

**BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 19 MARCH 2018
IN THE READING ROOM, LITTLE BARRINGTON
AT 7.00 P.M.**

Present: Cllr Paul Porter - Chairman
Cllr James Bainbridge - Vice Chairman

Cllr Dr Simon Bennett
Cllr Jan de Haldevang
Cllr Ms Lizzie Watson

Officer: Mrs Tan Marchant, Parish Clerk & RFO

Apologies: Cllr Chris Hancock, Cotswold District Council

In attendance: Cllr Ray Theodoulou, Gloucestershire County Council

Members of the Public: Philippa de Haldevang, Sue Cleal, Beth Tarpey, Rosella Mathew,
Gesche Ipsen, Elizabeth Jukes, Penelope Ruthven

1 WELCOME FROM PARISH CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, Cllr Theodoulou and Residents to the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 20 March 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Porter presented the Chairman's Report. A copy of the Report is attached at Annex A. See below.

4 CHARITY REPORT

Cllr Bainbridge gave a report on The Little Barrington Charity. The accounts for 2017 were due to be examined later in the week and could be made available once settled.

After a number of appointments reported at the last Annual Meeting, there had been no changes in the Trustees over the last year. The Trustees remain Philippa de Haldevang (Chairman), Robin Mathew, Nick Fisher, Venetia Crosbie-Dawson and James Bainbridge.

One of the Charity's major projects during the year had been repairs to the Reading Room, which had to be closed for several months for the refurbishment. Subsidence and damp issues were dealt with and new floors installed. A lot of money was spent but it was now a stable building for the future. The Trustees are disappointed that the Room is not used as much as they would like, and more regular use would help with maintaining the fabric of the building. The Trustees encourage local people to use it, especially as it is one of the objects of the Charity is to provide the Room for community and social purposes.

Repair and refurbishment of Charity-owned cottages has begun and is continuing. The Trustees are looking at improving energy efficiency, installing double glazing, etc. to both keep up with current legislation and improve the property portfolio for the future.

The Charity continues to support Sherborne School, and the school has recently expressed gratitude as this funding has enabled them to have an extra class, thereby increasing numbers and helping to secure its future. However, the Charity is ceasing support to Burford School because the Burford Foundation Charity has had a significant windfall which it is assumed will be able to provide increased support to the School.

Cllr Bainbridge added that the Charity has also continued support to a number of local people, and remained open to considering applications from local people in need.

The Clerk asked how support can be applied for, and Cllr Bainbridge responded that a list of Trustees and contact details had been included in the charity report in the parish council minutes a year ago. The Clerk suggested that contact details could be put on the Barrington Parish Council website, but Cllr Bainbridge and Philippa de Haldevang said that it was felt that would not be appropriate, noting that details were available on the Charity Commission website. Beth Tarpey said she had tried to find contact details last year but the website was not up-to-date and she wondered how people knew where to look. James Bainbridge thought this might be as a result of the changes to the Trustees about a year ago not filtering through but the website was now up to date. Philippa de Haldevang confirmed that applications could be made to any of the Trustees but 'donations' were generally led by Nick Fisher (Rector) and he was the main contact for people in need.

Cllr Bainbridge was thanked for his report.

5. GUEST SPEAKER – CLLR RAY THEODOULOU

Cllr Ray Theodoulou introduced himself and said he would first of all give a Cotswold District Council (CDC) report, where he has been a long-time member and chairman of planning. He said that CDC had not increased Council Tax this year. The Budget had been produced and finances were in good order. A Planning application for development south of Cirencester of 2300 houses had been approved by CDC and the Secretary of State. This decision will give more opportunity to fend off speculative development.

He said parking in Cirencester can be difficult. The Town Council is planning to construct another car park which will be financed by CDC. This will provide a large number of extra spaces but traffic jams elsewhere. CDC has put aside £300,000 for the development of electrical car infrastructure (charging points).

Cllr Theodoulou went on to give the Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) report. He said it had been a difficult year. One problem was with child safeguarding issues and poor Ofsted reports. He said that a waste project, producing energy from waste, was being constructed in Javelin Park, on the west side of the county and would be completed in 2019. Protests about the incinerator are ongoing, but it will produce enough electricity for 25,000 homes and will reduce methane production. The GCC budget is made up of costs they are obliged to meet for the elderly and young people, which amounts to 60% of the total budget (£12M). There are currently 600 children in care in the county, with the figure last year being 400. The increase is due to social problems.

Roads are to be assigned £150M over the next four years, which is £50M more than previously. Potholes are a particular problem. An extra £1.2M was received from the Government in March for potholes in Gloucestershire, but it needs to be spent by the end of the financial year. The roads contract was originally with Amey but GCC are now tendering for new contractors which will take up to twelve months.

Cllr Theodoulou finished by saying that each county councillor has been awarded £30,000 over three years to use for community purposes, and the parish council were to let him know if anything needed attention.

A resident asked if money for community projects included churches, and Cllr Theodoulou responded that it did and was for anything to promote community activity.

Philippa said she had been in contact with Harry Roberts at GCC concerning problem areas in the village including subsidence and speeding issues, but she couldn't get any answers. Cllr Theodoulou said to send any emails direct to him rather than by copy.

Cllr Theodoulou was thanked for his presentation.

6 COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Chris Hancock had given his apologies for the meeting but had submitted a report, which is attached at Annex B. See below.

