

BARNTON PARISH COUNCIL

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY **ON MONDAY 17TH MAY 2010 AT 7.30PM**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF 18TH MAY 2009
 - 2.1 Any Matters Arising from those Minutes.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS
 - 4.1 Barnton Parish Council Accounts
 - 4.2 Barnton and Anderton with Marbury Burial Joint Committee Accounts.
 - 4.3 Barnton Brunner Memorial Hall Accounts.
 - 4.4 Barnton (MAD) Youth Club

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER AT BARNTON MEMORIAL HALL ON MONDAY 18TH MAY 2009**

PRESENT: MESDAMES: HUGHES, GOLDING, KIRSOPP, ASHDOWN AND
ROBINSON

MESSRS: CASEY, HEARSEY AND DANIELS

MR C. R. GARTON (Clerk to the Parish Council)

MR JEFF GRAY (Memorial Hall Management Committee)

APOLOGIES: MRS C. WILSON, MS. V. VICKERS, MR. J WILLS, MR S. KENNISH
AND MR. J. TURNBULL
MRS. S. CRANK
CWAC COUNCILLOR MALCOLM BYRAM, CWAC CLLR. N. WRIGHT.

VISITORS ANDREW GREEN, RAY WILKINSON, LYNN GIBBON, SHEENA BEECH,
AND JENNY HEARSEY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF 18TH MAY 2008

The Minutes of the 2008 Annual Assembly had been distributed to all present. It was Proposed by Mrs Golding to accept the Minutes. Seconded by Mr Gray. All were in favour

THERE WERE NO MATTERS ARISING

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2007/08

Ms Kirsopp read out the Chairmans Report for 2008/2009 (see attached). There were no comments or questions on the Report.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

BARNTON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS Financial Statements of Barnton Parish Council were circulated to all those present at the meeting. The Clerk, Mr Garton, gave a brief summary of the accounts. Total receipts this year amounted to £73724.28. The main receipt is the precept of £70,000 which is raised from council tax. Expenditure in 2008/09 was £77,249.09. The Clerk concluded by stating that the total funds remaining were £21,277.58 and £8530.38 of this is held in an earmarked reserve in a high interest business account. The Clerk added that these accounts are still subject to audit. He asked if there were any questions but there were none.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

BARNTON AND ANDERTON WITH MARBURY BURIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS.

Barnton and Anderton with Marbury Burial Joint Committee accounts were circulated to all those present at the meeting. Mrs Crank had given her apologies and the Clerk to the Parish Council asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions or comments relating to the accounts.

BARNTON BRUNNER MEMORIAL HALL ACCOUNTS Mr Gray (Chairman of the Memorial Hall gave a summary of the hall accounts. He started by stating that the accounts have not yet been presented or accepted by the Trustees of the Memorial Hall nor had they been formally audited and must remain as draft. He outlined the accounts to the Meeting to the Meeting including some of the operating problems the Hall had experienced in its 3rd year . There were no questions or comments relating to the accounts.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

PARISH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION GROUP. Mrs. Lynn Gibbon presented the Parish Council at the Meeting with a Document entitled "Requests for Support" and went on to explain this and the objects of the Parish Plan Implementation Group to the Meeting and also that funding from the Parish Council would be required to implement many of these items. The Clerk to the Parish Council stated that no funds had been allocated within the current budget to any of these projects. On being asked the Clerk explained briefly the financial procedure of the Parish Council and what it was necessary to do to obtain a Grant from the Parish Council

BARNTON MAD YOUTH CLUB. Mrs Robinson gave details of the Barnton MAD Youth Club Accounts for the 3 previous years and some of the Grants which had been received . The Youth Club was run by 8 Volunteers and over 70 Members .There were no questions or comments relating to the accounts. A vote of thanks was given to Mrs Robinson

