



**Bar Hill Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Monthly Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held in The Parish Council Office**  
**at 7.00 pm on Thursday 18 September 2014**

**ACTION**

<b>Present:</b>	B Waters	Chair	(BW)
	L Baffa	Clerk	(LB)
	B Burrage	Councillor	(BB)
	J Doland	Councillor	(JD)
	R Hall	Councillor	(RH)
	B Howard	Councillor	(BH)
	A Mitchell	Councillor	(AM)
	M Pope	Councillor	(MP)
	A Saunders	Councillor	(AS)
	S Spence	Councillor	(SS)
	J York	Councillor	(JY)

**2014**

**Open Forum**

**Flooding**

Mr Farrington of 117 Appletrees attended the meeting and wanted to express his concern over the recent flooding in Bar Hill. Although he himself was not flooded his two next door neighbours were and he came to the meeting on their behalf. He asked several questions but unfortunately these questions could not be answered as other authorities were responsible.

He was informed about the ongoing works to the stream and balancing lake but this would not have made any difference to the scale of damage done due to the flash flooding.

He mentioned the rubble under the bridges and the Clerk confirmed that she had already written to the County Council requesting a site visit to all the bridges in Bar Hill to establish their present condition. BW also informed him of the Open Meeting that is planned for 23<sup>rd</sup> October in the Church where residents will have the chance to put their questions to the relevant authorities.

JD mentioned that he attended the meeting at Tesco where the Highways Agency informed him that improvements to the underground stream that runs under the A14 will be done when the road improvements are made.

**66. To receive apologies and declaration of interest**

Apologies were received from SJ and MN and there were no declarations of interest made.

**67. To Approve Minutes of previous Meetings**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were read and approved as a true record. Proposed by AM and seconded by MP. All in favour.

**68. Matters for discussion and decisions to be made from previous minutes**

**68.1 The Willows – update**

Still no further information as the Parish Council Solicitor has been away on holiday. BW has left several emails and telephone messages for someone at Woodfines to contact us but she has had nothing back. MP suggested that we write to Woodfines and inform them that we would be looking for a new Solicitor for the Parish Council as they seem unable to fulfil our instructions. Whilst the building is empty, the Parish Council is not only losing revenue but we are paying council tax for an empty building.



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**68.2 The Farmhouse – update**

Again no further information with regard to the lease. The building work needed at the front of the building was also discussed and the Clerk informed the meeting that she has had no builders contact her after advertising the job online. It was agreed that the Clerk would now contact Iain Martin and Andy Knott and ask them for a quotation for the work that is needed at the Farmhouse. AM proposed that as this is an emergency job to go ahead and get the work done as soon as the quotations are received and this was seconded by MP. All in favour.

C

**68.3 Skate Park – update**

AS reported that she and SJ attended the skate park site to meet with Sovereign, another skate park design company and we are now waiting for their quotation, which will consist of the ramps being individually priced so we can cherry pick the ramps as required. BB asked that all quotations received should be like for like and AM reported that he had not been invited to this site meeting and also had not known about the last Committee Meeting. AS will ensure that he is kept in the loop in future.

MP asked about Sue Harris who was originally supposed to help the committee with funding and grants etc. and whether any monies have been paid. AS replied that so far she has only put in about 3 hours' work and has not been paid for this time.

BW suggested that meetings should take place more frequently to enable them to bring their findings to the Parish Council meetings so fundraising can start as soon as we are able to do so.

**68.4 Village Hall - update**

JY reminded the Parish Council that the Management Committee's AGM will be taking place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September and AM informed the meeting that he would be joining the committee.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Management Committee has now reinstated their loan repayment of £543.60 a month and that the PWLB loan repayment was paid on 8<sup>th</sup> September by direct debit.

**68.5 Bar Hill Emergency Plan - update**

Due to the absence of MN this will be deferred to the October meeting.

**68.6 Website - update**

Although MN was absent, the website is now up and running and MN has done a great job with this. He is keeping the front page for current issues and it was agreed at the last Environment Meeting that he would put the list of Councillor areas of responsibilities on the website for residents.

**68.7 Viking Way - update**

Although Tesco had promised the pothole repairs would be done week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> September it had still not been done. BW has contacted Owen Davies at Tesco and he has been chasing the contractors (they appear to be on holiday).

