

**BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 4 JANUARY 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

Apologies: Tan Marchant - Parish Clerk

In Attendance: Cllr Chris Hancock Cotswold District Councillor
10 Residents

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bennett declared a personal interest in Item 28 due to the candidate for co-option being his partner.

28 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

Only one application had been received for the vacancy of Parish Councillor. Ms Elizabeth Watson was unanimously co-opted onto the Parish Council with a majority of votes and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Bennett abstained from voting.

29 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last general meeting held on 4 September 2017 were agreed as a true record and, in the absence of the Clerk, will be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.

30 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

(a) WWI Memorial Bench: Cllr de Haldevang reported that, after two years, the bench is now finally ready for installation. The bench will have the inscription 'In Memoriam 1914-1918' and will not be accompanied by a waste bin. The key issue has been where to locate it and, having explored all options, Cllr de Haldevang concluded that the bench should be located close to where the old bench used to be, on the green, roughly opposite Beth's cottage. Beth Tarpey (present) was not happy with the decision, but there appeared to be few alternatives. Cllr de Haldevang offered to speak to Beth separately to resolve any issues. Subsequently, he confirmed that the WW1 bench will be positioned opposite Wychwood House (Harry & Jacky King) on the slightly raised border of Little Barrington Village Green.

(b) Defibrillator: Cllr Hancock confirmed that the grant for a defibrillator is still available. Key issue appears to be in which telephone box the device should be installed. It transpires that the Parish Council own the telephone box in Great Barrington rather than Little Barrington, as previously thought. One resident explained that it is possible to 'adopt' a phone box for £1, and also to seek sponsorship via an initiative between BT and the Community Heartbeat Trust.

31 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 1 November 2017 had been circulated. A number of residents felt that the Minutes were not an accurate record of the meeting and they

were therefore not approved and signed. The Minutes will be updated for presentation at the next meeting.

32 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

(a) Gigaclear. Many of the issues relating to Gigaclear have been resolved, and the company has completed the installation of the main cables. However, there remains concern over the erosion of the left-hand side of the bank on the road from the A40. The recent heavy rainfall has not helped the situation. There is also some confusion as to what Gigaclear is offering; reports suggest that Windrush negotiated a reduced price with Gigaclear, presumably based on a minimum commitment of parishioners, though data is not available to back this up. It was proposed that the Clerk email residents to ask how many have signed up to Gigaclear, how many are thinking about signing up, and how many might consider signing up if the price was lower. Cllr Bainbridge will liaise with Gigaclear on reinstatements.

(b) Speed Limits & Traffic. Rahim Dharamshi, who very kindly offered to set up a sub-committee to look into traffic calming measures, has investigated various options, including direct speed calming measures, e.g. cameras, and traffic furniture, e.g. entrance gates. Neither option is cheap; depending on the model, camera solution costs can vary from £10,000 to as high as up to £100,000. Even though the data collected a few years ago was not sufficient to support installation of traffic-calming measures, there was little doubt from all present that traffic volume through the villages has increased, particularly at rush hour, and also specifically because of the increasing size of the Rissingtons community. It is clear that more data needs to be collected and also that the sub-committee needs to be headed by a member of the parish council. Cllr Bennett volunteered to work with Rahim and to be the lead contact with the necessary bodies required for approval. Cllr Hancock pointed out that sponsorship options exist and suggested that Cllr Ray Theodoulou be approached.

The Parish Council would like to thank Rahim for his initiative and impetus, and his continued support as a key member of the 'Speed Team' sub-committee. It was reported that some of the '20 is Plenty' signs have been damaged or are missing. Cllr Bainbridge said that some may be in storage, and if necessary more could be ordered. If possible, signs should be bigger than they are now. Finally, the noise from the motorcyclists who travel through Little Barrington each morning continues to be a nuisance. Advice is that nobody should approach the individuals concerned, but rather report the issue to the local community police officer, Ashley Weller, based in Stow. Cllr Bennett offered to approach.

(c) Burford Bridge – Weight Restriction. Cllr Bainbridge reported that this issue is still ongoing. The Parish Council has written to the County Council and they have confirmed that there will be an extended period of consultation. Apparently, GCC has reservations, too. One of the '7.5T' weight restriction signs at the top of the hill next to the A40 is still missing, and the one remaining is apparently tilted. Cllr Hancock offered to mention this to Cllr Theodoulou.

(d) Giffords Circus. Cllr Porter has spoken to Richard Wingfield, who recognises the importance of the event, as it raises a lot of money for the church and other local causes. It is difficult to suggest an alternative site. Last year's situation was exacerbated by the heavy rainfall. Beth Tarpey has spoken to neighbours who are directly affected by the event, as their properties back onto the field. Beth recognises the importance and popularity of the event – including for The Fox – but would like the Parish Council to help alleviate some of the issues, maybe through an informal chat with Giffords. Cllr Porter offered to speak to them directly.

