

# BARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on May 6 2009

**Present:** Councillors Fletcher (Chairman), Cooper, Day, Hardman, Reeder, Van de Weyer, Whybrow  
County Cllr Sebastian Kindersley was present for Items 1-4  
District Cllr Bird was present for Items 1-5  
19 members of the public

The Meeting opened at 7.30 pm. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

1 **Apologies for absence:** None given.

2 **Minutes of the last Meeting held on 07.05.08**

The Minutes were approved by the Parish Council on 20.05.08 and had been printed in the Village Newsletter, circulated to all households.

3 **Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The Minutes of our Meetings, once confirmed, are published in full in the Village Newsletter and displayed on the Parish Council Noticeboard at the Church Car Park. The Chairman's Report for 2008-2009 had been circulated to all residents in advance of the Meeting:

### Responsibilities of Parish Councillors:

During the period reported Tony Fletcher was re-elected as Chairman and Aidan Van de Weyer was elected as Vice-Chairman replacing Paul Cook who died tragically during the year. Paul Cook had been a very strong member of the Parish Council. All other responsibilities remained the same. David Whybrow joined the Council by co-option in January 2009.

### Fiscal control of precept monies:

Your Council continues to carry out its many tasks in accordance with its adopted "Financial Regulations". Use of a dedicated software package allows monthly reviews of expenditure and income, and analysis of income and expenditure under all headings and across the past four years. Monthly cash flow charts are presented at each Council meeting together with projections of year end figures. Audited Accounts for 2007-2008 and draft Accounts for 2008-2009 are attached. Your Council decided to maintain the Precept for 2009-2010 at £24,000, which compares very favourably with similar villages. On the recommendation of the District Auditor, we have maintained a Reserve of £6,000.00.

### Conservation of the Village Green:

Currently your Council leases the recreational areas of the Village Green from the Green Charity and is responsible for their maintenance. The grass in these areas is cut more regularly than the rest of the Village Green. Tree maintenance for safety and access for grass cutting reasons has been ongoing throughout the period. An isolated wild area has been continued and cut at the appropriate time.

### Play Areas:

The Under 5s Play Area adjacent to the Church Car Park and the Adventure Play Area on Challis Green have been monitored monthly by Councillor Day and a Risk Assessment check sheet recorded. The annual ROSPA inspection was extremely positive. Safety play surfaces were renewed in 2007. Litter, thanks to regular clearance by volunteers, has been markedly reduced but parents should continue to encourage use of the litter bins provided. All the plastic benches are well used and thanks to their robust construction have suffered minimal vandalism. The Parish Council has added additional benches adjacent to the Under 5s Play Area. The Parish council has been approached to apply for funding by the County Council for play equipment; children are to play a part in the choice of equipment. More information would be obtained at a County meeting to be held shortly. The Chairman paid tribute to Mike and Anne Day for their continued support for the Play Areas.

### Ditches and ponds:

The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the ditches and ponds on the Village Green. The Challis Green pond, given adequate rainfall, looks moderately attractive, but further work is required to the banks. The West Green pond has been cleared and replanting is ongoing. There is a list of volunteers who will hopefully maintain our ponds in pristine condition. During the period under review, some ditches and culverts have been cleared or jetted. Many ditches have outlets above the bottom of the ditch, making further clearance pointless. During wet weather conditions, the ditches are regularly monitored. The Parish Council is still investigating the possible purchase of equipment

to lower the costs of this essential work. The water levels have increased enormously in the ditch which runs from CEMEX works, down Haslingfield Road, alongside the rear of the School and Challis Green, before emerging into Challis Green Pond; the Parish Council had asked the County Council to provide a safety barrier adjacent the culvert under the highway and this had just been installed. Colin Gilbert said that children were now swinging on this barrier and could fall into the ditch. The Chairman agreed to raise this with the County Council.

#### Street furniture and road signs:

The Parish Council has continued to have financial responsibility for the energy and maintenance of street lighting in our village; costs by SCDC have risen in the year under review. Street lights and signs have been repaired/replaced as required by the County Council. Please continue to report defective lights and signage to the Parish Clerk.

#### Footpaths:

Barrington has taken part in the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme since 1990, and we are grateful for the grant which the County Council provides to cover our planned work. Similarly, the Parish Council acknowledges the support of the Ramblers Association. Routine maintenance has continued to be important this year. Cllr Day recorded the debt of gratitude owed to CEMEX, prior to its closure, for the use of equipment and staff to completely overhaul the surface of Whole Way and its reinstatement. It was hoped that the large boulders would prevent future misuse and damage by vehicles. Cllr Day thanked all the Footpath Wardens for their daily vigilance in keeping our Footpaths safe and clear.

