

BARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

26th September 2024 7.00pm AT BARTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chair Walsh, Vice Chair Jones, Cllr Burns, Cllr Lee, Cllr Cross, Cllr Dobinson

Ian Proudler - River Tees Trust Catchment Manager Tees (Clow & Leven)

Charlotte Liversedge-Gell Parish Clerk

40 Apologies - with approval for apologies	Cllr Wool, Cllr Thompson
41 Declaration of Interest – to receive & consider then decide upon any applications for dispensation	None declared
42 Minutes	Minutes of the meeting held 25th July 2024 approved and signed by the Chair
43 Matters Arising	None
44 River Tees Trust	<p>Ian Proudler from the River Tees Trust attended the meeting to discuss Barton Beck. The Tees River Trust initiative of Thriving Catchments started in February this year through Northumbria Water (NW). NW have identified that a lot more needs to be done to lower the levels of phosphates in Clow Beck and the Leven. Phosphates can be naturally occurring; it develops within the sewerage works/outfall pipes and also runs into water courses from land that is being used for agriculture. The Environment Agency (EA) previously gave out permits to allow a certain level of phosphate in water courses. The only way to reduce phosphates from sewerage pipes is to strip it away – which is a very different process. If all phosphate levels were stripped from the pipes there would still be a huge amount produced from farmers and land owners. Mr Proudler explained that there is a lot of sampling being carried out.</p> <p>NW have suggested a potential of being able to offset some of the funding that would be put towards permitting sewage treatment plants into working towards reducing other sources of phosphate sediment. NW is looking to adopt nature based solutions rather than permit based interventions. As the majority of phosphates actually come from agricultural land and septic tanks with failing connections.</p> <p>This would include taking a closer look at the rivers health in a wider sense as well as the Community alongside the river – in this instance Barton Beck.</p> <p>Mr Proudler can work with the Village to as the Community what they think the Beck needs, what the Beck means to them as well as educating children around river awareness.</p>

	<p>'Electra fishing' can be setup where fish are stunned in a section of the Beck to reveal what species are in there and the Beck can really put under the spotlight for research as well as improvement.</p> <p>Cllr Cross asked if this was regulated, Mr Proudler confirmed that it is. Clow Beck (which is part of Barton Beck) is failing in water quality.</p> <p>Cllr Lee asked if the funding covered Bridges – with the bridge at the bottom of Marygate being in a state of disrepair. Mr Proudler said he could find this out with NW.</p> <p>Chair Walsh discussed the triangle of Village Green where the Beck runs alongside two sides of it and whether this would have scope for some works/initiatives. Cllr Dobinson has plans that were previously drawn up for creating a wildlife pond. Chair Walsh asked Mr Proudler if a wildlife pond could be created with the Beck running through it. The Parish Council own this triangle of Village Green and pay for its upkeep. Clerk to obtain previous plans for the pond and forward onto Mr Proudler to look into it in more detail.</p> <p>Mr Proudler explained that invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed can be monitored and that there could be some scope for tree planting along the Beck. Chair Walsh highlighted the Parish Council don't have jurisdiction to plant trees along the Beck as it backs onto farm land in many places.</p> <p>Cllr Cross asked with reference to the Five Year Budget – how much has been ear marked for phosphate mitigation. Mr Proudler explained that testing is being carried out to determine how much funding is going to be required. This is expected to be announced in 2025.</p> <p>Cllr Lee asked if pressure was being put on farmers to use different types of fertilisers – this was confirmed as being the case and that testing kits were being given to farmers to help them ascertain what they actually need to put on their different areas of land.</p> <p>It was confirmed that plans for the Wildlife Pond to be forwarded to Mr Proudler, a visit to that area can be arranged and liaise with the school for the possibility of pop up river labs, stun fishing and creation of the Wildlife Pond.</p> <p>The Parish Council would like to thank Mr Proudler for his time and we look forward to working with the River Tees Trust to improve the health and longevity of Barton Beck.</p>
<p>45 Correspondence</p>	<p>45(i) 18 Kettle End building works. Clerk had a telephone call and email from resident explaining that new building works will soon be undertaken.</p>