(e) Police Reporting: Mrs de Haldevang has spoken to a number of residents. Questions remains as to whether a formal scheme is needed, or, with modern technology, it might be possible to respond and circulate rapidly any untoward and suspicious behaviour. It was

agreed that the Parish Council should encourage residents to join the Rural Watch and Neighbourhood Watch schemes. The Clerk to circulate details.

(f) Footpaths: Minkie volunteered to look into this and to speak to Richard Wingfield. Cllr de Haldevang confirmed that Mr Wingfield had walked some of the paths, and the condition of many has been worsened by recent poor weather. More feedback from Minkie is awaited.

(g) Damage to Little Barrington Village Green. It was agreed that this item be combined with the traffic calming measures and be part of the 'Speed Team' sub-committee. Mrs de Haldevang asked whether the County Council would cover the costs of installing posts to protect Little Barrington Village Green if she gained some sponsorship. Cllr Hancock confirmed that the same funds to which he had alluded earlier could be available for such schemes and proposed that Cllr Theodoulou be approached; Cllr Hancock also added that in the first instance we should not necessarily offer to pay as costs may be covered by GCC. Mrs de Haldevang has drawn out a map of the Village Green, which she will share with Cllr Hancock to pass on to Cllr Theodoulou.

(h) Little Barrington Noticeboard. The key is still missing. It is hoped that the Clerk might be able to get hold of a replacement from the manufacturers.

(i) Waste & Dog Bins. Beth Tarpey spoke to the man who empties the bins who said that they should be emptied at most once a fortnight, which seems too infrequent. However, the system has changed, and now it is the aforementioned man's responsibility to empty the bins. We will keep an eye on developments.

(j) BT Broadband: Cllr Bainbridge reported that BT are targeting September 2018 for completion.

33 ADJOURNMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES

Discussions were held earlier in the meeting, and no further issues were raised.

34 ADJOURNMENT FOR COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

No further matters were raised by Cllr Hancock.

35 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

In view of the discussion about police matters above, and the lack of volunteers, it was resolved that for the time being a NHW coordinator would not be appointed.

36 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Report to 30 November 2017 was noted.

37 BUDGET & PRECEPT 2018/2019

In the absence of the Clerk, it was APPROVED by email that the budget be accepted and that the Precept should remain at £2,000.

38 ANNUAL REVIEW OF RISK ASSESSMENT

The Risk Assessment was APPROVED.

39 REVIEW OF ASSETS REGISTER

The Assets Register was APPROVED, with the amendment that the telephone box owned by the Parish Council is in Great Barrington and not Little Barrington.

40 PARISH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS 2018

Cllr de Haldevang highlighted the increased sense of community spirit and thanked all for the clear change in atmosphere. About 35 attended the annual Harvest Festival, which was very successful. There must have been about 50 at the annual Advent Drinks. He gave thanks to the organisers, some of whom were present. Thanks also to Beth in particular for organising the Christmas Trees, which not only looked wonderful, but also helped calm down the traffic; a good thing to repeat next year. Thank you to Lizzie Watson for organising the Great Barrington Carol Concert, which was outstanding. Dates for diary include:

- Village Clean Up – Saturday 17th March, 10am at The Fox for bacon & sausage sandwiches and coffee/tea
- Flower Show – Saturday 21st July (date tbc)
- Little Barrington Strim, Stream & Supper – late September / early October
- Harvest Supper – early October
- Great Barrington Memorial Service (followed by Inauguration of WW1 Bench) – Sunday 11th November
- Advent Drinks – first Saturday of December
- Great Barrington Carol Concert – Friday 21st December
- Various Carol Concerts – details to follow

In addition, Mrs de Haldevang announced that this year there will be a national ‘Ribbon of Roses’ initiative to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1 and wondered if the Barringtons should participate, for example by spreading poppy seeds on Little Barrington Village Green. The fields around Great Barrington exhibit a wonderful display of poppies, but we might want to consider being more pro-active. To be explored further.

Beth Tarpey and Jacky King are participating in a Uganda fundraising project this year and will be organising some fundraising events in April and July (details to follow).

41 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Cllr Ms Watson said that the ‘Oncoming Cars in Middle of Road’ sign on the hill coming down from Great Barrington is still damaged (part of the sign was recovered from the verge in last year’s clean up). Cllr Hancock suggested that we should report that the sign is damaged/obscured to the County Council. Elizabeth Jukes reported damage to some of the soft salt buckets. There are plans to replace these, but costs are prohibitive.

42 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 19 March 2018 in the Little Barrington Reading Room at 7.00 p.m. All residents are invited to attend. Suggested guest speakers included a representative of Gigaclear and an officer from GCC Highways or CDC Planning.

Chairman