



**Bar Hill Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Environment Committee Meeting**  
**Held in The Parish Council Office at 7.30pm**  
**On Wednesday 3 September 2014**

**ACTION**

<b>1. 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	(BG)
	S Jenkins	Vice-Chair	(SJ)
	A Mitchell	Councillor	(AM)
	A Saunders	Councillor	(AS)
	J York	Councillor	(JY)
<b>Apologies</b>	M Pope	Councillor	(MP)
	M Nelson	Councillor	(MN)
	S Spence	Councillor	(SS)

**2. To approve minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 were read and approved as a true record. Proposed by JD and seconded by BW. All in favour. There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

**3. Matters arising for discussion and decisions to be made from the previous minutes**

**Viking Way** – BB reported that parking overnight in Viking Way was getting worse and BW explained what the Parish Council is now doing. She has asked all Councillors that when they see a HCV parked in Viking Way, they should take down the registration number and the company name. The Clerk will then contact the Company concerned. The Clerk has already had several responses from companies apologising for the inconvenience caused and they have spoken to their drivers.

AM suggested that we could use a company who charges large vehicles for the privilege of parking. This would be at no cost to the Parish Council, as they make their profit from the charges made. All we have to do is erect a sign stating this is what we are doing.

**Potholes** - BW reported that Tesco have been notified about the large pothole at the entrance to their delivery access. A surveyor has been there to investigate and BW indicated to Tesco that if the pothole is not filled in, then the Parish Council may have to close the road due to safety issues. BB also reported that a large pothole has appeared outside Bar Hill Motors, which is due to all the heavy machinery being used to build Dobbie’s Garden Centre. Tesco will be informed and asked that once work has finished then they must reinstate the road. AS also reported that the drain outside Bar Hill Motors is blocked due to concrete obstructing the flow. This will also be mentioned. C

**4. Stream and Nature Reserve – update**

Once again tenders have been sent to contractors and again we have only had one tender back, at a cost of £6,029.96 and after grants the Parish Council would expect to pay an amount of £4,889.92. A discussion then took place on whether this work is necessary after the recent floods. The Clerk informed the meeting that work to the stream is a statutory duty of the Parish Council and was needed regardless of the flooding.

SJ then proposed that we accept the quotation from Keystone Habitats at a cost of £6,029.96 and that the funds would come from reserves. This was seconded by RH. All in favour. This will be recommended to the full Parish Council at the meeting in September. C



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**5. Geoff Summerfield - update**

A long discussion took place on the work that Geoff has completed so far. Generally the Parish Council is happy with his work but as he has no way of removing trunks and large branches AS felt he should be kept away from trees and concentrate on litter and hedging. The Clerk will contact some contractors and ask for the current build-up of large branches/trunks to be removed from several areas in the village before he starts cutting back any more hedging. It was agreed that he would be given the following jobs:

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Sweeping up of glass and remove any rubbish at the Skate Park  
Clear away rubbish and debris that has accumulated at Otter Gardens

The Clerk will ask Fergusons to cut the back area of the Skate Park once the glass and rubbish has been removed.

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AS also asked if Geoff could remove the willow herb that has sprouted along kerbs in many of the streets. This is normally done by the County Council and the Clerk has just received an email from them letting her know when the gully work will be done for the Autumn. Therefore we will leave this until their work has been completed.

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**Litter bins** – AM reported that Tesco have “dumped” their old lidded bins and it might be prudent for the Parish Council to request that if they are getting rid of the old bins then perhaps the Parish Council could take them off their hands. The Clerk will contact Owen Davies and ask if we can have the old bins for the village.

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**6. Flooding – update**

The County Council has sent a questionnaire to homes in Bar Hill and it has been estimated that at least 70 properties were affected by the recent floods. They are also arranging for a “drop-in” service where residents can talk to them. BW will be organising a “Questions and Answer” evening provisionally for the 23<sup>rd</sup> October in the Church, where she hopes to get the relevant agencies together to answer any questions from residents.

AM mentioned “flat-pack” sand bags that perhaps could be offered to residents. They could let the Parish Council know if they wish to have these in their homes and once we know how many to order, we can bulk buy and then offer them to the residents.

