

**BARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED**

**30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 7.00pm AT BARTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Present: Chair Cllr Walsh, Vice Chair Cllr Jones, Cllr Burns, Cllr Dobinson, Cllr Wool, Cllr Lee**

**Members of the Public: PCSO Elliot Brown, David Cross, Sue Vivian, James Coverdale**

**Parish Clerk: Charlotte Liversedge-Gell**

<b>01 Apologies</b> - with approval for apologies	None
<b>02 Declaration of Interest</b> – to receive & consider then decide upon any applications for dispensation	<b>Item 08 Planning</b> Clerk Charlotte Liversedge-Gell reference 18 Kettle End
<b>03 Minutes</b>	Minutes of the meeting held 25th April 2024 approved and signed
<b>04 Matters Arising</b>	Matters Arising from the previous meeting minutes <b>4(i)</b> Co-opt Simon Lee – having reviewed Mr Lee’s Application for Parish Council Vacancy the PC unanimously co-opted Mr Lee and welcomed him onto the Parish Council. Clerk to inform NYC democratic services.
<b>05 Correspondence</b>	<b>5(ii)</b> Clerk contacted NYC Trading Standards to enquire about getting some more ‘No Cold Caller’ stickers for residents. It was agreed to re-vamp the Cold Calling Zone that is within the Village. They will visit the Mardi Club with a stall to talk to people about Cold Calling and any concerns they may have about scams or frauds as well as giving out ‘no cold calling’ door stickers. Clerk to liaise with NYC as to when this will take place. Cllr Wool will also give some stickers to the Warden of St Cuthbert’s to give out. <b>5(ii)</b> Armed Forces Day – Clerk contacted to establish if the Village Green could be used for an Armed Forces Day event in June and whether PC insurance would cover the event. Clerk contacted Insurance Company and the PC insurance will cover the event if a Risk Assessment is completed prior to the event. This has been passed to organisers to complete. The PC agreed that the Village Green could be used and wishes everyone involved luck for the day. <b>5(iii)</b> Overgrown vegetation along Waterfall Terrace –The PC received concerns and complaints over the vegetation and the overgrown path along Waterfall Terrace. The verge had been cut prior to this meeting but Chair Walsh stated the PC should write to NYC as the overgrown path needs shovelling back properly. Chair Walsh also informed the PC that he has complained about the footpath some 27 times. It is scheduled to be cut twice a year by NYC but they had to be reminded to cut it this year. Cllr Lee walks the footpath most days so can keep the PC updated. The PC believes that it is a reasonable request to have a footpath that is clear and can be walked. Clerk to arrange letter to NYC.
<b>06 Public Participation</b>	This is combines with Item 07 reference the Half Moon Pub

<p><b>07 Half Moon Pub</b></p>	<p>David Cross, Sue Vivian and James Coverdale were present as concerned parties to discuss future options for the Half Moon Pub within the Village. The Freehold has been up for sale since 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and there is concern that Barton will lose this valuable Village asset and be sold for as a change of use.</p> <p>Flyers have been distributed to the Village with a survey on the back to be completed by residents. The survey is to get an understanding of resident's feelings towards the possible closure of the pub and to gauge support for the pub's future.</p> <p>The concerned parties requested Parish Council support which was unanimously agreed. The Half Moon can be registered as an 'Asset of Community Value' by the PC. VC Jones explained he had looked into this the last time the pub was up for sale – but it hadn't been necessary as someone had taken the pub on.</p> <p>Mr Cross stressed that time was critical for NYC to agree to signing the pub as an Asset of Community Value. This status lasts 5 years and the Community can put a bid in for the Freehold. Cllr Wool voiced that he didn't feel the pub would be turned into a residential building. Mr Coverdale disagreed as Barton already has two 'assets' – the Village Hall and the Village Shop. This could mean that plans may get through to make the pub into a residential development.</p> <p>Chair Walsh suggested Mr Cross to be the nominated person and Cllr Wool seconded this.</p> <p>Ms Vivian explained that the Prime Ministers fund is currently closed but there are other funds that may be available to them. Chair Walsh spoke about other pubs in the area that have been taken over by Communities and it would be useful to speak with those groups to learn from their experiences.</p> <p>Cllr Lee asked once the pub is registered as a Village Asset, is it then Community Owned and run. Mr Cross explained there are a number of avenues that could be taken.</p> <p>Cllr Wool still holds the license for the pub. He agreed to be the PC contact whilst Mr Cross leads the asset application. The Freehold itself is up for £250,000+VAT</p> <p>Chair Walsh suggested the survey be sent via the email network as well as through doors.</p> <p>Cllr Jones asked what the future vision may be for the pub. Ms Vivian explained that they would like to keep the pub as a pub and an asset to the Village. By working with the Community to raise funds and run it as a pub for the benefit of the whole village. Mr Cross added that they can be guided by the results of the survey to run the pub how residents would like it to be.</p> <p>Mr Cross will present the results of the survey to the PC.</p>
<p><b>08 Planning</b></p>	<p>The PC received correspondence outlining concerns that works being undertaken at 18 Kettle End are being carried out without the relevant planning permissions. Primarily two dormer windows to the rear of the building overlooking neighbouring properties. Previous Planning Permissions provided by NYC states that dormer windows would not be permitted. Chair Walsh requested the PC</p>