A discussion then took place on erecting a red barrier to go across Viking Way but this would need to be manned. AM mentioned that we could contact a car parking company that would erect a sign to say that charges would be made to HCV's. This would not incur any costs to



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the Council as they would be responsible for collecting the charges, and we could stipulate that this only applies to large vehicles. Also the charges made could contribute towards any future road repairs.

MP felt that if this was at no cost to the Parish Council then we should look into this way of deterring HCV drivers. The barrier across the road could not legally be done as we would be prohibiting other users of the road. Alternatively, we could get our own contractor to repair the road and then bill Tesco.

AS felt that we should give them the benefit of the doubt and wait until October, therefore it was agreed that we would wait for a further couple of weeks.

The Clerk also informed the meeting that she will be writing to Whale of a Time and ASL as their bushes at the front of their premises have now overgrown on to the public footpath.

C

**69. Clerks Financial and Procedural Report**

**69.1 Approval of works by the Parish Council** – Pheasant Rise Bus shelter roof has moved in recent high winds and a quotation for the repairs has been received from J Hinchliffe at £445. As this is an emergency job due to safety reasons AM proposed that we waive our financial regulations and go ahead with this quotation and this was seconded by BB. All in favour.

**69.2 Approval of expenditure for the Wetland Project** – The contractor Keystones have now been accepted to work on the Wetland Project and this work at £4,889.92 was proposed by AM and seconded by JD. All in favour.

**69.3 Approval of accounts and payment of cheques for August and September 2014** - The Parish Council inspected the accounts for August and these were approved and proposed as a true record by MP and seconded and JY. All in favour. The cheques that were paid in August were looked at and approved. Proposed by AM and seconded by RH. All in favour.

The Parish Council then inspected the accounts for September and these were approved and proposed as a true record by JD and seconded and MP. All in favour. The cheques that were paid in September were looked at and approved. Proposed by RH and seconded by AM. For=9. Against=1 (BB).

BB then asked why there was a payment to R Stone at £90 for a report on how the Parish Council should work. BB felt that this should not have been done whilst the Clerk was on annual leave and also that the majority of the Parish Council did not know of this meeting before it took place. BB felt that if such a meeting was to take place it should have been agreed at the previous Parish Council Meeting.

**The correspondence and accounts are available to view  
in the Parish Council Office, Hanover Close, Off Viking Way, Bar Hill**

**70. Correspondence Received**

**70.1 Bar Hill Primary School** – a letter has been received from the Primary School thanking the Parish Council for their donation of £40 for the “Bill Norton” prize. Noted and filed.



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**70.2 County Council – Cambridgeshire Future Transport** – the contents were noted and filed.

**70.3 County Council – Village Maintenance** – It was noted that Bar Hill had been left off the map for the gully programme. The Clerk will write and ask for a revised copy.

**70.4 SCDC – Planning Policy Monthly update for September** – noted and filed.

**70.5 SCDC – changes to waste and recycling service** – JD expressed his concern that Hanover Close sheltered housing only has 3 green bins but it was agreed that as these are flats, there was very little need for more green bins therefore the contents was noted and filed.

**70.6 Village Litter** – an email has been received from a resident with regard to the volume of litter in the play area over the weekend. It had been established that the bins had been deliberately emptied on to the play area but this is not a usual occurrence. The village handyman ensures that all the bins are emptied on a Monday morning but it was agreed that one of the large square lidded bins, from the skate park, would be installed in the play area.

**70.7 Bar Hill Scout Group** – Robert Stocker of the Bar Hill Scouts came to see the Clerk and informed her that they are seeking grant funding for a disabled ramp at the front of the building. However, they would like to install decking to make the area look more presentable and wondered how far out they could take the decking. It was agreed that the Clerk would pass his email address to MP who is happy to have a site meeting.

**MP**

He also said that the concrete pavement at the front is cracked and wanted know who was responsible for this. It was noted that this pavement was created when the building was erected, so this falls within the Scouts remit.

**71. Chairs Report**

**71.1 Meeting with Robert Stone** – As this was discussed earlier in the meeting under accounts it was decided that nothing more would be discussed at present.

**72. Committee Reports**

a) **S/2081/14/LD – Application by Mr Bailey of 74 Foxhollow.** An application as received for a lawful development certificate for a single storey side extension. The plans were inspected and there were no objections.