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008/09

BARNTON PARISH COUNCIL. This has been another extremely busy year for the Parish Council . A number of new initiatives are currently under discussion. The major decision pending approval is to alter the Structure of the Parish Council. At present we hold one Meeting per month on average but this has become more cumbersome as the amount of work which the Parish Council now undertakes and this cannot easily be dealt with in the depth that is needed at one Meeting. It has therefore been proposed that during 2009/2010 that we move to a Sub Committee Structure having 4 Sub Committees, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Park and Recreation Grounds Committee, Grants Committee and the Burial Joint Committee with Anderton with Marbury Parish Council (which already exists) reporting to the Full Parish Council which will meet less frequently. There are a number of reasons for this but the main one is to allow Members to become more involved and discuss in detail the decisions that they make and this will hopefully aid the retention of Parish Councillors. On 1st April 2009 Cheshire County Council and Vale Royal Borough Council disappeared under Local Government Reorganisation. Barnton is now in the Marbury Ward of the Chester West and Chester Council.

MEMORIAL HALL. The Parish Council have again during 2008/089 continued to support the Memorial Hall under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to assist with the running expenses of the Hall. However the new Hall appears to be more ever more popular and the number of hours that it is being used is increasing all the time

M A D YOUTH CLUB. The MAD Youth Club has continued to be a success and is run on a Tuesday night at the New Memorial Hall by a small band of dedicated helpers, The Parish Council has continued to support the Youth Club by providing the funds to pay for the Memorial Hall Room Hire Charges.

NURSERY ROAD RECREATION GROUND. Minor vandalism, criminal damage (in particular the breaking of glass bottles and the destruction of Trees), alcohol abuse, drug abuse (cannabis smoking) Graffiti and general anti social behaviour are still to frequent on the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council are liaising closely with our Police Community Support Officer and the Community Safety Wardens to try and stamp it out. During 2007 we applied to the Borough Council for a Designated Public Place Order (Alcohol Exclusion Zone) for the Recreation Ground and despite our best endeavours this issue has still not been addressed. We are actively pursuing this matter now with the Cheshire West and Chester Council. Dogs despite the notices are still being taken onto the Recreation Ground into the main play areas. The skate board park and associated equipment and the Children's Play Area equipment continues to be well used.

RUNCORN RECREATION GROUND. Minor vandalism and Alcohol abuse is still prevalent on this Recreation Ground as well. The present play equipment is coming to the end of its useful life and will need replacing in the medium to long term (5 to 8 years) The Parish Council are continuing to look into, with the assistance of a resident of the village to find grant funding to replace the outdated play equipment.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS. Barnton Parish Council is a Statutory Consultee on Planning Applications and a total of 41 Planning Applications were received for our consultation in 2008, This was 2 more than in 2007, One of these was subsequently refused by Vale Royal Borough Council and 5 were withdrawn for various reasons. The remainder were approved. So far this year 11 Planning Applications have been received.

JUBILEE CORNER. The Corner has been kept tidy again in 2008 by Mrs. Jenny Hearsey who has looked after the small garden at the rear, she has planted a number of shrubs and flowers to improve the visual appearance of the Corner. There is a litter Bin provided on the Corner however we still find it necessary to employ the Local Council to pick up litter which has been thrown down

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER. The Parish Council continue to fund a Police Community Support Officer for the village Since 1st April 2007 P C S O Diana Wiggins has been working in the Village and is now well known . A number of successful Police Community Action Team Meetings and Surgeries have been held in the Village at regular intervals during 2008 Issues that have been highlighted by Residents which have attended include Anti Social Behaviour, Nuisance Youths, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Parking and Speeding. The Cost of providing the P C S O is £22000 however 50% of this is provided by Central Government and the remaining 50% (£11,000) by the Parish Council. We have entered into a 3 year Service Level Agreement with the Police. This agreement can be terminated by either party on giving 12 months notice. The Agreement comes to an end in April 2010 and we have no indication at this stage what will happen, or the cost of the continuing employment of a P C S O.

