

**MINUTES OF THE BARNTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2011**

**PRESENT:-** Mesdames: Hughes, Ashdown, Kirsopp, Beech, Wilson & Vickers  
Messrs: Schott, Wills & Reading.

**APOLOGIES:-** PCSO Wiggins  
CWaC Cllr: Byram,

**IN ATTENDANCE:** CWaC Councillor N Wright, Mrs L Gibbon and four members of the Roller Blade Group

**MIN FC 337/12/11 - DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

Mrs J Hughes ref item 19 of the Agenda (Barnton Memorial Hall).

**MIN FC 338/12/11 – URGENT BUSINESS:**

i) Church Road Obstructions:

The Clerk had received a letter from the Parochial Church Council in relation to the obstructions being caused by large vehicles in this road, but it was understood that the immediate cause of concern had been settled between the Church Council and the Manager of the Co-Op.

The question of obstructions at Ray's brow was also raised during this item and it was AGREED that: the Clerk be requested to arrange a meeting with the Highways officer to discuss this problem, on site, together with issues relating to the signage in this area.

Proposed: Ms H Kirsopp                      Seconded: Mr K Reading                      Unanimous

ii). Barnton & Weaverham Children's Centres:

Councillors had been invited to the Christmas lunch at Barnton Community Primary School on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 12 midday. The Clerk, Mr K Reading and Mrs J Hughes elected to accept the invitation.

iii). Grant Applications:

The offer made by freelance consultant, Mrs E Thomas, was NOTED with interest (see MINUTE 346 below)

iv). David Scott – Forester:

A letter had been received relating to his Invoice for the work undertaken at Gunnersclough Woodlands.(see MINUTE 344 below)

DEFER

v). Local Grant Application Requests:

The Clerk reported that only four applications had been received before the deadline, namely from:

Barnton Wanderers Youth Football Club  
Barnton Community Group  
Barnton Memorial Hall  
Barnton Silver Band

**MIN FC 338/12/11 – URGENT BUSINESS: .....Contd/.....**

iv). Barnton Memorial Hall:

a). The Goddard Trophy:

AGREED that: Nominations be sought through the Website and Tunnel Top newsletter

Proposed: Ms H Kirsopp

Seconded: Mr J Wills

Unanimous

b). Flagpole:

The Manger had written to advise that the Flagpole would be moved a short distance in from the entrance gates (app 2 – 2.5 metres)

NOTED.

v). North West Air Ambulance:

Details of the Grand Draw were given by the Clerk.

NOTED

vi). Advertising Banner at Winnington Bridge:

The Clerk reported upon the conflicting information given about permissions to affix banners to the fence opposite Winnington Bridge. Retrospective planning permission was now required.

NOTED.

vii). Nursery Road Recreation Ground:

The Clerk reported that a recent inspection indicated some minor repairs to the equipment.

NOTED

viii). Village Christmas Tree:

Unfortunately, the Clerk had been unable to engage the residents who had shown an interest in assisting the Parish Council with the erection and maintenance of a Christmas Tree, at this stage.

NOTED

**MINUTE FC 339/12/11 – QUESTION TIME/OPEN SESSION:**

i) Parish Plan Group:

Mrs Gibbon (Chairman), informed Members that the CWaC Highways authority had approved the Village Signs, and the associated design (without the boat) for all entrances to the Village which will now include the strapline – “Please respect our Village”. The History and Interpretation Boards were still awaited and suggestions about location and siting of these were received.

ii) Roller Blade Group:

Members of the group apologised for not being able to assist with the distribution of “Tunnel Top” newsletters, as promised. However, they had now established a website for the Competition anticipated for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations. They had also begun to share ideas with other Roller Blade groups in the area and a good response for the competition was anticipated.

Ms Kirsopp thanked the group for their attendance and for the projected offer of help.