AS reported that the channel at the Hollytrees end of the stream has been reduced due to debris and this needs to be cleared. It was also agreed that the County Council would be asked to inspect the bridges over the stream as rubble has been seen in the water.

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It was also agreed that the County Council would be asked to inspect the drains around the perimeter road and behind the industrial area as these have not been inspected for some years. We also need to find out who is responsible for the ditches within the village.

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BW has written to Andrew Lansley to see if there is any government funding for works arising from the recent floods.

**7. The Brambles – report given by AS**

After site visiting this area AS reported that 23 The Brambles has had piles of branches placed against the wooden fences (this is what Geoff has left), these need to be removed. BW and the Clerk have already spoken to Mrs Baker of 21 with regard to the reduction in trees on her boundary line and due to the size of the job, it was agreed that 3 quotes would be sought for this work to be done.

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67-85 The Brambles is a mess and needs to be tidied up. Again BW and the Clerk took Geoff to this site and he will be tidying up.

At the top of Hillcrest/Chestnut Rise, a pile of branches have appeared. Geoff has left these. A pile of wood has been left on the left side of Watermead (this was not Geoff, but we will get this removed).

72 Hollytrees – a small piece of grass has not been cut by Fergusons.

Layby in Foxhollow has not been cut for the last couple of months.

Garages to the back of 139 Pheasant Rise have a lot of weeds and brambles and the side passage cannot be used. Geoff to this job.

Hedge to be cut back by the Village Hall (you cannot see when driving out of car park).

It was agreed that our policy document for the planting of trees and shrubs will be advertised and it will be put on our website.

The Horse Chestnut trees on the school playing field were briefly mentioned and the Clerk has already written to the County Council (several times) to have these cut back as they are obscuring the light from the street columns. It was agreed that a further letter would be written and the head teacher of the school will receive a copy.

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**8. Works outstanding and approval**

076/13 - Hedge to side of 32 Spinney to be cut back. Fergusons quoted £890. CGM quoted £1,800. Atlas quoted £720. It was agreed that Atlas would be accepted.

081/13 - Oak tree at 104 Brambles to be assessed. Site inspection 04.09.14 with SCDC

008/14 - Several trees to the front of 27 Fairway needs to be pruned back. MWP quoted £750. Atlas quoted £350. Brookfield no quote received. Atlas accepted on PO 1211

021/14 - Fencing at the rear of 159 Pheasant Rise is broken. Brookfield did not quote, another quote is needed.

025/14 - Branches dumped to the side of the garage at 30 Appletrees. To be removed. Geoff to do

027/14 - Ditch on Appletrees drift needs to be inspected and cleared of debris, shrubs and roots. The Clerk suggested that we get a big company, such as Agri-plant, to come in next year and dig out all the ditches, as this has not been budgeted for in this year's precept.

028/14 - Trees to the rear and side of 8 Appletrees to be cut in height. Also roots have brought up slabs in garden. Inspection needed to see what trees are causing this and roots to be removed. Brookfield quoted £1250. Fergusons quoted £1860. Atlas still to quote.

034/14 - Several trees of small green in front of 43 Acorn Ave to be cut back. Ferguson quoted £170. Accepted on PO 1189

045/14 - Large conifers at 2 Appletrees to be attended to as they are over hanging this rented property. Inspection needed as the Parish Council thinks these are not our trees. Policy document was inspected.



