

BARTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 at 6.30pm at the Village Hall

MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

Present: Chair Frank Walsh, VC Jones, Cllr Lee, Cllr Cross, Cllr Burns, Cllr Dobinson. Cllr Wool

Charlotte Liversedge-Gell Parish Clerk, Allotment Committee & three residents

Residents were invited to the Annual Parish Meeting to hear updates on what has been happening in the Parish over the past 12 months and to ask questions.

1. Chairman's welcome and Apologies for Absence: Cllr Dobinson & Village Hall Committee

2. Annual report from the Parish Council Chair Frank Walsh:

Firstly my thanks go to Charlotte our brilliant Parish clerk who ensures our business is conducted efficiently, legally and with a minimum of fuss, also to my fellow councillors who give freely of their time to ensure through thoughtful interventions that we take a balanced approach to all the issues which come before us.

Thanks to the Village Hall Committee who ensure through their hard work that the community clubs, organisations and groups are able to enjoy such excellent facilities.

To the Mardi Club organisers and helpers thank you for facilitating a warm and welcoming social event for our elderly and not so elderly residents, you provide so much more than tea and coffee, I would like to take this opportunity to remind the wider community that a warm welcome awaits anyone who want to simply drop in any Tuesday morning.

To Pat Jones for administering the village e mail service and Simon Lee for the Barton Facebook group, communication is key to ensuring our community is informed and advised whilst helping build an ever-stronger community spirit.

To Megan who is doing sterling work in keeping the Half Moon door open, providing a variety of events and social opportunities raising not insignificant funds for local charities, please support your local if you are able.

Lastly apologies if I miss anyone by name but sincere thanks to the many people who continue to do good works quietly, not seeking any thanks or acknowledgement.

Sadly 2025 and 2026 passed by with our ford bridge deteriorating by the day but the good news is the county bridge engineers have applied for planning permission to carry out works in 2027, we are assured the work is scheduled and funded so we can be cautiously optimistic that we will see, at long last the restoration of the bridge.

The Unitary Authority is giving cause for concern with people feeling rural areas are being disadvantaged, loss of school transport, poorly maintained roads, streets and footpaths just some examples, authority officers recently declined our application to carry out maintenance work on our treescape a process that has ensured the good health and safety of our trees over many years. An appeal takes at least 26 weeks to be heard. We are now advised that dog bins

will not be repaired, they have to be replaced with standard street waste bins at over £400 a time, the parish council will be developing an affordable plan to progressively replace the village bins. For those who may have missed the news you now have to register if you wish to use our local tip/recycling centre at Catterick Bridge.

On the financial front our focus remains on maintaining only sufficient funds to do necessary works, maintaining bus shelters, grass cutting, statutory inspections, and general maintenance.

Sadly, we have no news on the two farm developments although the long awaited installation of the power supply to St Joseph's Place is imminent which will allow the build of the detached property and hopefully completion of the project, well overdue.

Thank you to all residents who took time to comment on the recent planning application relating to the Half Moon it is vital that public opinion is properly expressed on important matters in our community.

Lastly please remember all Parish Council meetings are open to the public, 7.00 p.m. last Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall, your thoughts, views, comments and complaints can be freely expressed. Frank Walsh, Chair Barton Parish Council

Cllr Wool went onto thank Chair Walsh for all of his hard work and commitment to the Parish Council and Barton as a whole over the last year.

3. Annual report from the Allotment Committee:

The Allotment Committee (AC) reported that last summer was very dry which resulted in the water pumps visiting the allotments four times – despite the dry conditions the Allotments had a successful year. An Open Day was held in August and was well received with lots of visitors having a walk around the allotments and having a chat with allotment holders.

October saw a rent increase for the land that the allotments are on, along with an increase for the National Allotment Society and insurance. Reflecting this increase, plot rent increased by £5 per annum.

North Yorkshire Police were called to the allotments following some anti-social behaviours with broken windows in sheds – this seems to have stopped now.

Unfortunately, there are still instances of dog mess being left on the allotment walkways – most people do pick up after they're dogs but for those that don't, PLEASE pick up after your dog.

All of the plots are rented out at present with 3 people on the waiting list. Thanks were expressed to the PC for cutting the grass thoroughfare as this save's allotment holders a lot of time.

4. Annual report from the Village Hall Committee

The last year has been another successful year for Barton Village Institute. The hall continues to be used by a variety of well-established clubs and organisations. Two new

groups have started and are already proving very popular. The hall is regularly hired for private functions.

Careful financial management shows income currently exceeds expenditure leaving the Institute in a strong financial position. However, examination of the 2024-2025 Accounts has

indicated that an increase in fees is recommended, as suggested last year and the Management Committee request the Parish Council's agreement to the following: -

9% increase for regular hirers from £11-12

13% increase for non-regular hirers from £15-17.

A regular hirer rate is applied to anyone who hirers the hall for more than 6 weeks per annum. As this amount is predictable and they provide the majority of the Institute's annual income a discount is offered.

Non-regular hirers are occasional hirers, frequently hosting events like family celebrations. These hirers tend to hire the hall for a longer period and also use the kitchen, hence, the higher rate.

The increase would only apply to the Main Hall as we believe the function room and committee room's fees are appropriate for the size of space and the frequency of use.

Reserves from grants received, have enabled the BVI to continue to invest in building repairs, improvements and new equipment.

Maintenance costs were higher than anticipated this year due to the drain blockage which affected the surrounding area. Extensive work was carried out, and steps have been taken avoid a repetition of this problem.

During the year the following has been carried out:-

1. The 50% balance for the new chairs has been paid
2. The roof of the scout's storage room has been repaired
3. A base was laid for a shed for playgroup storage
4. Broken window in function room was replaced
5. The drains were surveyed and cleared to resolve problems with blockages for Hall and surrounding area
6. Path in front of gates repaired
7. Floor in main wall sanded and refinished
8. New vinyl flooring laid in function room

Utility costs have continued to increase (£742 in current year). Over the last 2 years there has been a 22% and 44% increase on the previous year's costs. However, a favourable 3-year energy contract will provide a considerable saving, however, this will not take effect until March 2027.

The Management Committee are continually working to ensure that the Institute is fit for purpose for many years to come, as well as being a safe and welcoming space the residents of Barton.

5. Questions from residents - none

Meeting Closed 19:40