the other in Little Barrington. They will be as unobtrusive as possible, but warning signs will need to be displayed. It is hoped that installation of the first camera will commence at the end of April.

Cllr de Haldevang said this is the last opportunity for anyone to come up with any better ideas, otherwise this is a level of urbanisation that the parish is reluctantly having to take. He also pointed out that this is the largest sum of money ever committed by the Parish Council.

A resident queried the proposed level of reporting, given that more than ten speeders have been recorded per day. Cllr de Haldevang reiterated that the initial reporting will be targeted towards the top 50/55 mph offenders, in line with the Quenington example.

- c. Road safety – Cllr de Haldevang had received an email from Dan Tiffney, the GCC Highways Manager, in response to his about road safety. giving accident statistics about the A40 specifically over the last three years. The accident blackspot list for the A40 Northleach bypass to Barrington 2019-2021 stands at 49, categorised as high amber. In 2019-20 there were three serious accidents in each year, in 2021 there were four, and last year there were five. The reality is, until it is categorised as red, which is over sixty accidents, it will not be classed as a serious situation. He said it can take years for an accident blackspot to be fully addressed.

A resident asked if anything could be done about the poor visibility coming into the village from the direction of Cirencester. Cllr Dale responded that, although this is a GCC issue, he did know that massive investment is slow, and he cited the example of the Air Balloon roundabout on the A417 and the fact that it has taken twenty-three years to address the problem. His best advice is to keep lobbying Dan Tiffney, and also Dom Morris, as GCC Cabinet Member for Highways.

Cllr Wingfield asked if it wouldn't be a lower cost to reduce the speed on the A40 to 50mph and Cllr Dale said that this could be mentioned to Dan on one of his regular six-weekly visits, but it was unlikely to be taken up due to other strategic planning and the cost involved. Dan Tiffney has said he will ensure that all signage is clearly visible.

OCC have launched a solicitation regarding the area 7.5 ban on HGV traffic here and through Burford, which will take eighteen months to two years.

Cllr de Haldevang said that as far as road repairs are concerned, the sign in Little Barrington has been repaired and the problem with the gulley has been reported to Dan.

- d. '20 is Plenty' – Cllr Wingfield said that this scheme is now GCC policy and there are six tests to meet before it can be implemented. The Barringtons meet three of the criteria and the next step would be to make a formal application. He expects to do this before the next parish meeting in May and hopes that it will go through, especially with speed cameras registering the up-to-date statistics in respect to speeding.

## 61 WINDRUSH, WASP & WASTE MANAGEMENT

Cllr Bainbridge said there is little progress to report at the moment. Thames Water continues to allow sewage to go into the Windrush because their infrastructure is not up to the volume of sewage produced by a growing population. Recent heavy rainfall has increased the burden. WASP continues to be active. The Cotswold River Trust has recently been started to collect evidence and more volunteers are needed to use the test kits locally.

## 62 COMMUNITY EVENTS

- a. **Spring Litter Pick** – 25 March 2023. Cllr Hope said volunteers should meet at The Fox Inn at 10.00 a.m., and the event usually lasts about one and a half hours.
- b. **Gifford Circus** – 27 July to 7 August 2023. Cllr de Haldevang said that each household can apply for two free tickets this year.
- c. **Windrush Valley Flower Show** – 22 July 2023. This show is getting bigger and better each year and more volunteers are needed. Please contact Cllr Hope or Minkie Puddick if you are able to help.
- d. **Strim, Stream & Soup** – 23 September 2023. This annual tidy-up takes place in Little Barrington and will include the village road down to Minnow Lane.
- e. **Autumn Litter Pick** – 4 November 2023. Please give your support.

- f. **Advent Drinks** – 10 December 2023 in The Reading Room, Little Barrington.

63 PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

The Clerk gave an overview of the current financial position. The balance of funds on 1 April 2023 will be £2,100. This will increase to £4,875 on or about the 21<sup>st</sup> when the first part of the annual precept is received. This will therefore be more than enough for the purchase of the first speed camera. The Clerk voiced one note of caution, namely that if there were to be a contested election in May, then the parish council will be liable to pay costs of £1,000.

