

BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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MINUTES OF 740th MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – Tuesday 14th July 2020, by video conference at 6pm.

Councillors Present:

Marion Lewis (Chair)	Margaret Stone
Don Bourne	Ian McGarry
Tom McKnight	Peter Oakes

In attendance: C. Cllr A Dance, D. Cllr M Stanton and the clerk.

6pm – Meeting opened.

20/41 To receive any apologies for absence. Cllr Stenner and Cllr Bourne.

20/42 To receive any declarations of interest. There were no declarations of interest.

20/43 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2020.

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

6.15pm – Meeting closed.

20/44 Public session to include PCSO, County & District Councillor reports.

A member of the public explained the current situation with the enforcement action being taken by SSDC planning department relating to a legacy drainage condition at 30 Highfields, Barrington. She was the current owner of the property and had 'inherited' the condition. She wanted to assure the PC that the problem would be dealt with, but she was instructing a solicitor to ensure that financial responsibility was correctly placed and a compliant solution could be reached. D. Cllr Stanton had been communication with both the owners of 30 Highfields and SSDC planning enforcement to assist in an appropriate outcome. C. Cllr Dance offered his assistance, as required.

C. Cllr Dance gave a report on the ongoing Somerset Unitary Authority debate, with a decision due at the end of the month. He encouraged all parish councillors to engage in the process so that the parish would be better placed to understand the consequences should Somerset become a unitary authority.

6.21pm – Meeting opened.

20/45 Parish Council Matters.

a) To report on the planning enforcement at 30 Highfields, Barrington.

A report had already been provided in the public session.

20/46 Planning.

a) To note decisions on earlier applications. None. Noted.

b) To consider new applications. None. Noted.

20/47 Finance.

a) To approve the following payments:

J Ferguson (Clerks salary & expenses)	£370.68
HMRC (PAYE)	£ 62.00
Garden, Farm & Country Services (June 2020)	£320.00
Dial a grass cut	£120.00
Barrington Football Club	£500.00

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed for the payments presented to be approved and signed.

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- b) To consider the clerks annual pay increment.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to a 1 point increase on the SCP, in line with the clerks contract.

20/48 Village issues and reports.

- a) Re-opening of the fitness equipment, risk assessment & ongoing responsibilities.

Cllr McKnight reported that the annual equipment check was being carried out later that week, and he was intending on accompanying the visit. On the proviso that everything was in order, all play & fitness equipment would be re-opened. The clerk reported that she had provided a copy of the completed risk assessment for display in the noticeboard at the village hall and Cllr Lewis had displayed the signs that were provided (both from SSDC) on the equipment.

20/49 Highways & Rights of Way reports.

- a) To consider a request from Shepton Beauchamp PC to jointly purchase a SID.

C. Cllr Dance advised that 'sharing' a SID might be challenging as considerations such as insurance, damage and repairs & responsibility for taking down/putting up might be problematic. The rota for downloading the data to be shared between clerks might cause issues. Other points raised included a possible lack of suitable 'allowable' sites and the lack of provision in the budget this year. It was decided to explore further the possibility of hiring the camera from Shepton Beauchamp should they decide to purchase and Cllr Oakes agreed to speak with one of their parish councillors to understand the feeling within their parish.

ACTION: Clerk & Cllr Oakes

20/50 Report and items for the Ranger – 27th July.

Cllr McGarry reported that there was an overgrown hedge in Water Street which needed attention and Cllr Lewis reminded everyone to pass any items to the clerk if they wished for the ranger to attend to them.

20/51 Date of next meeting – As required (provisional 8th Sept).

Cllr Lewis then resigned from Barrington Parish Council with the following statement:

"When I moved to Barrington almost 15 years ago it was not long before I became a member of the Village Hall Committee....at the same time became a Parish Councillor, straight into the role of Vice Chair, then two and a half years ago I became Chair.

Now with the current climate and owning my own business, I need to focus my attention even more on my own business..I think I have done my fair share for this beautiful village which I love so much.

Working with fellow Councillors has almost been the best fun and deeply rewarding. I have also learned a massive amount about how local democracy plays out and its frustrating limitations.

However, my family and my business must come first so I will bid farewell to the Council.."

The Parish Council and County & District Cllrs thanked Cllr Lewis for all of her work for the parish over the last 14 years and Cllr McGarry said she was 'irreplaceable'.

6.46pm – Meeting closed.