

BARTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

29th May 2024 7.00pm AT BARTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chair Frank Walsh, Vice-Chair Jones, Cllr Lee, Cllr Cross, Cllr Dobinson,

Village Hall Committee: Val Ramshaw, Deborah Hutchinson

Allotment Committee: Gill Smalley

Charlotte Liversedge-Gell Parish Clerk

1 Apologies	Cllr Burns, Cllr Thompson
2 Declaration of Interest	None declared
3 Election of a Chair	Chair to be elected for 2025/26 Cllr Jones nominated Cllr Walsh, seconded by Cllr Lee
4 Election of a Vice Chair	Vice Chair to be elected 2025/26 Cllr Walsh nominated Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Cross
5 Chairman's Annual Report 2024/25	<p>Chairman report for 2024/25</p> <p>I wish you all a warm welcome to the 2025 AGM. For personal reasons I am very glad to be here to join you and present my report. Recent events have given me time and cause to think about this community in which we live. Events such as the MacMillan Coffee Morning, a simple cup of coffee, a tasty piece of homemade cake in the company of friends raised over £700.</p> <p>The Military Day and recent VE day celebrations both wonderful events raised considerable funds for charity whilst providing hours of enjoyment. Our Village Hall so well managed provides a super safe space the envy of many for both young and old alike. The scout group, and the extraordinarily successful mardi club just two examples of beneficiaries. Our Leek Club, the Annual Duck Race, the sports field team, the Half Moon Team and our wonderful shop make contributions to community wellbeing you cannot put a value on. All of the foregoing help define this community of which we are part, we are blessed to be part of it.</p> <p>I thank everybody for their commitment to the wellbeing of the community that is Barton Parish.</p> <p>And now to more formal Council business, my thanks to my fellow councillors whose time and energy given to this small management team is underestimated by many, we are charged with relatively small but necessary civic endeavours designed to protect and preserve our community environment. We are expected and have statutory obligations to achieve our targets within the precept and have done this over several years, no easy task.</p>

We do not need or seek to accumulate funds beyond our needs although we do maintain a small contingency fund and have always to be prepared to fund the unplanned events which nature or accident throw our way. Several of our statutory obligations have to be given over to specialists or experts, Arboreal inspections and play equipment engineering inspections to name but two which impact our limited funds. They also impact and influence such things as insurance premiums.

In the past year we have been able to celebrate the start of the development of the derelict transport depot to be known as St Joseph's Place, no doubt on completion will enhance the aesthetic of the village green curtilage. Although not universally welcomed the potential development of the Ashes Farm will rid the village in general and importantly its neighbours of a significant noise and smell nuisance far in excess of normal country smells and noise one tolerates living in a rural environment.

I am sure our community will welcome the families who eventually come to live in these properties and hope in turn they will join in and contribute as so many of you already do.

I am sure we all share the disappointment that the sale of the Half Moon to a group of local businessmen has fallen through, our last remaining pub therefore remains at risk. It demonstrates I think the disregard that large companies have for communities from which they wish to profit. That said my thanks go to Messrs Skelton, Southhall and Calvert for trying their best to secure the Pubs future and to those who continue to keep it open for business please give them every support you can.

Inevitably I come to our beloved Ford Bridge, many years of persistent letters, phone calls, meetings and relationship building finally brought us to an agreement with the County authorities for a full refurbishment with funding in a place and a start date agreed an individual requested Historic England to list the structure. The individual did so without communicating with the Parish Council or engaging with us in any way. Consequently, the project has missed its start date our funding is endangered and I am left with nothing but deep concern. I can only hope that our hard work has not been in vain and that in the future we will achieve our dream. I cannot and will not forgive that individual acting in isolation with total disregard for the works of the Parish Council and the wellbeing of this community.

In closing my thanks go to the many people who do care about our community, all volunteers all unpaid and rarely receiving thanks or recognition. Too many to name but they wouldn't want to be named anyway, it's what makes them special people. We are all indebted you know who you are.

