

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Barrington Parish Council
held on Monday 17 March 2014**

Present: Cllr P Porter
Cllr Mrs P de Haldevang
Cllr J Lazenby
Cllr J Bainbridge.

Officer: Mrs Tan Marchant, Parish Clerk

In attendance: Mr Ray Theodolou, Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Mrs C Topple, Cotswold District Council

Apologies: Cllr P O'Higgins

Members of the Public: 12 members of the public were in attendance

1 WELCOME FROM PARISH CHAIRMAN

Cllr P Porter welcomed Councillors, Residents and Guest Speakers to the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING

The Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 29th May 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said he was pleased to see so many members of the public in attendance. He said that it had been a relatively quiet year. He thanked all those involved in the Annual Village Clean Up and said he hoped this initiative would happen again in April next year.

The Chairman thanked Lynn Costello for reporting on Neighbourhood Watch matters throughout the year and for taking an active part in the Community Speedwatch Campaign. The Chairman also reported that a new Parish Clerk had been appointed in September 2013 and welcomed Tan Marchant to her first Annual Parish Meeting in Barrington.

4 GUEST SPEAKER – RAY THEODOLOU

Ray introduced himself as Deputy Leader of Gloucestershire County Council and Cabinet Member responsible for Finance. He reported that the budget approved by the Council last month was £420M, and much of this is for the care of the elderly (£190M), with other priorities being the Roads budget (£34M) and £2.5M for flood alleviation. Extra finances have been put into the management of potholes and Government have been asked for an extra £13M. The County Council have taken on a new contractor, Amey, for highways management. £500,000 has been earmarked for the first stages of the Air Balloon Link Road and £500,000 for flood alleviation. £20M has been pledged by the NHS to promote healthy living. The County Council Tax has been frozen for the fourth year running, and Cotswold District Council has also reduced Council Tax. The County Council is trying to cut down on staffing and wastage, is improving contracting, and is looking to sell community property.

A number of questions were raised by local residents, including the accountability of road repairs from Mr Robin Mills and the weight limit on the bridge from Cllr Mrs de Haldevang. Mr Mills said that limited resources need to be well managed, and managers should walk the area and check what is going on. It was felt that more attention needs to be paid to the value of tourism, and the state of the roads, especially potholes, could have a negative effect on this.

Local resident Wendy Boyle suggested that litter picking could be carried out by those doing community service, but it was pointed out that Health and Safety rules would not support this.

Ray was thanked for his presentation and for making his contact details available to anyone who might have a problem.

5 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – CLLR MRS CAROLE TOPPLE

Cllr Mrs Carole Topple is responsible for Communities and Health at Cotswold District Council. She reported that this is a year of change with much less money in the budget and officers are now being shared with West Oxfordshire District Council in an effort to make savings.

As far as Business rates are concerned, resources are being pooled across the county. Planning is the biggest change and the Local Plan is being looked at over the next few months. 18 settlements will be considered as land for housing. Neighbourhood plans are proving to be very popular. There will be boundary changes at the next elections.

A number of queries were raised, including the length of the current Local Plan by Cllr Bainbridge (20 years) and the problem of litter on verges by Mr Robin Mills. Mr Mills felt that the District Council should deal with the litter or delegate responsibility to the parish and pay for it.

6 AREAS OF CONCERN TO PARISHIONERS

Lynn Costello said that the telephone box in Barrington is scruffy and untidy, and also the post box could do with another coat of paint. It was suggested that such things could be included in the Village Clean Up in April 2015.

The meeting ended at 8.12 p.m.
Refreshments were served

Chairman