#### Planning:

19 Planning Applications were dealt with during the period. Your Council has tried to deal sympathetically with Applications within the constraints of local planning guidance and the need to preserve the appearance of the Conservation Area. The Parish Council solicits opinions from neighbours to assist in its decisions. Granta Housing has further developed Primes Close, where the properties are now completed and occupied. The standard of build is very high. In 2007 CEMEX had applied to develop some of their land to the north of Challis Green. Both of these sites can only be developed for low cost, shared equity or rented housing, and for people with a link to Barrington. When the Challis Green development goes ahead it will represent an approximate 10% increase in the village. The SCDC housing survey supported a demand for at least 46 affordable dwellings, and the over-subscription for the rented housing at Primes Close endorsed the housing need in our village.

#### Parking:

Your Council is continuing to discuss with the Green Charity the control of illegal parking on the Village Green. Many houses now have need for parking spaces for more than one car and we need to reach a decision as to how to proceed. The Green Charity is proposing to offer specific householders around the Village Green the possibility of installing surface reinforcement, which would maintain the grass and prevent muddy area developing where parking was required. One resident has already agreed to trial this option.

#### Roadways where adopted by County Council Highways and footways:

A few footways/pavements have been repaired during the year, and thanks are due to Dennis Vacher from CCC South Highways Division for his support. Because the South Highways Division budget had been cut by 50% during the current financial year, it seemed unlikely that much further repair work could be undertaken. Improvements to the eastern end of Glebe Road were in hand.

#### Amenity Area, Haslingfield Road:

The Amenity Area is now regularly maintained. A kissing gate allowing pedestrian/disabled access has been installed. It is your Council's hope that this area will be used for picnics, but unfortunately people regularly dump rubbish there, which gives more work to the Parish Council.

#### Liaison with District and County Councillors:

The Parish Council wishes to record its thanks to David Bird (SCDC) and Sebastian Kindersley (CCC) for their support and advice during this period, which has been much appreciated.

#### Village Speed Limits:

A professional Traffic Survey was carried out in 2007, which clearly demonstrated the large number of vehicles being driven at illegal speeds throughout the village. Despite many appeals to the County Council, your Council has not succeeded in obtaining a review of our current speed limits. We will continue to push for a 30 m.p.h. limit throughout the village.

#### Communications:

Thanks to the efforts of Cllr Van De Weyer, the village website is operational and contains information provided by the Clubs and Societies in the village, together with Parish Council Minutes. In addition to the website, our Minutes are published in the Village Newsletter and on our Noticeboard.

#### Youth Club:

The Chairman welcomed Valerie Tookey to the meeting. Thanks to Val and her co workers Barrington has a thriving Youth Club. Your Council will continue to support this Club as needed, and currently pays for the room hire costs. Parents must help if the success is to continue.

Litter:

Because of the actions of many volunteers carrying out regular litter picking sessions the village is much improved. Cllr Hardman would be organising a village-wide litter pick shortly.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:

Jo Lauterpacht had taken over managing this Scheme from Paul Cook. It now covers the whole village. Information is regularly placed on the village website and in the Newsletter.

CEMEX:

CEMEX has discontinued operations in Barrington due to the economic situation. Your Council is still in dialogue re site security and maintenance. Changes to water extraction require all to monitor any unusual changes to water levels in the village. Redirection of the output of the artesian well on Challis Green has already been accomplished. As part of the Challis Green development, the Parish Council will take ownership of the land adjacent to the School and Church Farm. The Parish Council records its thanks to CEMEX for its previous support of the village in many ways and hopes this may continue.

War Memorial:

We now have one volunteer - Eric Flowerdew – who looks after the grass area around the Memorial. It always looks very neat and tidy and we are grateful for his hard work. More volunteers to assist occasionally would be welcomed, please: it does involve taking your own mower to carry out the work

Village Sign :

The Village Sign has a history of needing to be renovated, at some cost to your Council, every three years. We are now told that it should have been made of cedar in the first place, and that it is beyond commercial repair. Your Council is considering replacement, using modern materials, and Cllr Hardman has been obtaining quotations. The area around the Sign is maintained throughout the year by Rachel and Steven Woolgar: we thank them for their contribution to the beauty of our village.

Concluding his report, the Chairman recorded special thanks to: All the Parish Councillors for their efforts during the year, to our Parish Clerk Margaret Goding, to Brian Northrop as the Curator of our Village Green, to Peter Allen, Mike Day, Eric Flowerdew, Monty Goding and Rachel & Steven Woolgar, as well as to all those who kindly assist with delivering Parish Council leaflets during the year: Parish Councillors, Rosemary Anderson, Karen Jaggars, Ruth Northrop, Sheila Potter, Mary Rothwell and Sylvia Scott.

