

**BARINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2019
IN THE READING ROOM, LITTLE BARRINGTON**

Present: Cllr P Porter – Chairman
Cllr J Bainbridge - Vice Chairman
Cllr Dr S Bennett
Cllr J de Haldevang

Officer: Mrs T Marchant - Clerk & RFO

In attendance: Cllr R Theodoulou Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr C Hancock Cotswold District Council

15 Members of the Public

43 WELCOME FROM THE PARISH CHAIRMAN

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

44 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2018

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 March 2018, previously circulated, were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

45 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018/19

The Chairman gave his Report for the year 2018/2019 and a copy is attached to these Minutes.

46 REPORT OF THE BARRINGTON CHARITY

Cllr Bainbridge gave a brief history of the Barrington Charity for the benefit of new residents. The Charity was founded in the 18th Century and endowed with seven cottages on Minnow Lane and later during the 'Enclosures' with seventy-five acres of farmland on which a small farmhouse was built. The Charity took on the Reading Room in the 1950s. The objects of the Charity are essentially to keep the Reading Room available for the community and community activities, although these have dwindled over time to just an exercise class once a week, occasional bridge, and advent drinks once a year. The second purpose of the Charity is the upkeep and support of the Church in Little Barrington, together with looking after the poor and the needy of the parish.

The Charity has carried out repairs to the Reading Room to correct the damp. It has also refurbished some of the Minnow Lane cottages, particularly when tenants leave.

It continues to look after the fabric of the church and support running costs such as electricity etc. A Quinquennial inspection of the Church this year has identified some repair and improvements needed in the next few years, and the charity has set aside funds to deal with these.

The Charity has continued to support Sherborne School and have agreed to set aside funding to assist with the development of new classrooms that will allow the school to continue to expand and to reinstate the school hall for recreation and group activities.

The Charity has also given grants to a number of local residents 'in need', and the Trustees would welcome applications for financial assistance from the local community, as individuals or groups, which will be judged in line with the Charity's objectives.

Cllr Bainbridge said that the accounts of the Charity for 2018 have been examined and show the Charity remaining in good financial health with reserves held in line with its policy of around annual income. The accounts should be available on the Charity Commission website reasonably soon.

The Trustees remain Philippa De Haldevang (Chair), Robin Mathew, Nick Fisher, Venetia Crosby-Dawson and James Bainbridge.

Questions were raised about the current use of the Reading Room and how activities could be increased. The Clerk said she would find out about current bookings and circulate them on the website and Facebook page.

47 ADJOURNMENT FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Theodoulou said it had been a good year for local authorities in general. GCC finances were in very good shape and they had improved efficiencies. 60% of costs had been met by residents' council tax payments. The total budget was £420M. Adult care is funded by the government. Council tax had been increased by 2% specifically for adult care. The overall increase in council tax was 4.99% which included the 2% adult care levy.

60% of the budget is for child and adult care, with 40% for everything else. There are now ten parishioners over the age of 100 which gives an indication of how long people are living and how much the costs of adult care need to increase. Children's services are under great pressure: the number of children in care in the district at the current time is 700. Two years ago it was 450. A child in care may cost up to £250,000 a year.

Cllr Theodoulou said that £150M was available for improvements to roads. Cllr Bainbridge said he had met with County Highways and the problem in Minnow Lane had been sorted. He said it has now been agreed that timber posts would be erected around the village green. The slow sign between The Fox and the village has been repainted. The 7.5 ton signage for the bridge has been reinstated. It was suggested that if there are problems with large lorries going over the bridge, then contacting the lorry companies can work.

Cllr Bainbridge asked why, after over a year of trying, was the cable on Minnow Lane still not sorted out. Cllr Theodoulou said he had looked into this and was sorry to report that his enquiries had been inconclusive.

Cllr Theodoulou was thanked for his report.

48 ADJOURNMENT FOR COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Hancock reported that Council Tax had increased by 2% this year and the District Council would still need to dip into its reserves. However, joint working between four councils had helped and had saved millions of pounds. Services were now delivered by a company called Publica and CDC was in the top three of the Best Service category. From November, two weekly green waste collections would be in place. CDC have frozen car parking charges across the district for several years.