	<p>contact NYC and arrange a site visit with the developer so the works and planning can be discussed amongst the relevant parties. Clerk to write to NYC planning.</p>
<b>09 Police &amp; Crime Update</b>	<p>PCSO Brown attended the meeting from North Yorkshire Police. The Crime Bulletin and newsletter that gets distributed incorporates Barton and surrounding villages. In May there were seven crimes – including two sexual incidents that are being investigated. Mr Cross asked to what extent these crimes are. PCSO Brown couldn't divulge as they are under current investigation but for residents to not be alarmed as the crimes are very isolated.</p> <p>The recent Speed Survey within Barton that clocked 90 speeding vehicles through the Village was sadly not surprising but also can be seen as a positive as these people will think twice about speeding through the Village and the publicity it gained will deter speeding throughout the Village further.</p> <p>VC Jones suggested the Crime Report may create more questions due to the way it's framed. PCSO Brown explained that due to GDPR more information cannot be given. Context cannot be given to specific crimes but it can be drilled down to where the Crime took place. For example Barton, Stapleton, Croft etc.</p> <p>Chair Walsh accepted the way the communication is delivered to the PC. Chair Walsh highlighted that there has been an absence of drug crimes within Barton for some time.</p> <p>Cllr Wool raised the issue of Cold Calling and that it is still a problem for the Village. Chair Walsh agreed and spoke about NYC Trading Standards re-vamping the Cold Calling Zone within Barton. PCSO Brown urged people to call the Police if Cold Callers come knocking and that if a Police Officer is available they will attend. Chair Walsh explained that it is harder for vulnerable residents and that the Community within Barton seem to be policing the problem and looking out for Cold Callers.</p> <p>PCSO Brown stated that Barton could be a hotspot as it is just outside of Darlington and close to the A1. Cllr Wool agreed as it appears that a car usually drops them off on Church Lane and they distribute through the Village.</p> <p>The Parish Council extended thanks to PCSO Brown for attending the meeting.</p>
<b>10 NYC Update</b>	<p>Chair Walsh asked how Parish Council's and the Rural Community are affected by the Unitary Council – as it is not clear yet how it may or may not be changed/setup. The biggest concern for our Parish would be the Lifeline service used by many within the Village.</p> <p>This shall be monitored.</p> <p>Cllr Lee asked if any update had been provided on Willowbridge Services. Clerk to contact Cllr Thompson</p>
<b>11 Play Area Inspections</b>	<p>Cllr Jones informed the PC that the handle/grip on one of the pieces of the adult exercise equipment has come off. Chair Walsh</p>

	<p>will speak to Street Scape to arrange a replacement. Everything else appears to be in good order.</p> <p>Chair Walsh has information on where to apply for the next round of funding for the Play Area. Requires Chair and Clerk signatures. This shall be arranged.</p>
<b>12 Financial Matters</b>	<p><b>12.1) Salary Payment &amp; Accounts Payable:</b>  Clerk Salary £269.87, Zurich Insurance £1865.30, Oliver Tree Services £1032, Ian Gray Handyman £380 (duplicate cheque to change payee name), YLCA £335, NYC – school playing field rent £100</p> <p><b>12.2) Current bank balance: £11874</b></p>
<b>13 Next Meeting</b>	<p><b>Meeting Closed 8.15pm</b></p> <p>To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting due to be held on Thursday 27th June 2024 at 7pm held in the Village Hall</p>