**4 Cambridgeshire County Council**

County Cllr Sebastian Kindersley had two Parish Meetings to attend that night and gave his report at this point in the Meeting.

In his report, Cllr Kindersley said that issues connected to CEMEX had been of major importance to the village during the past year. The loss of 87 jobs in the parish was very sad. He expressed his concern at the way in which the site entrances were still blocked by temporary heaps of spoil. The future use of the site was being carefully monitored, and he knew that the Parish Council was following up the fact that there were still a lot of HGV traffic going to the Works, and at unsocial hours. The possibility of another Park & Ride site being constructed at Hauxton was explained, together with further detail about the proposed Cambridge Congestion Charge. Cllr Kindersley is a Governor of our village school and had attended meetings during the year. The Police Panel, which meets quarterly, was recommended to residents as a means of communicating to the Police views and concerns. Several residents expressed concern about the dangerous junction at Frog End when crossing over or on to the A10. Hopes that a roundabout or something similar might be constructed were dashed by Cllr Kindersley, due to funding and policy constraints.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kindersley for all his hard work on behalf of Barrington.

**5 South Cambridgeshire District Council**

District Cllr David Bird also had two Parish Meetings to attend that night and gave his report at this point in the Meeting.

Cllr Bird explained that this was his first Meeting in Barrington since his election. He was pleased to report a good improvement in the efficiency and standard of work by the District Council, although Governance reports were still being prepared. The District Council had campaigned hard to minimize Post Office closures, with good success, and was seeking further services to place in Post Offices to ensure their future. The kerbside plastic bottle collection had proved successful, and had increased recycling overall. Bus pass use had been increased to cover the country The Park & Ride service had been expanded to Sundays 9-6. Funding was being used to support business need in the community during the recession, with advice on such matters as marketing and finance.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Bird for the support he had given to Barrington during the past two years.

6 **Parish Council Financial Matters**

The Audited Accounts for 2007-2008 had been circulated to all residents in advance of the Meeting together with copies of the draft Accounts for 2008-2009. The Chairman drew attention to the Reserve of £6,000, which had been set up at the request of the District Auditor, and to the fact that the Precept had been set at £24,000 again for the current financial year.

7 **Attendance Record of Parish Council Members**

The Parish Council had met 12 times during the year:

Laura Cooper (8), Anne Day (12), Tony Fletcher (12), Judy Hardman (10), Malcolm Reeder (7), Aidan Van de Weyer (12).

Since his co-option at the beginning of the year, David Whybrow had attended all meetings.

8 **Open forum for residents**

Jean Barnes asked about the possible installation of a loop hearing system in the Village Hall. Cllr Hardman, on behalf of the Village Hall Trustees, confirmed that this was being considered. The Village Hall is beyond the remit of the Parish Council, being a separate Charity.

Richard Kennedy raised the matter of the Planning Application for Barrington Hall, which had been agreed that day. He put forward a range of concerns for the future. The Chairman pointed out that Richard was aware of the planning restrictions, and the efforts which the owners of the Hall had made to comply with those, as well as the complaints from those living nearby.

Colin Gilbert queried the sound management system at the Hall, and how sound would be monitored in the future. It was expected that the District Council Environment Health officers would continue to do so, and the information would be in the public domain.

Monty Goding said in his view it would have been better to have specified noise levels above the background noise levels, frequency linked.

Keith Barnes asked about the possibility of a dedicated football pitch. The Chairman said that the Parish Council continued its quest to achieve this, and also to acquire the Sports Pavilion, which would enable grant aid to be forthcoming for improvements.

Colin Gilbert said that children were swinging on the new safety railings, installed that week, adjacent the culvert and ditch at Challis Green. The Chairman agreed to look into this matter.

Charlie Marr wanted a roundabout at the junction of Shepreth Road/Orwell Road/West Green, on grounds of road safety. The Chairman explained that this was one of several road safety areas which the Parish Council had been pursuing, to no avail.

Monty Goding explained that CEMEX had agreed to contact the Parish Council prior to beginning pumping away excess water, because of the speed and volume implications for the village ditch and pond system. He explained that CEMEX intended to store water in the winter which would be pumped away in the summer months. There was sufficient water storage capacity on the CEMEX site. He hoped that the situation was now reasonably under control, but monitoring throughout the village would continue to be required. Water was no longer being taken from the deep artesian well, the lower greensand. Surface water collected in the quarry from the upper greensand has to be pumped into the ditch and pond system.

Colin Gilbert asked about CEMEX responsibilities for water issues: the Chairman explained that CEMEX had no legal responsibility or obligation to return the water situation to what it was prior to the factory process commencing on that site.

Monty Goding reminded residents that the presence of SSSI status on one of the ponds on the CEMEX site would ensure continued monitoring and maintenance by the Company.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.50 p.m.