A local resident asked if their Council Tax will reduce after the purchase of speed cameras, as originally specified when the precept was increased by £500 in December 2021. This was confirmed.

64 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Fly tipping/Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Cleal reported that warning signs had had to be removed prior to the removal of ash trees but will be put back in place shortly. Some have been taken, so will be replaced, with two additional signs to fill gaps caused by the removal of undergrowth.
- b. Concerning the increase in dog poo, Alex Pierre-Traves asked if consideration could be given to an additional dog bin in Middle Road. The Clerk pointed out that there would be the purchase cost and an ongoing cost for emptying. Cllr Dale suggested waiting until after the May Elections, when Environmental Health will be doing a review of all the bins across the district and will take note of parish submissions.
- c. May Elections – Cllr de Haldevang said that there is a formal process for any residents to follow if they wished to stand in the May Elections, and he suggested they make contact with the Clerk for full details.

65 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday 17 May 2023 Parish Council AGM, 6.00 p.m.  
Wednesday 18 October 2023 Parish Council Meeting, 6.00 p.m.

All meetings will be held in The Reading Room, Little Barrington.

**PLEASE NOTE that meetings in 2023 will be held on Wednesday evenings.**

The meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

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Chairman

## **Barrington Parish Council Chairman's Report (2022-2023)**

Often the cause for bemused amazement, it is only in reflection of the annual Parish's calendar that we might recognise the level of joint, community activity that this gathering of about 110 dwellings has achieved. This report seeks to draw on the major achievements, in all cases made possible only by the engagement and support of our community.

Among the more significant was our success, as an active founding member of the Windrush Valley Traffic Action Group (**WiVTAG**), in Oxfordshire County Council (OCC's) cancellation and over-ruling of the Burford Experimental Traffic Order (7.5t ETRO). After an extensive campaign, involving 3 formal submissions, 4 County Council Cabinet meetings and the continuous coordination of joint lobbying by 15 local Parish Councils, OCC agreed unanimously to cancel the experiment and is now pursuing an area 7.5t restriction zone. The Barringtons part in this success, including traffic monitoring, photographic reports and personal letters to nominated Councillors, should not be under-estimated. We continue to monitor the activities of Burford Town Council.

Our continued **Community Speedwatch (CSW)** campaign continues, with volunteers gathering vital data that has helped to substantiate our case to Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and Gloucester Constabulary for a more effective solution to traffic management. With rush hour averages reaching 148 vehicles/hr and a record speed of 58mph in our 30mph zone, the Parish Council has taken the reluctant decision, after exhaustive investigation of other options, to install 2 x Automated SpeedWatch cameras funded primarily by the increase in the Parish precept in 2022/23. We are working to achieve this installation, as sympathetically and unobtrusively as possible, in the financial year 2023/24.

Joining **Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP)**, we continue to lobby local councils and our MPs in the national campaign against river pollution. Joining the Oxfordshire Rivers Trust, we hope to train local volunteers in regular testing and data collation. Enacted in 2022, the government is now pursuing Water Boards and Authorities in their enforcement of effective upgrades to sewage treatment plants and practices. We recognise this as the next priority in our continued effort to protect our fragile environment.

As a continued commitment to maintain and manage previous investments, the Parish Council ensures the serviceability of the two **Defibrillators**, now installed and operational in our two telephone boxes. Following the two tragic deployments of the systems in the past year, we encourage all members of the community to attend the First Aid Training sessions, now funded and run bi-annually, in the Great Barrington Village Hall or The Reading Room, Little Barrington.

We are extremely grateful for the community's and The Fox Inn's active support of the now bi-annual **Village Tidy-Up**. The levels of littering and fly-tipping remain a concern, which we are addressing as effectively as a local solution allows in Spring and Autumn. In parallel, it is a great encouragement to record and commend the collective success of HM Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee weekend (July 2022), the annual Little Barrington Strim, Stream & Soup, and indeed the synergy of events with our Church calendar.

The Parish Council's commitment to our community, the environment and your property remains absolute, and we are extremely grateful for the active engagement of many volunteers. May we also express our thanks to Councillors Dom Morris GCC and Tony Dale CDC for their active interest in and support of our efforts. It is only together that we will preserve the unique, fragile, and historic character of these two villages.

**Cllr J H de Haldevang**

