

BARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

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

Charlotte Liversedge-Gell Parish Clerk Members of the Public: Mr Howe, Mr Calvert Ms Sutton

25th September 2025 AT BARTON VILLAGE HALL

41 Apologies - with approval for apologies	Cllr Dobinson
42 Declaration of Interest – to receive & consider then decide upon any applications for dispensation	None declared
43 Minutes	Minutes of the meeting held 31st July 2025 were signed and approved.
44 Matters Arising	Matters Arising from the previous meeting minutes - none
45 Correspondence	<p>45(i) NEW ASSERTION 10 IN THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026 – DIGITAL AND DATA COMPLIANCE To become compliant in next year’s audit, a Parish Council owned email address (.gov.uk) and IT Policy were discussed. The PC do not currently have an IT Policy. Clerk circulated draft Policy which was agreed and signed. The cost of a PC owned email address was discussed and how there is an expectation for PC’s to pay – which inevitably and reluctantly puts the Precept request up. The initial email setup would cost £57 and an annual fee of £47 per email, per year. Clerk to contact NYC and ask why they no longer host agenda's/minutes for PC's</p> <p>45(ii) SBA - notification of exempt status, 2025 for AGAR audit</p> <p>45(iii) Radio Teleswitch Service (RTS) electric meters are to be phased out. Letter circulated to PC, Cllr Cross commented that copper is going to be turned off in 2026 and some meters may use that telephony so it may be linked. If you received correspondence relating to this matter you should contact your energy supplier in the first instance.</p> <p>45(iv) Letter received regarding a new electric connection that needs to be installed at the Old Haulage Yard that will go over a small section of the Village Green. No objections – Chair Walsh to contact Northern Power to let them know and to request that the VH always remains accessible during works.</p> <p>45(v) Tree survey carried out by Oliver Tree Services and quoted £1170 for required maintenance. The removal of the Holly Tree was an additional £1100 which is too expensive for the current budget and needs alternative quotes. As much as the Holly Tree is a nuisance, it is not a danger. Chair Walsh to inform Oliver’s to go ahead with the work.</p>

	<p>45(vi) Protecting the Future of the Half Moon</p> <p>You may have seen recent press articles about the Half Moon being listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), such as this one on the BBC News website.</p> <p>The pub has been for sale for over a year, and during that time Barton Parish Council has been working to secure ACV status.</p> <p>The ACV listing gives the community two key benefits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Right to Bid If the pub is put up for sale, the community must be notified. An initial 6-week period allows a community group to register intent to bid. If it does, there is a further 6 months to prepare a bid, during which the pub cannot be sold. The 6-week period began on 10 September and ends on 21 October. As of 28 September, no group has yet come forward. 2. Planning Protection ACV status formally recognises the pub’s value to the community. It carries weight in planning decisions, helping resist change of use or redevelopment, and remains in place for 5 years. <p>Barton Parish Council welcomes community input on the ACV listing. More information about forming a community group can be found here.</p> <p>45(vii) Cllr Lee informed the PC that parishioners Ava-Joanne Bell & George Beresford had taken it upon themselves to spend a considerable time clearing the Beck of weeds by the Long Bridge. The PC pass thanks on – as although clearing the Beck is not PC responsibility, we are grateful for the time taken by George and Ava to help.</p>
<p>46 Public Participation</p>	<p>Ms Sutton commented that as the ACV has been granted for the Half Moon and the six-week period is under way for a group to register intent to bid for it, is there a bid being put in and if not, what happens next? Cllr Cross stated he is not aware of any bids being put in by the Community or an offer being put in by another party.</p> <p>Chair Walsh suggested a meeting with Punch Taverns.</p> <p>Ms Sutton asked if there was no bid within 6 weeks, then Punch could sell the pub to any party? Cllr Cross confirmed this but that a positive of the ACV being in place means to be sold as a ‘change of use’ there is a procedure that needs to take place with planning – a mechanism kicks in to protect the pub from a change of use sale and that lasts for 5 years.</p> <p>VC Jones noted that Punch Taverns had objected to the ACV application again but there was enough evidence on how the pub is used to counter this objection.</p>