**MINUTE FC 340/12/11 – MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011 AND THE NOTES FROM THE NON-QUORATE MEETING OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2011:**

- i) Litter Bin – Lydyett Lane (MINUTE FC331/10/11 (ii) REFERS  
Ms Vickers reported that this had been replaced and was now located outside the hairdresser's shop

AGREED that: the Minutes be approved:

Proposed: Ms H Kirsopp                      Seconded Mrs S Beech                      Unanimous

AGREED that : The Notes be ratified as a correct record by those present, subject to it being noted that Mrs C Ashdown had submitted her apologies and that the proposed new Office and Council Chamber location were for a site in Blackcroft Avenue (Item 15):.

Proposed: Mrs S Beech                      Seconded Mrs J Hughes    2 For    0 Against    7 Abstentions

**MINUTE FC 341/12/11 – CORRESPONDENCE:**

- i). Email from Mrs A Robinson:

Referred to complaints about the removal of benches from Jubilee Corner:  
Members also referred to the number of positive comments which had been received

NOTED

- ii). M.A.D. Youth Club:

The offer of a presentation to the Council had been received, but no application for a grant had been forwarded.

NOTED

- iii). Citizens' Advice Bureau:

A letter had been received, seeking financial support, from Mr Paul Nicholls

AGREED that: this request be deferred.

Proposed: Ms H Kirsopp                      Seconded: Mr K Reading                      Unanimous

- iv). Tenancy Strategy Consultation:

The Clerk reported on a letter received from CWaC Housing Solutions, seeking to introduce opportunities to terminate tenancies where more appropriate accommodation was identified, thus freeing larger houses for growing families, for example. He would be recommending that individual comments were made as part of the consultation process.

NOTED

**MIN FC 342/12/11 – CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER COUNCIL - MEMBERS' REPORTS:**

Cllr Wright commented upon the planning application received from Cheshire Landscapes for the land adjacent and West of the Winnington Swing Bridge and recorded the objections made by the Parish Council which he promised to follow up.

NOTED

**MIN FC 343/12/11 – FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2011:**

Agreed: Subject to further clarification of the expenditure commitment made in respect of the PCSO

Proposed: Mr K Reading                      Seconded Mrs C Ashdown                      Unanimous

**MIN FC 344/12/11 – GUNNERS CLOUGH WOOD:**

The Clerk explained that some confusion had arisen over the size of this plot of land, owing to incorrect information issued with the Auction Catalogue – this has only recently been identified. The confusion had arisen over the relative sizes of the two associated and adjacent woodland areas, where the stated areas had been mistakenly exchanged by the Auction House.

This had resulted in the Gunners Clough Woodland being significantly less than the minimum area for a grant from the Forestry Commission which meant that the Forester (David Scott) would not now be paid by the Commission for his work. Should this be the case, he had given notice that he would be invoicing the Parish Council for a minimum of £500,

In the meantime, the Clerk referred to the possibility of acquiring adjacent woodland, owned by British Waterways, which may be sufficient to overcome the problem of woodland size and enable the Forestry Commission, thereby, to reconsider their support for the scheme.

AGREED that:

- i). the Clerk pursue the possibility of acquiring the woodland owned by British Waterways.

Proposed by: Ms H Kirsopp      Seconded by; Mrs C Ashdown      Unanimous

- ii). an Invoice in the sum of £500 be accepted from Mr D Scott, subject to the outcome of additional woodland acquisition and appropriate negotiations with the Forestry Commission concerning payment for his work.

AGREED in principle:

Proposed by: Ms H Kirsopp      Seconded: Mr K Reading      Unanimous

**MIN FC 345/12/11 – COMMUNITY PAVILION GROUP:**

- i). The meeting had been deferred to the 15<sup>th</sup> December.

NOTED

- ii). The requested donation to assist funds for the development (£500) was discussed.