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS . During 2006 a Transport Study Questionnaire was circulated in Lydyett Lane and the surrounding area following complaints from Residents following completion of the New Medical Centre and Co-op Store on the Old Memorial Hall Site. This survey was completed and the results from the answers provided from the returned questionnaires have been collated by Cllr. Helen Kirsopp. The results will be used to try and convince Cheshire County Highways to carry out improvements to the Road Infrastructure in the Village. We have been during 2007 and during 2008 negotiations with Cheshire County Council Highways took place on the measures to be provided on Lydyett Lane. The Parish Council have been unable to convince Cheshire County Council Highways to provide any additional off street parking spaces in the Village. This resulted in a number of Parking Restriction being imposed on Lydyett Lane by the provision of Double Yellow Lines. Although the Parish Council agreed to this they did so reluctantly (we were told that there was no alternative proposals and it was either this or nothing) and we have indicated that if these measures do not work then we will be actively seeking further measures to alleviate the traffic problems The 2 interactive speed signs that were provided on Runcorn Road still continue to indicate that a large number of vehicles are exceeding the 30 mph speed limit and this issue has been taken up by our P C S O who has with her colleagues carried out speed checks on Runcorn Road and also on Townfield Lane and Meadow Drive on several occasions.

PARISH COUNCILLORS. The Parish Council has at present 13 Members and 2 vacancies which will be available for co-option subject to there being no call for an election at our June Meeting. A number of Parish Councillors have resigned during 2008 and it is of some concern to us that we continue to lose valuable Members at such a frequency. We hope that the new Parish Council Structure when put in place will alleviate this.

BARNTON WITH ANDERTON AND MARBURY BURIAL JOINT COMMITTEE. The Burial Joint Committee have requested a Precept of £3620 in the next financial year 2009/2010 This is a decrease of £9050 from previous precept of 2008/2009.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE. The Parish Council Website continues to be updated and maintained by Mrs J. Jeffs . Log on at www.barntonvillage.org.uk.

PARISH CLERK, DEPUTY PARISH CLERK, PARK WARDENS AND TUNNEL TOP EDITOR

The Parish Clerk has, with help from the Park Warden, Assistant Park Warden (appointed during 2007) and the Tunnel Top and Website Editor, continued to administer the Parish without to many problems during 2008/2009 The Clerk is also the Responsible Financial Officer and maintains the Accounts of the Parish Council and works closely with the Independent Internal Auditor Mr. Brian Gallimore to ensure that the Parish Council Accounts are presented to our External Auditors in the approved manner at the end of each financial year. Mr Gallimore will retire as the Internal Auditor when he has audited the accounts for 2008/09 and the Parish Council are actively seeking his replacement. In March Mr C J Watkin was appointed the Deputy Clerk. This is in anticipation that the present Clerk who has already indicated his intention to retire on 31st March 2011 after 12 and half years in post

TUNNEL TOP PARISH MAGAZINE. The Parish Magazine continues to be produced by a small editorial team led by Cllr. Mr. F. Casey and Mrs. Jenny Jeffs. The Tunnel Top Magazine comes out roughly once every two months. The magazine is printed for us by a local printer.

PARISH PLAN WORKING GROUP. During 2009 the Parish Plan was finished and distributed to all households in the Village. A successful and well attended launch was held in the Barnton County Primary School

INSURANCE POLICY. In 2008 we changed our Insurers to Norwich Union Insurance and in addition to carrying Public Liability of £5,000,000 the Parish Council insure the Play Equipment on our Recreation Grounds and other risks. Our premium for 2008/2009 was £3089 which was a saving of almost £1000 over our previous insurers

LAND REGISTRATION. During 2008 the Parish Council registered with Land Registry all our Land Holdings which included, Nursery Road Recreation Ground (the only land we previously had registered) Runcorn Road Recreation Ground, Barnton Football Ground, Townfield Lane, Barnton Cemetery, Hayes Drive and Jubilee Corner (Junction of Lydyett Lane and Townfield Lane.

Helen Kirsopp

18th May 2009
Chairman - Barnton Parish Council.