	<p>The ACV restricts how a new owner can use the building. The PC will contact Punch Taverns with a view to invite them to a meeting to establish what plans they may have for the future sale of the pub.</p> <p>Mr Calvert asked if Punch could appeal the ACV – Cllr Cross confirmed that they can within an 8-week timescale. He and Chair Walsh agreed that they don't believe they will appeal it.</p>
<p>47 Planning</p>	<p>To consider the planning applications within Barton Parish - None received</p>
<p>48 23 Kettle End planning</p>	<p>Mr Calvert to discuss planning application to develop a driveway from 23 Kettle End with the access/egress on back lane.</p> <p>Mr Calvert apologised for not being able to attend the last meeting in which this Planning Application was discussed.</p> <p>Mr Calvert questioned the letter that had been sent to NYC Planning regarding this application.</p> <p>Chair Walsh explained that the questions within the letter were raised by the PC and the members of the Community who had attended the meeting.</p> <p>Mr Calvert asked if a vote had taken place to objection, the PC agreed to send the letter and Chair Walsh explained the letter was based on the facts that the PC had at the time.</p> <p>The PC did not know the answers to a lot of the questions raised by the Community at the time of the last meeting – and the PC have a duty to ask those questions to NYC Planning.</p> <p>VC Jones asked if Mr Calvert would consider the Wayleave option – who explained that he doesn't need to as he bought a property with a right of access. Mr Calvert also explained that his Solicitor had informed him that the Wayleave exists for his property as well as 25 Kettle End.</p> <p>Mr Calvert asked why this would be relevant to put in a letter to Planning about the application. Chair Walsh explained that people attending the last meeting felt that there was an access to the property already in place, without the need for taking up hedgerows and installing an access onto Back Lane.</p> <p>Mr Calvert explained that the only hedgerow being removed was on the field side of the gate and that the biodiversity reports had been positive. VC Jones commented that the NYC Planning Portal showed objections from Highways as well as comments of concern from the biodiversity report. Mr Calvert explained these are not objections, but questions raised because of the reports.</p> <p>Mr Calvert told the PC that having a separate access to the property would be of great benefit as the current access is far from ideal with issues of being blocked in/out. Chair Walsh asked if Mr Calvert had</p>

	<p>any plans to build anything else on that land if the separate access was created. Mr Calvert stated there were no plans to build. Chair Walsh asked Mr Calvert to ask his Solicitor about the facts of the Wayleave in place as the PC are disputing this. The PC are the only body who can grant this access over Village Green, and it is not currently in place for No. 23.</p> <p>The PC agreed to contact NYC with the following corrections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Calvert informally discussed the shared wayleave with 25 Kettle End with the Parish Council Chair but was not formally offered a share in the rites of the Wayleave nor did he formally decline • The Covenant does in fact include vehicular access • Back Lane is classed as a Highway and not a Bridleway <p>Mr Calvert explained that there are works currently being undertaken at the property and any damage to the Village Green by deliveries/tradespeople will be put right.</p>
<p>49 Playfield NYC Rent Review</p>	<p>The proposed rent review for the playfield adjacent to Barton Primary School was discussed. NYC contacted the PC informing us that a rent review should have taken place by NYC in 2017 – this did not happen. NYC are proposing using RPi for a rent review back dated to 2022 which would mean the PC owed £264. VC Jones commented he is unhappy with the back dated request as the PC have paid their dues in rent when requested. The PC are not disputing the review and increase in rent but object to the back dated monies owed. The PC calculate each year's Precept very carefully based on [projected expenditure and this has not been factored in. Clerk to contact NYC.</p>
<p>50 Cedar Grove Hedge Cutting</p>	<p>The billing for hedge cutting undertaken at Cedar Grove for NYC Highways was discussed. Chair Walsh has attempted to seek reimbursement from NYC for the hedge cutting to no avail. PC to split the cost with the Village Hall. Clerk to invoice VH for £225</p>
<p>51 Police & Crime Update</p>	<p>July and August = 8 crimes in the PARISH 2 x robbery, 1 x assault without injury, 1 x malicious comms, 1 x public order offence</p>
<p>52 NYC Update</p>	<p>Cllr Thompson updated the PC on questions raised at the previous meeting.</p> <p>Barton Back Lane is highway maintainable at public expense.</p> <p>Cllr Thompson had a meeting with Highways regarding various issues on Church Lane. With regards to the entrance to the Ashes Development, it is written into the outline planning permission</p>

	<p>that the 30mph sign is to be moved further out towards the motorway bridge.</p> <p>It won't be possible to have a public footpath down the side of the church wall because of the width between the wall and the road not being wide enough. What was suggested is that Highways provide signs for either end of Church Lane saying 'Pedestrians but no footpath- caution', or words to that effect. The PC have approved this.</p> <p>Photograph evidence of the ice completely across the bottom of Church Lane and going up the bank were given to the officer who will investigate. As a start all drain gulleys on Church Lane are to be investigated and the pipes below to see if there is any blockage. Cllr Thompson mentioned that the PC had advised that the water was originating from a spring in the paddock above Pearl Cottage. If the drains fail to provide an answer to the water problem, then this is will be part of the ongoing investigation.</p> <p>The problem of speeding motorists on Church Lane was discussed with residents and Cllr Thompson request any stats the PC have over the last 3 months or so when a matrix board was situated looking towards the motorway bridge.</p>
<p>53 Play Area Inspections</p>	<p>Chair Walsh reported that the Play Area is in good shape. The exercise equipment has been fixed.</p> <p>A full inspection should be carried out in the Spring.</p> <p>Clerk to contact company who carried out previous inspection.</p>
<p>54 Financial Matters</p>	<p>54(i) Salary Payment & Accounts Payable: Clerk salary £296, Ce & CM Walkers grass cutting £624 & £852, NYC £100 playing field rent, Olivers Tree Survey £144, Rob Skelton works £700 (£225 to be returned from VHC) £7259.50 Precept received</p> <p>54(ii) To receive (an update with regard to) the current bank balance: £11500</p>
<p>55 Next Meeting</p>	<p>To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting due to be held on Thursday 30th October 2025 at 7pm held in the Village Hall</p>