DEFER

**MIN FC 346/12/11 – CWaC ENABLING COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FUND:**

The Clerk referred to a letter received from the CWaC Grants Officer which explained the access to financial support available from organisations through the Authority. He had also received information from a Ms Evelyn Thomas, who worked freelance, on a commission basis, (No Win, No Fee) to assist (GT Active Solutions Ltd) with this kind of application.

AGREED that: the Clerk engage Ms Thomas for this purpose, as and when appropriate, with a view to reviewing any success at the end of a twelve month period

Proposed by: Ms H Kirsopp      Seconded: Mrs C Ashdown      Unanimous

**MIN FC 347/12/11 – DOG FOULING:**

The Clerk reported that the PCSO had agreed a joint strategy with CWaC Street Scene, in addition to requesting another grass cut.

AGREED that: CWaC be requested to undertake an additional grass cut, in recognition of the unusually clement weather which had extended the grass growing period.

Proposed by: Ms V Vickers      Seconded: Mrs J Hughes      Unanimous

**MIN FC 348/12/11 – BARNTON SILVER BAND:**

Members noted that a store room was still being searched for by the Band, and Mrs Hughes undertook to request permission (on their behalf) for a Container to be located on the Memorial Hall car park, when the Memorial Hall Management Committee next meet on the 8<sup>th</sup> December.

**MIN FC 349/12/11 – HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL:**

Following the presentation by Northwich Councillor Derek Bowden to the non-quorate meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> November during which he had explained the need for an additional consultation period in respect of the change to a Church of England High School, Members recalled the transport guarantees to Hartford High School given to Barnton parents and pupils by Cheshire County Council when Barnton Secondary School closed some years previously.

In view of the changes proposed for Faith school transport, Members anticipated that the changes in school designation would directly affect Barnton residents, with the danger that CWaC would now attempt to renege upon a guaranteed commitment.

AGREED that: the Clerk be requested to write to the CWaC Education Department, reminding them of this long-standing guarantee, seeking to confirm their continuing commitment to the promise of free transport from pupils in the village and surrounding areas to a local High School.

Proposed by: Ms H Kirsopp

Seconded: Mrs C Wilson

Unanimous

**MIN FC 350/12/11 – MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:**

AGREED that: future meetings of the Parish Council take place on a monthly basis, commencing Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7.30pm

Proposed by: Ms H Kirsopp

Seconded: Mrs S Beech

Unanimous

**MIN FC 351/12/11 – REPORT OF THE PCSO:**

PCSO Wiggins had arranged for the distribution of her Report which indicated that things had been generally quiet in the village since her last report.

Members again raised issues about casual car-parking at the top of Oakwood Lane which caused great difficulties for other vehicles in their attempt to navigate the junction. Casual (illegal) car-parking remained a nuisance outside the Co-Op in Lydyett Lane, also.

Reference was also made to the tree shade complaint by a resident in Hayes Drive which had been investigated by the Clerk and other Members of the Council, all of whom had agreed that there was little evidence of a nuisance being caused, thereby.

The Clerk agreed to contact the PCSO, following a more detailed email from Mrs C Ashdown about the Oakwood Lane junction, and to write to the resident in Hayes Drive, explaining the findings of Members about the tree shade, whilst promising to monitor the situation.

NOTED.

**MIN FC 352/12/11 – QUEEN’S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS:**

i) AGREED that: this meeting continue after 9.30pm

Proposed by: Mr K Reading                      Seconded: Mrs C Ashdown                      Unanimous

ii). Only one offer of assistance had been forthcoming from the community (and that was from a person now resident in Stockport). It was understood that unless more help was forthcoming from the Village, the Clerk would have to dedicate at least one day per week to the project.

NOTED

**MIN FC 353/12/11 – MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE BARNTON  
MEMORIAL HALL TRUSTEES:**

The offer of a meeting between the Memorial Hall Trustees and Members of the Parish Council had been scheduled for **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 7.30pm**

NOTED

**MIN FC 354/12/11 – REMEBRANCE SUNDAY:**

The Clerk had received a request to support the cost of the Parade refreshments

DEFER

