

BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie Ferguson. Chilthorne Knapp, Chilthorne Damer, Yeovil, BA22 8QZ

Tel: 07783 475200

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Minutes of a Barrington Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 4th May at 18:30hrs

Present

Don Bourne (Chairman), Mat Arnold, Margaret Stone, Tom McKnight, Peter Oakes, Victoria Collins, Robert Stenner, Julie Ferguson (Parish Clerk) Mike Stanton (District Councillor) Adam Dance (County Councillor).

01 To receive Apologies for Absence

None.

02 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

03 Chairman of the Parish Council's Report – Don Bourne

The last year has been one full of unimaginable challenges for us all as Individuals, Families, Communities, Businesses and Government in response to Covid19 regulations.

As a Community we have, through the voluntary efforts of Parishioners and businesses, looked to ensure the more vulnerable members of our community have been visited and supported with shopping deliveries, transport to Shops/Doctors and just a knock on the door to say 'Hello, how are you', throughout past 12 months, and continue to be supported today. We must also remember that we have lost a number of our parishioners, not necessarily to Covid, this year and our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have lost loved ones.

As a community we are privileged to live in Barrington and have access to the wonderful countryside on our doorstep's, and it has been a pleasure to see and talk to 'visitors', socially distanced, as they take their daily exercise through the Court and Village.

The Nursery has been open throughout the period providing Schooling and Nursery Care for the children of essential workers and other key workers. The sound of the children's voices when outside playing has provided a tonic to lift spirits, such innocence helps us focus on that 'better day' that will come, hopefully in the not too distant future.

Throughout the year the Parish Council (PC) Margaret Stone, Peter Oakes, Tom McKnight, Robert Stenner, Victoria Collins, Matthew Arnold supported by our District and County Councillors Mike Stanton and Adam Dance, has continued to hold the monthly Parish Council mtg through the wonder of ZOOM.

Our Parish Clerk Julie Ferguson has kept us all focussed and in check as we manage the Day to Day business of running the PC and managing the Parish Precept.

Looking back on the year here are some points of note:

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Marion Lewis, our Chair stepped down in July, as did Ian McGarry in Oct, both of whom had been passionate protectors of what is the best for Barrington and you the Parishioners, for which we say a very big thank you.

The Barrington Footpaths Volunteer's under the direction and tasking of Joss Wilde and Stuart Thompson have maintained the footpaths around the village allowing us all to navigate the paths around the Village comfortably and safely, for which we say a big thank you.

The volunteers are:

Stuart Thomson
Paul Tilbury
Tom & Anna Sherriff
Jan & Richard Collis
David Rowswell
Ray Cockburn
Will Murray
Trevor Tratt
John Lushington
Mark Blackburn
Terry Thomas
Caroline Brown

Councillor Tom McKnight, also the Chair of the Village Hall Committee, manages the tasking for the monthly visit of the the Somerset Ranger, Karen Fleet, to address issues around the Village reported by Parishioners, thank you both.

Alison Manuel has for the past 7 years managed the Barrington Web Site providing relevant and useful information to Parishioners and others searching for Barrington Somerset. The website has since its inception 15 yrs ago been hosted for free by BT, unfortunately that service will in future not be free of charge. Some of the information within the Website has been transferred to the Barrington Parish Council website, and discussions continue to agree whether all the current content is transferred to the Barrington PC Website, or the cost of the ongoing Service is managed within the Parish Precept. Alison thank you for your time, commitment and enthusiasm for the Villages Web Site.

The last element of the rainwater management plan, the Gibbs Lane Drain and Silt Trap, has been completed by Highways with funding provided by the Rivers Authority, with the support of District Councillor Mike Stanton. It has taken a while to get all of the elements in place to provide assurance to Parishioners living on Barrington Main Street that the rainwater inundations seen over a number of years are a thing of the past.

New Homes; there are 2 approved developments for new homes at the western end of the Village, Shelway Lane and Highfields which the Parish Council believes will start development this year. There have also been a number of Planning requests to the Parish Council for changes/alterations which have been approved this year.

Lastly but not least I would wish to thank very much to my fellow Parish Councillors for their voluntary commitment to serve in a public office, their desire and drive to make Barrington a better

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place for us all to live, and hopefully bring on the next generation of publicly minded individuals to aspire to sit on the Parish Council.

Thank you for your time, please continue to Stay Safe and Take Care we are getting closer to the new normal every day, every vaccination helps us on that journey and it also protects us as individuals, us as a community and the rest of the Country.

04 County Councillors Report

County councillor was not present at this time.

05 District Councillors Report

Councillor Stanton reported that SSDC had been very busy dealing with the consequences of Covid, directing their resources towards setting up vaccination centres and administering business grants, with processes now slowly coming back to normal. Also phosphates dominating the planning process, causing widespread hold ups. He had personally been involved in encouraging the Water company to speed up their investment in water treatment process to remove the phosphates, in an attempt to get the planning process moving again & the significant backlog cleared.

06 Report from Mat Applegate on the Wilder Churchyard Project

Mat Applegate provided a comprehensive report on an incentive to re-wild green spaces, in particular the Churchyard

07 Public Open Session

There were no further reports at this time

19:15 – Meeting closed