The application by Hackers Fruit Farm has been amended as the World War I Museum has now found another site at Hemingford Grey.

b) **Environment Committee**

These minutes from the Environment Meeting had already been circulated to the Parish Council and there were no further comments.

**73. Other Reports**



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- a) **Cambridgeshire County Council** – JR attended the meeting and the recent flooding was discussed at length. The drop-in session at Tesco proved very successful, although some residents attended who were not flooded and this led to a back-up of people trying to attend the session. Information was given to those concerned and Anglian Water was there to give information.

AM said that he had asked, under the Freedom of Information Act, for information on who is responsible for the stream. The Clerk said there is a great deal of history on the stream and she will look in to the old files to see when the responsibility was given to the Parish Council.

MP wanted to know if there would be any funding available for future flood prevention and it was agreed that once this information is to hand a Special Meeting will need to be called before the Public Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. It was then agreed that this would be discussed at the next Environment Meeting to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

JD felt that a lot of money would need to be spent on the stream over the coming years and felt that this should be raised through the precept.

- b) **South Cambridgeshire District Council** – As a result of the flash floods, over 100 homes were flooded, 76 of them in Bar Hill. SCDC collected 18 tonnes of carpet, flooring and household appliances. Seven hundred sandbags were distributed to homes in imminent danger of being flooded.

Cambridgeshire is the fastest growing county in the country. Its population is estimated to grow by almost a quarter in the next 20 years. Most of the 120,000 new residents will be housed in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire, where the economy is expected to grow by 74%.

As a result of a grant of £500k of government money, South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire District Councils have agreed to share certain specialised services such as building control. The Councils saved £12 million over the last 4 years to compensate for a 25% cut in funding. Sharing services will result in a further £10 million savings over the next 10 years.

Changes in the refuse collection rounds will result in savings of £400k. Discussions are taking place with Cambridge City to merge refuse collections, which will result in further savings.

- c) **Cambridgeshire Police** – Mani and Tom attended the meeting and informed the Parish Council of 4 crime reports over the last month. There was criminal damage to a vehicle in Appletrees and some plants had been stolen in The Brambles and Foxhollow. They have also discovered a cannabis farm in the wooded area on the other side of the perimeter road, which has now been dismantled. There has been a den created opposite Pheasant Rise and Stonefield and Mani has requested that all the debris and furniture be removed. Lastly there was a laptop taken from premises in Otter Close.

**74. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- 74.1 Parish Council communication by email** – JD felt that sensible decisions cannot be made by email and any communication should be put on the agenda and discussed at meetings on emails alone, the example was for the Tesco fun day and the request for the use of the village green. The Clerk explained that this was a short notice event and in the end it was cancelled due to the Ladies Football team using the village green.



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Clarification was made that no financial decisions are ever made by email and BW felt that social media was very helpful. After a debate it was agreed that emailing Councillors would continue but BB asked for his name to be removed from the Councillor emails and he wished only to receive emails from the Clerk.

- 74.2 Public Spaces Protection Orders** – Information has been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting and it was agreed that this would be on the October Agenda for further discussion.

**C**

- 74.3 Timpson Shoe Repairs** – JD was concerned at the location of Timpson as this has been placed on the footpath and feels this is an accident waiting to happen. Also the path has been raised at the new Dobbie's Garden Centre making it a safety issue for elderly people. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Tesco and also ask SCDC to look into this (the Clerk will inspect the planning application beforehand).

**C**

- 74.4 Village Green** – JY informed the meeting that Mel Pooley will be verti-draining the village green in October.

- 74.5 Community Car Scheme** – RH reported that the Community Car Scheme is still looking for two further volunteer drivers and also a new co-ordinator is required.

- 74.6 Bar Hill Primary School** – It was agreed that the Parish Council would invite the new Head teacher to the October meeting.

**C**

- 74.7 Resignation of Parish Clerk** – The Parish Clerk read out her letter of resignation giving three months' notice along with a statement. MP proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for all she has done for the Parish Council over the years, she will be greatly missed and the Parish Council wished her well.

The Clerk had already prepared the job vacancy notice and it was agreed that this would be put in the Bar Hill News, on the Parish Council noticeboard and website. Also a copy will be sent to CAPALC and SCDC for them to advertise the post.

**Next Meeting** - There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.45pm. The next full Parish Council Meeting will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.00pm in the Parish Council Office.



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Signed .....(Chair)