	<p>45(ii) Mr & Mrs Longstaff wrote to the Parish Council about the upkeep of the triangle of Village Green and whether it needed further maintenance. The PC feels that this area is suitably maintained and no extra work will be undertaken at the moment. Clerk to reply</p> <p>45(iii) Barton Allotment Committee asked if a quote had been obtained for the boundary hedges and trees to be cut back. Chair Walsh explained that Rob Skelton had taken a look at the area – it can be done but would be very expensive due to the access to the branches. When Oliver Tree Services next come to the Village another quote will be obtained. The PC has the works in mind for when funding allows it. Clerk to respond to the Allotment Committee.</p> <p>45(iv) Email forwarded from previous Chair Ms White that was intended for the PC. Clerk thanked Mr White but believes the original email was spam/marketing so it won't be pursued.</p> <p>45(v) 30mph Speed Limit Extension – up the road to the Playing Fields/Cricket Ground. Cllr Lee expressed the PC disappointment to NYC for their decision around not extending the 30mph zone. NYC highlighted there is a public footpath adjacent to the road that pedestrians could use but they will look into it again and respond in due course</p> <p>45(vi) Regarding Planning Application ZD24/00378/CLP that was listed in the minutes of the July meeting. An incorrect address was used by the Architect of the plans which was then passed onto the PC from NYC Planning Dept. This address is retracted by the PC.</p> <p>45(vii) Grant towards the new PC noticeboard from Cllr Thompson's locality budget – forms signed. Clerk to send back to NYC</p> <p>45(viii) Cllr Dobinson explained that the tarmac footpath outside the Village Hall is deteriorating and maybe a trip hazard. Chair Walsh confirmed it would not be NYC Highways responsibility. PC to look into with the Village Hall. Cllr Dobinson will feed back to the VHC.</p> <p>45(ix) Cllr Lee spoke to the PC about the house on St Cuthbert's Green that is boarded up – it was to be renovated but it appears that work has stopped. Cllr Lee has contacted the housing agency responsible for the house asking for an update. Non received yet</p> <p>45(x) Cllr Lee informed the PC that a lot of children are playing in and around St Cuthbert's Green during the summer and that there were a few near misses with traffic in that area. Cllr Lee asked if a sign could be put up to warn drivers of children in the area. Clerk to contact NYC</p> <p>45(xi) Cllr Lee brought the PC to the attention of a complaint of parking on the pavement preventing a resident being able to manoeuvre past safely on their mobility scooter. The PC explained that this would be something NYC or NYP would look into. Cllr Lee to feed back to the resident.</p>
46 Public Participation	None

<p>47 Planning</p>	<p>To consider the planning applications within Barton Parish ZD24/00448/FULL PROPOSAL: Full planning permission for conversion of an existing outbuilding/store area to a bedroom as part of disabled adaptation works following an OT referral, to meet the clients medical needs LOCATION: 6 St Cuthbert’s Green Barton Richmond North Yorkshire APPLICANT: Mr Michael Sidebottom No objections</p> <p>Cllr Lee asked about works on the Haulage Yard and when this might be starting again. Chair Walsh informed the PC he was told that it has taken four years for the planning to be approved and that works were meant to commence in September and finish late Spring 2025 – but this has not yet started.</p>
<p>48 Half Moon Pub Update</p>	<p>Update on the Half Moon Cllr Cross communicated to NYC that the PC were not going to withdraw the application for Asset for Community Value (ACV). An email was received stating that the PC were unsuccessful in their application but it was addressed directly to Cllr Cross when the application was on behalf of the PC. Clerk to address this with NYC and respond on Cllr Cross’ behalf. The PC agreed it would be beneficial to gain an understanding of what the new buyers of the Half Moon views and opinions would be for the PC to apply again. A new submission could contain all of the extra detail and information that NYC have asked for – it is the PC’s intention to resubmit this application at the right time. The PC would like to help in any way for the new owners of the Half Moon to make it a successful business venture.</p>
<p>49 Police & Crime Update</p>	<p>August: 4 Crimes. 1 x fraud, 1 x assault without injury, 1 x assault with injury, 1 x burglary.</p>
<p>50 NYC Update</p>	<p>Cllr Thompson asked for the PC views on the Planning Application for the Kneeton Interchange. The PC discussed the interchange and felt there would be no consequence to Barton should the Interchange be altered or updated.</p> <p>North Yorkshire Councillor’s Report September 2024.</p> <p>NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL FINANCES. I am frequently asked what the financial benefits are to date of the Unitary Council which came into being on 1st April 2023. The answer is in the current year £40 million and this will be on a recurring basis. This is the saving to the council tax payer in the revenue account or ‘current account’ in plain English. Other financial benefits will feed through as time goes on from property rationalisation. We are currently looking across the entire county at the property portfolio and where buildings are</p>

surplus to requirements because of staff streamlining for example. It should be remembered that if a property is sold, the proceeds are ring fenced in the capital account, so cannot be used to prop up the revenue account.

However, we still have a massive funding deficit which is caused by pressures way beyond those caused by inflation. SEND, i.e. Special Education Needs Children is by far the biggest financial issue which we have as an authority. HAS, i.e. Health and Adult Services is another department with a huge and ever increasing budget. But as I have said on my occasions before, we are committed to protecting the most vulnerable in society.

Our Home to School Transport budget was £19 million in 2019 and has increased to £41 million in the current year. This is why we had to make the difficult decision regarding this issue earlier in the year where we will only pay for transport to the nearest suitable school for children entering the system.

