

Barnacre-with-Bonds Parish Council

MINUTES

Of the Parish Council Meeting which took place at Barnacre Memorial Hall on Wednesday 08th January 2024 at 7.30pm.

01-01-24 Present: Parish Councillors Commander (Chair) Fennell (Vice Chair), Howell, Ibison, Reilly, Harkins & Cllr Shaun Turner.

Apologies – Cllr Webster.

02-01-24 Minutes from the regular meeting held on 08th November 2024 were discussed. It was resolved that the Chair would sign the minutes as a correct record and they were signed by Cllr Fennell.

03-01-24 Declarations of Interest - Cllr James Reilly – Declared an Interest (Agenda Item 9) – Owner and Director of the company Easy Websites.

04-01-24 To adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion, to allow members to give a “for information only” update from any meetings / groups / visits / training courses attended since the last meeting, **the chance to review any information on Clerk’s report & receive any update from Borough & County Councillors or Police.**

The meeting was adjourned at 19.31.

Cllr Ibison updated the Parish Council on the current situation with the travellers that have been using local business car parks to reside. It was advised that travellers arrived at Barton Grange Flower Bowl and Garstang Golf Club.

The police arrived and for several hours the travellers refused to leave. Ultimately this resulted in action being taken by the police and the vehicles were impounded and the travellers were arrested and prosecuted.

Local businesses are pleased that the action has been taken.

Cllr Ibison advised that negotiations are still underway with Cosy Homes to provide Ground pump heating for the Alms houses in Garstang. Cosy homes criteria stipulate that in order to comply for a grant the applicant’s income must be below £23 000. All residents meet the criteria.

Meeting re-opened at 7.35.

05-01-24 Climate Change

The planning application for a solar farm on Turners Lane, Barnacre, Noventum Power would offer the potential if it is passed for community benefit funding. Cllr Commander suggested funding, if received, should be used to assist climate change projects and Cllr Ibison suggested the previously discussed potential to link with Calder Vale Club and their expressed interest in Solar panels and other greener energy sources. The existing grant money held by Barnacre Parish Council was discussed and it was suggested ideas be brought forward to discuss with the surveyors to see if they are viable options. **It was resolved any future ideas should be brought forward for further discussion and actioned.**

06-01-24 Community Event 2024

The Council discussed the next Community Event, **and it was resolved that the next event would be held in Calder Vale and the same format would be used and the date was provisionally agreed as the second Saturday in May, 11.05.2024. Clerk will initiate contact with relevant organisations in the upcoming weeks.**

07-01-24 Speeding/Road safety Concerns

The Cllrs discussed the speeding concerns on B6430 at the exit to footpath 100 and also at Bowgreave and the response letters received from LCC. Cllr Howell expressed his disappointment that LCC could not recognise the problems highlighted in the letters sent by the Parish Council. Cllr Shaun Turner, also present at the meeting, advised that residents had raised concerns with him regarding this crossing point at the Cornmill Nursing Home and he had also spoken to relatives of the residents' expressing difficulties with the current situation regarding the speed of passing traffic and the lack of safe crossing points outside the Cornmill. **It was resolved that the Clerk would write to the Road Safety Partnership and advise of the Parish Council concerns.**

08-01-24 Bilsborrow to Garstang Towpath Project

The development of the canal towpath between Bilsborrow and Garstang was discussed, it was recognised that discussions are still taking place with the Public

Right of Way department and Canal and Rivers Trust as to the logistics and contractual rights to such a development. Councillor Shaun Turner was present to advise the Parish Council on how this project is progressing and the funding schemes that have potentially been earmarked so far for progression. Shaun advised that funding is being put together, but this will be a fast-moving project and the funding will need to be used quickly. There is funding support from Wyre, a substantial contribution from Public Health to offer promotion for the benefits of exercise and LEF Scheme. The project will require funding from each Parish Council within the 7.2km stretch of towpath being proposed for development. This project will incorporate three different Parishes with the plans that have been put forward. The plans include Barnacre-with-Bonds, Claughton and Catterall Parish Councils. Shaun Turner advised that the amount being sought for funding from each Parish Council is £8000. Cllr Commander raised the fact that Barnacre had a considerably lower Precept than both Catterall and Claughton and would have been expecting a more even contribution in relation to precept allowance. Cllr Turner advised that these were the initial stages of discussions with the Parish Councils, and it would be prudent to at this stage prepare for an equal split when considering the future of the development. **It was resolved that there was a unanimous vote to support the scheme and the suggested funding at £8000 for the benefit of the residents and the longevity of the potential usage of the scheme for many residents and future generations.**

09-01-24 Website changes

Councillors reviewed the current website arrangements. Cllr Reilly advised that the website, to be future proofed, would require a new domain name to comply with potential new guidelines due to be introduced. It was discussed that Parish Councillors should have an email specifically for Parish Council work. Parish Councillors will have dedicated emails which ensure any requests for FOI can easily be supplied.