Two people I will name and sincerely thank, firstly Pat Jones, communication is key to any successful venture Pat through the

	<p>Village e mail network ensures every event from BBQ to Bingo Coffee Morning to Car Boot Sale is publicised and consequently enjoyed by many and inevitably successful. Secondly our Clerk Charlotte for her pleasant manner and business efficiency she keeps us focused and on track added to which this year her hard work and administrative skill has culminated in us receiving a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund which will see us funded to install a sports wall and all weather surface in the playpark addressing a long standing issue with the old goal mouth area.</p> <p>Charlotte on behalf of us all Thank You.</p>
<p>6 Village Institute Report 2024/25</p>	<p>Village Institute Report 2024/25</p> <p>I am pleased to report that Barton Village Institute continues to be well used. Pilates, Kurling, Scouts, Mardi Club, Line Dancing and Playgroup provide weekly activities for residents of Barton and its surrounding area. Craft Club operates during the school holidays providing much needed activities for children. The PC, PCC and RSPCA also use the hall on a regular basis. These activities provide sufficient income to support our expenditure although there has been some adjustment due to the change in some activities. The Institute continues to be in demand for a wide range of private rentals for family related functions as well as events such as Fashion Shows, Lunches, Quizzes and Workshops.</p> <p>Our primary goal is to ensure residents have access to affordable activities at Barton Institute in a safe and welcoming space. On this basis, and after very careful consideration the Management Committee have decided to defer an increase in hire fees, however, we have given notice that fees will increase next year. This year's Treasurer's Report indicated our utilities expenditure increased substantially towards the end of the accounting year and will be greater in the coming year. We are able to maintain fees at the current rate thanks largely to the volunteers who carry out essential tasks which we would otherwise have to contract out.</p> <p>We have completed our objectives by carrying out a programme of work to maintain and improve standards at the Institute mentioned at last year's AGM and funded from the grants received during COVID. This includes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation a new path to connect the disabled ramp to main path • The maintenance, repair and repainting the fire escape • The replacement of the perimeter fence to improve security and safety to users of the hall. We have also gated a section at the back of the hall grounds to provide a secure and safe area for the increased number of younger children attending activities at the hall.

	<p>BARTON VILLAGE INSTITUTE : registered charity No 523321 Barton Parish Council AGM 29/05/2025 We acted on feedback at the previous AGM and replaced the fabrics chairs with new lighter-weight vinyl chairs,</p> <p>Ours aims for 2025 are to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair the pitched roof over the Scout storage area. This work has now been completed. • Lay base for playgroup shed; the shed to be provided by playgroup. This has also been completed. • Replace the carpet in function room with vinyl – quotations are in and will be discussed at the next committee meeting. • Repair tarmac footpath by gate – under review • Reseal wooden floor • Redecorate “utility Room” <p>As the hall is in a good state of repair any other spending will be on essential repairs and maintenance</p> <p>An annual review of our policies has been undertaken:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Safeguarding Policy has been introduced. • The Reserve Policy has been adjusted. • All other policies remain the same. <p>All our policies are displayed on the noticeboard downstairs near the kitchen.</p> <p>The Management Committee are continually working to ensure that the Institute is fit for purpose for many years to come. Committee members are required to be up to date with current Charity Commission regulations and guidelines and attend training whenever possible.</p> <p>The annual accounts have been filed with the Charity Commission together with details of the Village Institute Committee nominated Trustees. Val Ramshaw Chair Barton Village Institute Management Committee.</p>
<p>7 Allotment Committee Report 2024/25</p>	<p>Allotment Committee Report 2024/25 The growing season has been successful despite a cold, wet Spring. A good harvest was yielded with donations made to the Methodist Church.</p> <p>It is a shame to report that some dog walkers are not picking up after they’re dogs. Can all dog walkers please be mindful and pick up any mess their dog leaves when walking through the allotments.</p> <p>Chair Walsh asked if it could be an idea to ask NYC to assess the feasibility of having another dog waste bin.</p>

	<p>The question would be where to position the bin to encourage people to use it and to not impact residents. Clerk to contact NYC to establish if a meeting might be possible with NYC, Chair Walsh and the Allotment Committee.</p> <p>A couple of plots were made available due to people moving away, the have now been taken on by others and there are no plots available at the moment.</p> <p>The plots are looking very good at the moment. The upkeep of the area is undertaken by volunteers who also often contribute their own money as well as time towards the maintenance of the allotments.</p> <p>Thanks were passed onto Barton PC for arranging for the main thoroughfare grass being cut.</p>
<p>8 Summary of Income & Expenditure 2024/25</p>	<p>Clerk provide Income and Expenditure Summary for 2024/25 Income: £13828 Precept. £1000 Allotment Rent TOTAL: £14828 Expenditure: £15561.45 Accounts currently being audited to submit to external auditors and the Annual Governance Return</p>