Additional parking is needed in Cirencester and a multi storey car park is being investigated.

The Neighbourhood Plan in Northleach has been passed and will result in car parking at last.

Cllr Hancock was thanked for his report, and for the support he had given to the Parish Council over a number of years, given that this would be his final meeting with Little Barrington prior to his retirement.

49 BROADBAND UPDATE

Cllr Bainbridge reported that Gigaclear had reached through the village. All properties had the ability to connect and he hoped that it was now of benefit to everyone.

With regard to BT Broadband he said that the cabinet in Little Barrington is now operational and available for connections. For Great Barrington the cabinet has been positioned near The Fox which has unfortunately resulted in reduced line speeds than those anticipated because of the greater distance to properties.

50 VILLAGE CLEAN-UP

Cllr de Haldevang reported that the Village Clean Up took place on Saturday 9th March. He was pleased to report that twenty-eight adults and children took part and cleared about 25 square metres, resulting in 25 bags of rubbish. He expressed sincere thanks to all those who took part and to The Fox in Great Barrington for providing bacon butties at the start of the clean-up. The result of the clean-up and photographs had been sent to Cotswold District Council, and also posted on the Parish Council's website and Facebook pages.

51 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cllr de Haldevang confirmed that the following events were planned for the forthcoming year:

- a) Windrush Valley Flower Show – Saturday 20th July 2019
- b) Strim, Stream & Soup in Little Barrington (to spruce up the village green) – 5 or 12 October 2019.
- c) Advent Drinks in the Reading Room – Saturday 30 November 2019.

Two residents very kindly volunteered to help with the Advent Drinks this year.

52 DEFIBRILLATOR

The Parish Council were pleased to report that a defibrillator had been installed in the Little Barrington Phone Box.

Training in the use of the defibrillator was queried, and Cllr Bainbridge said this would be the next thing to be organised now that the defibrillator was in place.

The meeting ended at 8.05 and refreshments were served.

Chairman

**BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2019**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome and thank you for joining us for the Annual Parish Meeting of the Barringtons.

A special warm welcome to our guest speakers – Councillor Ray Theodoulou, our Gloucestershire County Council representative, and Councillor Chris Hancock, our Cotswold District Council representative, who will both take questions in a while and give us an overall picture of county finances and planning.

I would also like to say a special thank you to my fellow Parish Councillors: currently Jan, James and Simon, for their sterling work throughout the year in dealing with parish issues and projects with such great effort and enthusiasm. Also my thanks go to former Parish Councillor, Lizzie Watson, who sadly had to step down at the end of last year.

2018-19 has been a good year for the parish with the completion of the Gigaclear Broadband project in the village and, although not totally there yet, also the updating of the BT broadband system. This has changed the lives of many parishioners in their homes and is a great boost in attracting new residents to the village.

The other great success of our parish during the year was winning the Cotswold District Council prize for the best village clean-up. This is an accolade to wear with pride and I can only thank all in the parish who helped us achieve this sterling result, which as you can imagine in our Cotswold area, is no mean feat.

The resultant financial reward contributed to the foundation of our other great parish success of the year, which was the siting of our commemorative World War 1 bench. It was officially opened on Armistice Day, and I am told it has been greeted and used with great success as a restful and relaxing place for people sightseeing and walking through the village. The rest of the prize money contributed to the defibrillator in the Little Barrington phone box which is now serving our parish.

A special thanks to all in our road traffic team, and although success has not yet been achievable, their sterling hard work building the evidence for the case means I am sure that this is very much what we want – the tortoise winning the race and the hare having his speed strictly restricted!

The village flower show, Gifford's Circus, the Advent drinks party and other village get-togethers show the Barringtons are still alive and kicking. I hope we can do much more to keep the soul in our villages and the community active in the years to come – it is so important we don't let these villages die.

Finally, another big thank you to Tan, our Parish Clerk, for continuing to keep all of us parish councillors on our toes, up-to-date with everything, and for putting in the hard work to keep us informed.

Thank you for listening.

Paul Porter
Chairman