It was proposed by Cllr Fennell to change the website address to .gov at a cost to the Parish Council of £5.50 per month and seconded by Cllr Ibison. It was proposed by Cllr Harkins to Purchase six Parish Council email addresses at a cost of £2.20 per email address, this was seconded by Cllr Ibison.

It was proposed that the Parish Council add a 'What we do' page under 'About', this page would include items such as: -

- Run community events.
- Contribute to the Garstang Christmas lights fund.
- Councillors attend and lay wreaths at the remembrance Sunday services in Garstang and Calder Vale.

It was proposed that changes be made to the home page and plans included taking away the contact us from on the home page and replace with a 'table'

with information about Barnacre-with-Bonds Parish Council. **It was resolved that all changes would be made to the website and the clerk would amend budget accordingly, all website changes to be actioned by Cllr Reilly.**

10-01-24 Future planned projects

Councillors discussed the request for funding by Cllr Shaun Turner for the canal towpath project. See notes at agenda item 8. There was further discussion as to potentially increasing the donation to the Garstang Christmas lights fund for Christmas 2024. **It was resolved to consider these planned projects when deciding the precept for 2024/25.**

11-01-24 Precept 2024/254

The Councillors discussed the budget for the financial year 2024/2025 which had been circulated prior to the meeting for the Councillors to use as a guide to aid with setting the precept. It was agreed that there would be a precept increase needed. There have been various increases to Parish Council expenses including the 8.3% increase to the Clerk's Salary agreed by NALC this year and discussions for this year underway (clerk to amend budget to include increase for new financial year). It was discussed that there was to be an increase in the donation to the Christmas lights fund to £500 (clerk to amend budget to reflect this) Subscription Costs have increased across the board with inflation and planned projects for the financial year requiring vital funding for Parish gain. **It was resolved by a unanimous vote that the precept for 2024/25 be set at £17,000. The Clerk is to advise Penny Jones at Wyre Council of the Precept amount.**

12-01-24 Planning applications / appeals / other planning matters

- a. **Application Number - 23/01013/FUL Proposal: Erection of timber framed double garage, installation of a garden room including change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage following removal of existing agricultural building @ Long House Barn Long House Lane Calder Vale Preston Lancashire - This was discussed and resolved there were no comments.**
- b. **Application Number - 23/01070/FUL Proposal: Conversion of garage to create ancillary living accommodation (retrospective) @ Board House Reservoir Road - This was discussed and resolved there were no comments.**

- c. **Application Number:** 23/01118/FUL Proposal: Change of use of three agricultural buildings to dwelling houses (C3) @ Howeth Farm Bruna Hill Barnacre Preston Lancashire - **This was discussed and resolved there were no comments.**

13-01-24 Financial Transactions.

It was resolved that the Chair would sign the bank statements showing the following transactions being authorised:

Date of Bank statement	Paid IN / OUT	Paid on	Paid to	Amount £	Payment method
	OUT	10.11.23	LALC (New Clerk training)	35.00	FP
	OUT	10.11.23	Helen Adair (Printer Ink)	38.00	FP
	OUT	10.11.23	Helen Adair (Wreaths)	40.00	FP
	OUT	13.11.23	Garstang Town Council (Christmas Lights Donation)	250.00	FP
	OUT	27.11.23	Helen Adair (Clerk's Salary November)	444.08	SO
	OUT	01.12.23	Easy Websites (Website services)	27.60	DD
	OUT	06.12.23	Castle lane Hall Hire	45.00	FP
	OUT	27.12.23	Helen Adair (Clerk's Dec Salary including backpay for 8.3% pay increase)	626.10	SO
	OUT	02.01.24	Easy Websites (Website Services)	30.36	DD
	OUT	03.01.24	Autela Payroll Services (Oct-Dec)	54.58	FP

CHQ – Cheque. SO – Standing Order. DD – Direct Debit. BACs – Bankers' Automated Clearing System. BGC – Bankers Giro Credit. FP – Faster payment.

14-01-24 Current bank balance of Standard balance £4,573.04 Grant Balance £13,302 Total Balance £17,875.04 as of 03.01.20.24 – It was resolved that this be noted.

15-01-24 Retrospective payments to authorise: - **Retrospective payments noted.**

MOP	Paid	For	Amount £
FP	Castle Lane Hall Hire	Community Event Oct 23	45.00
FP	Garstang Christmas lights fund	Donation to 2023 lights	250.00
FP	Autela payroll	Monthly payroll Q3 (Oct – Dec) & pension regulator declaration submitted	54.58

16-01-24 Payment authorisation of the following: **None to be authorised.**

MOP	Pay	For	Amount £
FP			

17/24 Next meeting date

As previously agreed, the next meeting will be held on Wed 20th March 2024.

Prepared byHelen Adair 09.01.2024.

Draft