So the savings from LGR i.e. the Unitary will not be sufficient to cover the deficit going forwards and more difficult decisions will have to be made. Historically, Labour governments have tended to look more favourably on inner city authorities than 'shire counties' such as North Yorkshire. I don't think from what we have heard to date that the present government will be any different.

HOUSING.

The government have given North Yorkshire a target of building 4,232 new dwellings per annum as a minimum over the next 5 years. We have been averaging 1,100 per annum recently. This is the biggest increase in target for any county in the country.

Cornwall has the second biggest target, meanwhile Sadiq Khan has had his target decreased. Other counties in the south east have also had their targets reduced.

Our 20 year plan will need to find 89,000 new homes. 30,000 have already been identified in the emerging local plan so we have a long way to go. It should be remembered that the two National Parks in the county are not included in the geographical area as they have their own planning authorities.

Experian say there are likely to be 10,000 new jobs created in the county over the next 20 years. However, we will need 90,000 new jobs to cater for 89,000 new homes.

There has recently been a net migration into the county of 4,500 people per annum. This will have to increase to 9,000 to accommodate requirements. Realistically, the only way of achieving these targets will be to create new settlements. But the problem here is that it will take 5 years before a spade is even put in the ground. Infrastructure, or the lack of it, is the big problem across the county. What action Government will take if we fail to meet the 5 year target we don't know, but I think this is almost certain to be the case.

Some green belt areas are to be redefined as grey belt areas. This again is very worrying but I have to say I can see the real concerns of residents of villages like Melsonby, Barton and Middleton Tyas who had housing imposed on them during the last time we went

through this hoop. There will be real pressures this time because we have 90 councillors and if we take say 5 out because they cover the National Parks then there will be a requirement for 50 new houses as an average per annum per councillor's division. Whilst I appreciate there may be a concentration of building in towns like Harrogate and Scarborough, anything like 50 new builds per annum in my division is a very big ask. Look at Northallerton where thousands of properties have been built or are ongoing in recent years. How many more can it take?

Land banks with planning permission granted have become the norm and we think that methods of curbing this practice need to be put in place.

Another question which is causing us concern is the question of whether we have sufficient building firms in the county to cope with all this new development. The answer must be doubtful, very doubtful.

The other consideration which has caused problems for potential developers in the area is Nitrate Vulnerability. This applies to all villages on the north side of the A66 as they are in the Tees catchment area. I think it is fair comment to say that this was a major stumbling block for the applicant for 45 houses in Melsonby last year. The application was withdrawn but I think we can be reasonably certain that legislation will be introduced to prevent this sort of thing occurring in the future.

It is not possible for me to attend as many PCs as I would like to attend because there are 27 in my division so these reports which I am sending out on a regular basis are hopefully keeping you up to date with events. If you would like to be added to my circulation list to receive them by email directly, please forward your email address to:

Clr.angus.thompson@northyorks.gov.uk.

Best wishes,

Angus Thompson.

Chair Walsh contacted Clr Thompson Angus with reference to clarification on housing that he thought was forced on the village of Barton. Chair Walsh explained that the Village has been desperate for new housing for almost thirty years whilst the planners allow farmers to sit on land banks along with Richmondshire Planning Committee declining planning for an application which in their own words was an exemplar for rural development and perhaps the best proposal they had ever seen and should be held up as a model for developers to follow.

As a consequence of this objection to planning, Chair Walsh highlighted that residents of our Village Centre have to tolerate the smells, noise and environmental impact of a pig fattening unit not 100 meters from the village shop, pub and Village Green. All appeals to the council to take mitigating action in respect of this unit have fallen on deaf ears not having to live with the problem themselves seemingly makes it acceptable.

	<p>Cllr Cross raised the issue that the new Government have an ambition to build more houses and that PC's could be involved by NYC and engaged more with Planning Applications.</p>
<p>51 Play Area Inspections</p>	<p>Positive feedback has been passed onto the PC about the Play Area and it appears to have been enjoyed by many over the Summer Holidays.</p> <p>Quotes for the Annual Inspection: Streetscape £325+VAT Tyne & Wear Play Ltd £300 all in</p> <p>It was agreed for Tyne & Wear Play Ltd to carry out the inspection. Replaced handles for the fitness equipment have been procured and fitted.</p>
<p>52 Financial Matters</p>	<p>52.1) Salary Payment & Accounts Payable £271.36 Clerk Salary August £271.36 Clerk Salary September £592.80 Walkers Grass Cutting £592.80 Walkers Grass Cutting £100 NYC annual license fee for the Play Area land £105.60 Street Scape – replacement handles for the fitness equipment</p> <p>52.2) To receive (an update with regard to) the current bank balance £5343</p>
<p>53 Next Meeting</p>	<p>To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting due to be held on Thursday 31st October 2024 at 7pm held in the Village Hall</p>