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- 046/14 - 14 Hollytrees – large conifers to the side of the garages to be looked at. **Inspection needed as the Parish Council thinks these are not our trees. Policy document was inspected.**
- 047/14 - Rear of 187 Spinney needs to be cleared of debris and old shrubs/weeds **Atlas quoted £650. Ferguson quoted £516. Brookfield still to quote**
- 050/14 - Tree to be pruned back from 21 Chestnut Rise **Brookfield to quote**
- 054/14 - Overgrown wild rose bush at Almond Grove (located on the path leading to the Hotel) **S Lawlor to quote**
- 055/14 - Overgrown tree to rear of 11 Robin Close, overhanging garden **MWP quoted £182. Accepted on PO 1204**
- 061/14 - To the rear of 95 Appletrees, there are several trees to be cut back away from garden wall (along stream) **Atlas quoted £160 and £240. Ferguson quoted £420. Brookfield still to quote.**
- 063/14 - Fly tipping to the rear of 36 The Spinney needs to be removed **Geoff to do**
- 068/14 - Self setting trees to side of 27 Oatlands to be cleared and area tidied. **MWP quoted £248. Atlas quoted £320. Ferguson quoted £328. Atlas quote accepted.**
- 069/14 - Bus shelter roof at Pheasant Rise needs to be repaired. **Craig Hinchcliffe to quote and AM to give details of Richard Thornton.**
- 071/14a - Two trees are overhanging path and roadway at 33 Hollytrees. To be cut back. **Atlas quoted £50. Accepted on PO 1210**
- 071/14 - Hedging to rear of 35-37 Hollytrees overgrown. Needs cutting back. **Atlas quoted £160. Accepted on PO 1209**
- 072/14 - Trees to rear of 26 Hollytrees are obstructing footpath. To be cut back. **Atlas quoted £70. Accepted on PO 1208**
- 073/14 - Several trees between 11-14 Appletrees to be cut back and thinned out. **Ferguson quoted £430. Atlas quoted £450. Brookfield still to quote**
- 075/14 - Removal of crab apple tree to the rear of 47 The Brambles is causing a mess on path and in residents garden **Atlas quoted £100. Accepted on PO 1207**
- 077/14 - Opposite 112 Watermead, a tree is obscuring street light. To be trimmed back **Atlas to quote**
- 078/14 - Between 166-169 Spinney, a lot of dumped waste and rubbish. Also weeds becoming a problem and need to be removed. **Geoff to do work**
- 079/14 - Rear of 63 Little Meadow, a tree to be taken down that is growing at a 45 degree angle **MWP to quote**
- 080/14 - Rear of 54 Acorn Ave a tree that is hanging over garden to be cut back. **Atlas to quote**
- 081/14 - Rear of 47-48 Appletrees, alleyway that runs in to school playing field needs to have weeds removed. **Geoff to do work**
- 082/14 - Footpath that runs behind 25 Appletrees needs to be cleared of rubbish, weeds and thorny bushes **Geoff Summerfield to do work**



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083/14 - Drain cover in front of Farmhouse needs to be cleared of debris and rodded  
**MWP to quote**

084/14 - Overgrown tree at the front of 64 Appletrees. To be cut back. **Atlas to quote**

085/14 - Hedging to the rear of 1 Chestnut Rise (on perimeter rd) needs to be kept trimmed back away from bus stop. **Job for Geoff**

086/14 - Tree to rear of 134 Appletrees is totally blocking out light for elderly gentleman. Would like it totally removed. **Atlas to quote**

087/14 - Height of hedging to the rear of 26 Almond Grove needs to be cut back. **Establish ownership and if PC then Geoff to do**

088/14 - Large hole on grass on village green, opposite 152 Spinney. To be filled in **Steve Lawlor to quote**

089/14 - Trees at the back of 16 Acorn Ave to be monitored. **Fergusons to inspect**

090/14 - Owners of 44 Acorn Ave have dumped green waste on PC land **Letter to be written after inspection**

091/14 - Rowan Tree has blown down at far side of playing field **To be removed as emergency**

**8. Items for information**

**Website** – BW informed the meeting that our website is now up and running. She will be sending all Councillor details to JMN so he can put these on the website. However, some Councillors did not wish to have their telephone numbers advertised but were quite happy for their email addresses to be included but it will be up to Councillors to let MN know of their preference.

**Menzies Hotel** – BW has spoken with the Manager of the Hotel and he has asked that his name and number be given to our grass cutters and once they have been in contact he will arrange for the conifer trees to be cut back away from the grassed area.

**Parish Council Sign** – AM reported that this has now been finalised and he was given the go ahead to purchase the sign.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm. The next Environment Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

Signed..... (Chair of the Environment Committee)