

BARTON BENDISH PARISH COUNCIL

**Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 23rd January 2020
commencing at 7.30pm in Barton Bendish Village Hall**

Present:

Cllr W Chapman	Chairman
Cllr J Richardson	
Cllr R Simon	
Cllr P Swallow	
Cllr A Wells	
Miss S J Thorpe	Parish Clerk

5 members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr P Stow, Cllr C Sampson (Borough Councillor) and Cllr B Long (County Councillor). The Chairman advised that he was very sad to here the news of the passing of Cllr V McAlister. The Clerk had sent a card of condolence on behalf of the PC.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Chapman and Simon declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8a and Cllr Richardson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8i.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 13th November and Extra-ordinary Meeting on 12th December 2019, having been circulated to all prior to the meeting, were agreed as correct and signed following a proposal from Cllr Swallow, and seconded by Cllr Richardson.

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Highways issues

The Clerk advised that Highways had responded regarding the request for an extension of the speed limit to cover Boughton Long Road; they had advised that a 40mph limit was not something that they would support as it did not meet their criteria, it was more likely that they would support a 50mph limit at this location, but the £10k plus cost of the project would need to be funded by the PC.

New issues to be reported and old issues to be followed up:

- Boughton Long Road (trod) – additional post needed around the corner.
- Beachamwell Road/Boughton Long Road corner of trod – pot hole.
- Beachamwell Road/White Road crossroads – edge of road broken up.
- Fincham Road (lodge corner) – north edge of road broken up.
- Boughton Long Road (opposite chalk pit) – water leak.

6. Finance

a. <u>Payments for authorisation:</u> the following payments were due by cheque:		
Miss S Thorpe	Clerks expenses/subs/arrears Dec/Jan	£109.17
	Payments made by standing order/direct debit:	
HMRC	PAYE for November	£38.80
Miss S Thorpe	December salary	£155.66
HMRC	PAYE for December	£44.80
Miss S Thorpe	January salary	<u>£178.58</u>
		£527.01

It was agreed by all to authorise the cheque payments and the standing orders/direct debits, proposed by Cllr Richardson, seconded by Cllr Chapman.

Chairman's signature.....Date.....

- b. Cash Book reconciliation: The Cash Book had been reconciled to 31st December 2019 and the balance of the bank account was £6443.40, which was confirmed by sight of the bank statement to the Chairman. There were no unrepresented cheques therefore this agreed to the balance in the Cash Book.
- c. Budget and Precept for 2020/21: The Clerk had circulated the budget to all prior to the meeting. This was discussed; following a proposal by Cllr Swallow, seconded by Cllr Wells, it was agreed that the PC would set the precept at £4931, which would be a 3% increase for parishioners. A Council Tax Support grant of £30 would also be received making a total of £4961. It was recognised that this was the first increase for at least 5 years and that it would enable projected expenditure to be covered by income received.

7. Internal Affairs

- a. Casual Vacancy – The Clerk advised that there was currently a casual vacancy for a Parish Councillors due to the sad loss of Cllr McAlister; the BC had been informed but the vacancy would not be advertised until after the funeral. The BC notice needed to be displayed for 14 working days and if there was no call for an election the PC would be free to co-opt to fill the vacancy. It was agreed that the usual procedure of advertising the vacancy in Group 4 News should take place if there was no call for an election and that the position of Vice-Chair should not be filled until a new Councillor was in post.
- b. Venue for Parish Council meetings in May, July and September 2020 – The Clerk advised that she had made enquires about the use of Beachamwell Village Hall for the meetings which were scheduled to take place on 13th May, 8th July and 9th September. The hall was available, and the charge would be £15 per meeting, which was a reduced rate which was normally only available to residents. Following a proposal by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Richardson, it was agreed by all that the meetings would take place in Beachamwell Village Hall.

8. Parish Affairs

- a. Village Hall matters – Cllr Simon advised that grants obtained were now £196k, with two more grants still pending. This meant there most of the planned work could be done. Tenders had been invited from 5 contractors and the submission date was 14th February. A public information evening was scheduled for Friday 20th March.
- b. Update on problems with dog fouling – Cllr Sampson had advised that the position of Borough Council Dog Warden was to be re-advertised as they had not managed to appoint anyone last year when the job had been advertised.
- c. Maintenance of the Lime tree near the phone box on Church Road – Cllr Wells had met with the local Tree Surgeon to explain what was needed and a quotation had been provided of £180. Following a proposal by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Richardson, it was agreed by all to accept the quotation.
- d. Replacement of Eastmoor Notice Board – The Clerk had obtained quotations for a new board. The options were discussed. Following a proposal by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Wells, it was agreed by all to purchase a single door blue board which would hold 8 x A4 notices at a cost of £252 plus £35 carriage and VAT. The board to be wall mounted. Cllr Chapman to accept delivery.
- e. Repairs to the map board on Church Road – The board required a new piece of Perspex; Cllr Simon offered to obtain the Perspex and carry out the repairs. Following a proposal by Cllr Swallow, seconded by Cllr Chapman, it was agreed by all that Cllr Simon should carry out the repairs and reclaim the cost of the Perspex from the PC.
- f. Possible use for the phone box on Church Road – a suggestion had been made that the phone box could have shelves fitted and then be used as a book lending library. Cllr Richardson advised that the Church had just agreed to have a lending library so there would not be a need for two. Alternative uses of the box were considered but none were felt to be appropriate.
- g. Damage on Hatherley Gardens by Anglian Water contractors – a resident had reported further damage to verges by contractors and incidents of vehicles visiting the site during the night, which was disruptive to residents, when Anglian Water had agreed this would not happen. No action was required as Anglian Water had already carried out repairs to

the verge and installed wooden posts to prevent further damage. They had also advised that they had reminded contractors that they should not be visiting the site during the night unless it was an emergency.

- h. Complaint about noise pollution – A letter had been received from a resident to complain about noise emitted by the corn drier at Hill Farm. Previously it had been turned off during the night but last year it was running 24/7 at times. The letter asked for the PC to make enquiries as to whether there was some way of reducing the noise to an acceptable level, so it was no longer a public nuisance. It was agreed that a letter should be sent by the Clerk.
- i. Request from Poor's Charity – The Poor's Charity had asked the PC if they would submit a Freedom of Information request to the Charity Commission to try and obtain copies of documents held by the Charity Commission in relation to the Poor's Charity. The Charity did not hold the records themselves and the Charity Commission had refused to release them to the Charity as they were no longer registered with the Commission. Following a proposal by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Swallow, it was agreed by all that this should be done.

9. Correspondence

The Clerk updated the Council with items of correspondence which had been received:

- NCC had advised of two applications for deposits under section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980 and section 15A(1) of the Commons Act 2006. The deposits were a statement from a landowner that they did not intend to dedicate any additional public rights of way over their land, it did not affect any existing public rights of way.
- Clerks and Councils Direct Newsletter

10. Planning

- a. Applications received since last meeting – none.
- b. Decisions received from the Borough Council –
 - i. **19/01572/F Construction of new dwelling for essential rural worker (gamekeeper) at land at Hall Farm, Boughton Long Road:** the application had been permitted.

11. Public questions and comments

- a. A resident asked a question about who was responsible for keeping public rights of way accessible. It was explained that generally this was the responsibility of the landowner.

12. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be 11th March 2020 at 7.30pm for the Annual Parish Meeting followed by an Ordinary Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8.28pm