7 VILLAGE CLEAN UP

Cllr de Haldevang reported that the Village Clean-up held on 17 March 2018 had been a big success. A flyer had been circulated to every household and twenty residents had taken part. The Clean-up had covered about twenty miles of village roads and they had amassed 25-30 bags of rubbish including heavy items and lots of cans and bottles. Details of the Clean-up and photos had been sent to Bob McNally at CDC.

8 COMMUNITY EVENTS

- a. Windrush Valley Flower Show - Saturday 22nd July 2018
- b. Strim, Stream and Supper - 29 September 2018
- c. Harvest Supper – 20 October (tbc)
- d. Advent Drinks - 1 December 2018

Cllr de Haldevang appealed for volunteers to help with events.

9. LOCAL ISSUES

Beth Tarpey asked if there was any news about Giffords Circus. Cllr Porter responded that he had tried to have a meeting with Nell, without success. An alternative venue for the Circus would be difficult because the other fields slope too much. Philippa suggested barriers to stop people parking and having picnics against residents' walls and fences. This was felt to be a good idea and Cllr Porter will look into it.

Speed training was discussed, and the Clerk was asked to email residents to seek volunteers.

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

Residents were thanked for their attendance and refreshments were served.

Annex A - Chairman's Report 2018

Hello and a warm welcome to all on this bitterly cold night. Thank you for making the effort; going by the numbers that are here, our new zeal for keeping moving on and maintaining the wonders of our Barrington villages is in lots of good hands by the looks of things.

It could also be because of the free wine and refreshments post meeting, but we hope you all stay because you'll definitely need something warming to get home tonight!

A special welcome to our guest speaker, Gloucestershire County Councillor, Ray Theodoulou, who on our special winter warming theme will tell us all how much more money we have for everything – I'm sure!

Keeping the winter theme, I would like to propose a special thanks to all the sterling efforts from around the village to keep our roads open. This has been the trickiest winter in my 25 years and to be fair, keeping the roads cleared has been achieved with much greater success than 2012 and before.

The major village event of 2017 has been the laying of ultrafast Gigaclear broadband, which has stuttered and started, been done nicely and not so nicely, but still a year later has not been fully completed. I think our secondary option of the BT update on broadband will not only give us choice but will mean we are not slaves to a service that is seemingly questionable.

A big thank you to all those who turned out for the village clean up and Jan will extol the fantastic results shortly.

The most exciting part of the year was when out of dull and empty parish council meetings, the villages were reborn. It is wonderful these last couple of meetings to have faces to look at, campaigns taken up, issues sorted, people wanting and actually being seen to care. It is so important that life be kept in these villages so that we don't morph into enclaves of weekenders and second homes. Ways must be found to bring young people and families back to these villages because not only does that bring life and vibe but also provides the work force that will ensure the essential services to our homes and supply working labour for the ordinary jobs around the community that keep the whole place ticking.

A special thanks to our traffic team who are making huge strides in tackling the biggest local issue of traffic volume and speeding through the village, and I hope and pray we can sit here in a year's time and applaud them and their success with a huge photo on the wall of a 20mph speed limit sign.

Finally a big thank you to Tan, our Parish Clerk, for keeping us all in order, supplying never ending updates and emails and embracing our new-found lively and active community and involving and updating them with as much information as they require.

Also a welcome to Lizzie Watson as our newly appointed Councillor, partner to our second newest member, Simon Bennett, who now provide a super strong team from the Great Barrington end of the parish with the added bonus of you only having one door to knock on!

Thank you for listening.

Paul Porter
Parish Chairman
19 March 2018

Annex B - CDC Annual Report for the Barringtons – 19th March 2018

Council Tax and Organisation

We have been able to avoid an increase this year despite increasing cost pressures and ever reducing funding from central government. This is the sixth successive year in which council tax has either been held or reduced – by 5% in 2012-3, 3% in 2013-14 and 5% in 2014-15.

This success marks us out from other councils – and reflects the success of our partnership with West Oxfordshire, Forest of Dean and Cheltenham, now formalised with the creation of Publica, the local authority owned and controlled company which now delivers services to the partner councils.

Against the background of this significant organisational change, CDC has also been climbing the ranks of District Councils in terms of efficiency measures. Against a basket of 10 indicators, CDC is now ranked number 1 and is also one of the lowest charging District Councils. But the council will be continuing to look for improvements in service delivery going forward and further opportunities for increased efficiency.

Car parking

The council is resolved to deliver significant new parking capacity in Cirencester. This will require investment in the region of £15m as well as space to decant existing parking whilst construction is underway. The site is the existing Waterloo car park on which it is expected a decked car park will be built. An agreement has been reached with Cirencester Rugby club on the edge of town to provide additional capacity in the build period and thereafter.

Defibrillator funding

This is still available. If there are difficulties for small communities in raising their share of the funding, it may be possible to vire some funding from other wards to assist.

Youth Activity funding

This pot - £1400 per annum – was made available to District Councillors via the County Council. This is no longer available. CDC have however committed to make £1000 available to each Ward Councillor to make good most of this loss.

Community Facilities Grants

These continue to be available up to a maximum of £10,000 or 50% of the project cost, whichever is the smaller and the fund was recently refreshed as part of the budget setting for the forthcoming year.

**Cllr Chris Hancock
Cotswold District Council
March 2018**