**Barton Parish Council**

**Minutes of the meeting**

**Wednesday 13 March 2024 Barton Village Hall, 7.30pm**

**In attendance:**

Cllr Hacking, Cllr Tomlinson, Cllr Lees, Cllr Parker

Melissa Thorpe – Clerk

Cllr S Whittam ( PCC & LCC ) Cllr K Middlebrough (PCC), Cllr S Thompson (PCC)

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr L Smith

**2. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting**

Approved subject to attendees from the meeting being included in the minutes.

**3. Declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests** - Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal / prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda. If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest or there is a disclosable pecuniary interest, then the individual member should not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter.

None

**4. Financial Matters including:**

• Payments made/requested since January meeting

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 25/01/2024 | Neighbourhood plan costs (J Parker) | Online | 37.75 | *0* | 37.75 |
| 29/01/2024 | Parish Lengthsman | online | 520 | *0* | 520 |
| 01/02/2024 | Easywebsites | DD | 36.96 | *5.6* | 36.96 |
| 16/02/2024 | Clerks Salary | DD | 425.7 | *0* | 425.7 |
| 28/02/2024 | Parish Lengthsman | SO | 520 | *0* | 520 |
| 01/03/2024 | Easywebsites | DD | 36.96 | *0* | 36.96 |
| 18/03/2024 | Clerks Salary | DD | 425.7 | *0* | 425.7 |
| 28/03/2024 | Parish lengthsman | DD | 520 | *0* | 520 |

• Budget update and CIL update

The budget was shared with Cllrs and the clerk confirmed that a CIL summary would be added to the financial spreadsheet and shared with the Parish Cllrs after the year end.

**5. Planning applications and issues for discussion/comment**

**• Sandhams Development**

Chris Sandham attended the meeting and updated the Parish Council and parishioners present on the latest situation with the planning application submitted in respect of the dairy and the land adjacent. Due to too may perceived changes to the application Sandhams were now being advised to resubmit the application or it would be refused.

Wyre Council had asked for justification for the need for a potential drive through coffee facility at the site. The application now excludes this in the layout.

Cllr Parker requested that Cllrs agree to Barton Parish Council writing a letter to Wyre Council in further support of the development. It was agreed that Myerscough and Bilsborrow would also be copied into this correspondence as the site sits within their parish boundary.

Cllr Sue Whittam offered to speak to Cllr Shaun Turner about any support that he might be able to provide to Sandhams in their discussions with Wyre Council.

**• Hilltop Farm – request for support from PCC**

Preston City Council had responded to a request from Barton Parish Council, with the support of Cllr Whittam, to investigate a potential enforcement issue at Hilltop Farm. The issue related to a business that had opened on Hilltop Farm without planning consent and had advertised the opening on a local facebook page. The clerk confirmed that PCC have visited the business and asked them to submit a retrospective planning application.

**• PROPOSED BASE STATION INSTALLATION UPGRADE AT CORNERSTONE 12376125, JACK NOOK FARM, JEPPS LANE, BARTON, PRESTON, LANCASHIRE, PR3 5AR. NGR: E: 352588, N: 438869**

Noted for information.

**• Highways email regarding Land South of Station Lane**

An email has been sent to LCC to request that if any further works are to take place on the highway adjacent to the development South of Station Lane that the Parish be informed so that we can support on the communication of any potential disruption to residents, businesses and road users.

**6. Forest Grove Playground – information and discussion**

David Leeming attended the meeting to update on the ongoing closure and related issues at Forest Grove playground.

The playground is currently closed due to health and safety reasons and lack of required maintenance which has now risen substantially in cost.

The playground is maintained and managed by HML who are the management company appointed on behalf of the residents. The residents and HML are in dispute over the playground as the residents ( not all )have paid an annual fee towards the maintenance of the playground and other areas on the estate and believe that the playground needs to be brought back up to a safe standard to remain open. HML do not have the funding available to carry out a full renovation and the annual maintenance budget requires an uplift but with not all residents currently paying this isn’t possible as it will fall to a few of the residents rather than all to fund an uplift in maintenance costs.

David believes that the playground was not up to standard when it was adopted by the residents and the problems have only carried on from here resulting in the need for a larger investment in the play area now.

The current maintenance budget set aside for the playground is between £2k-4k but David Leeming feels that this falls short of the actual funding required to bring the playground back into use and to a safe standard for play.

The options that David Leeming believes are open to the play area are:

* Close the play area and let it go to grass
* Barton Parish Council adopts the playground or commits to its annual maintenance costs following a full refurbishment of the playground which could be funded by external funding or precept/CIL
* Remove the rocks and logs, resurface the play area and continue to maintain as it. This is the least popular option as the costs are continuing to rise and with some residents not paying their management fee this could become an issue again in another 12 months when not enough money is in the fund to carry out routine maintenance.

It was agreed that the following actions would be taken away from the meeting;

* Cllr Whittam/Cllr Thompson would speak to planning officers at PCC to ascertain whether there are any planning conditions attached to the development that require the playground to remain open
* Cllr Whittam to get in touch with David outside of the meeting to look at possible solutions to the issues.
* BPC /David to approach Rowland Homes for clarification around ownership of the playground
* Potential contact to be made with the MP.

**7. Projects Update**

**• Boars Head footpath & Interpretation Board -ongoing**

Cllr Hacking had spoken with the site manager at Boars Head Place who had confirmed that the interpretation board is currently being produced.

**• Tree planting at Station lane -ongoing**

As at the date of the meeting we were still waiting for PCC to respond to a number of emails chasing progress on this matter as owners of the land.

**• Parish Lengthsman projects January-March update**

As per update provided at the meeting.

**• Barton St Lawrence Church Bell project – update**

The project is now complete. Funding allocated to this project was requested from the Parish Council following receipt of a copy of the invoice.

**• Parish Clerk Vacancy and appointment**

Currently an advert is out for a new clerk to take over at the parish council in May 2024 following the resignation of the current clerk. The advertisement has gone on the facebook page, website and in the church newsletters.

**8. Elections May 2023 – Police and Crime commissioner & local PCC elections 2/5/2024**

A reminder to all parishioners that local and police and crime commissioner elections will take place on Thursday 2nd May. All parishioners must take ID in order to vote.

**9. Public participation**

A discussion took place over sewerage capacity on Station Lane.

Cllr Whittam to chase latest information on the reopening of the Boars Head PROW.

Chris Sandham confirmed that they had received a letter from Network Rail informing them of upcoming works to the railway bridge that would require a narrowing of the carriageway and temporary traffic lights to help facilitate these works.

**10 .Date of next meeting–** Wednesday 1 May 2024 - Public Meeting & AGM