

**MINUTES OF BARNTON PARISH COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF
MONDAY 19th JULY 2010**

PRESENT:- Messrs: K. Reading & D. Buckingham
Mesdames J Hughes

APOLOGIES :- Mrs A Robinson, Mrs. C. Wilson & Mr S. Harazny

MINUTE F&GP 079/7/10 - ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN TO CONDUCT THE MEETING

in the absence of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman it was proposed that Mr. D. Buckingham Chair the Meeting

Moved Mr. K Reading Seconded Mrs J Hughes

MINUTE F&GP 080/07/10 – DECLARATION OF RESERVES:

There was no declaration of Reserves

MINUTE F&GP 081/07/10 – DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None declared

MINUTE F&GP 082/07/10 – URGENT PROVISION:

In the absence of the Chairman of the Planning Sub Committee Cllr. Kirsopp it was agreed that t any comments on the two Planning Applications listed on the Agenda

(A). Planning Application 10/01053/FUL - 47 Elmwood Road, Barnton

Two Storey Front Extension

(B). Planning Application 10/01471/FUL - 6 Blackcroft Avenue, Barnton

Demolition of Existing Garage and Erection of 2 Storey Front & Side Extension

be deferred and that a decision on these Applications be made by the Planning Sub Committee

MINUTE F&GP 083/07/10 – QUESTION TIME / OPEN SESSION:

No members of the Public were present.

**MINUTE F&GP 084/07/10 – MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th June 22010 were:

APPROVED

Proposed: Mrs J Hughes Seconded: Mr D. Buckingham 2 For 0 Against 1 Abstention

MINUTE F&GP 085/07/10 – FINANCIAL AND BUDGET STATEMENTS:

i) Financial Statements for June 2010

APPROVED:

Proposed: Mrs J Hughes Seconded: Mr K. Reading Unanimous

ii) Budget Statements for June 2010

NOTED

MINUTE F&GP 086/07/10 – ENDORSEMENT OF INVOICES:

101782 J & J Landscaping - Grds Maint. 2009 (2 Invoices)	7191.00
101783 Barnton Memorial Hall (Room Hire - April & May)	48.00
101784 Glasdon (UK) Ltd (Litter Bins)	1406.00
101785 United Utilities Water Plc (Water Fountain NRRG)	11.23
101786 UHY Hacker Young (Internal Audit 2009/10)	346.63
101788 Mason & Co. (Deposit for Gunnersclough Woods)	1000.00

AGREED

Proposed: Mr K. Reading Seconded: Mrs Mrs J. Hughes Unanimous

MINUTE F&GP 087/07/10 – AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2009/2010

The Clerk reported to Members on correspondence which had been received and sent to the Audit Commission concerning the Audit of Accounts to the 31st March 2010. Copies of this correspondence had been given to Members. The Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer was concerned that Audit Commission was being exceedingly autocratic and was acting outside its reasonable remit as an External Auditor. The Clerk had also discussed this issue with Mrs Crank the Clerk to the Burial Joint Committee who had also received a warning letter with threats similar to what the Clerk had received concerning the Burial Joint Committee Accounts. When Mrs Crank rang to complain that no previous correspondence had been received from the Audit Commission she was informed that due to an error no previous correspondence had been sent out and that the warning letter had been sent by mistake. The Clerk was extremely concerned at their attitude and requested that we make a formal complaint to our member of Parliament and this would be circulated to all Members for their approval prior to the letter being sent.

APPROVED

Proposed Mrs J. Hughes Seconded Mr K Reading Unanimous

MINUTE F&GP 088/07/10 – CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Members had received correspondence from the Cheshire Association of Local Councils advising of the benefits of membership. Whilst no mention was made of what the cost was of being a member the Clerk stated to the best of his knowledge that it was based on the number of electors and when previously some years ago we had been offered membership the cost was then between £750 and £800 The only apparent real benefit was the training courses that were however the increase cost of these compared with being a Member was only £10

AGREED:

That we decline to join at the present time.

Proposed: Mrs J Hughes Seconded: Mr K Reading Unanimous

MINUTE 089/07 /10 – BARNTON SILVER BAND

The Parish Council had received correspondence from the Chairperson of Barnton Silver Band who were amongst other requests they were looking to relocate back to the Village. The Clerk stated that he was not aware of any suitable premises in the Village which would allow the Band to practice and with storage for their instruments and music in a similar arrangement to that which they had with the Royal British Legion Club. Whilst there were a number of suitable premises they would make a charge for use of the facilities similar to what they were paying at Little Leigh.

AGREED.

That the Clerk write to the Chairperson of Barnton Silver Band and indicate that they were unable to assist with the provision of practice facilities. They would reproduce the letter in the next edition of Tunnel Top and at the appropriate time would send details of Grants which could be applied for to the Parish Council as they were a local organisation

Proposed Mr. K. Reading seconded Mrs J Hughes Unanimous

MINUTE 090/07/10 – GUNNERSCLOUGH & BESTWAY WOODS WOODS:

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had made a successful bid of £10,000 at the Auction to purchase Gunnersclough Woods. Nursery Road and Bestway Woods had also been sold to an undisclosed bidder for £16,250. The Clerk stated that the completion date for the sale was the 22nd July 2010 or shortly thereafter. The Clerk was at present preparing a report to seek permission from the Secretary of State to borrow the necessary funds for the purchase and other disbursements This would be circulated to all Members prior to being sent.

The Parish Council had already received a number of offers of help and in particular from the Mersey Forest Team a copy of which had been given to Members

The Clerk also reported that following a report in the Local Paper of our purchase and an appeal for funds we had received two letters containing donations (one of £100 and one of £30) The Clerk would discuss with the Chairman these donations to see how best we could make arrangements for the funds to be identified as being spent on the Woodlands

AGREED

The Clerk accept the offer of help from the Mersey Forest Team and that letters of thanks be sent to the two persons who had donated sums of money.

Proposed Mr. K. Reading Seconded Mrs J. Hughes Unanimous

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman:.....Date: 7th September 2010