**MINUTES OF BARNSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MONDAY 10th MAY 2021 – REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Present:

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| Cllr R Burlend MBE (Chairman) | Cllr J Clyne MVO | Cllr K Kirkham |
| Cllr D Jackaman | Cllr S Tuttlebury | Mrs Fay Jupp (Clerk) |
| Cllr M Jaggard | Cllr P Lavelle | Cllr P Singleton |
|  | Cllr J Hills |  |

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| 1.00 | **Apologies for Absence**  Cllr S Sellens, Cllr S Barker, Cllr R Jones, Cllr C Day |
| 2.00 | **Declaration of Interest**  Cllr Hills and Cllr Kirkham both declared an interest relating to the re-consultation -UTT/20/3380  Original application /FUL UTT/20/3380/FUL | Replacement Farmhouse and garage and use of the existing farmhouse as ancillary workspace for the farm enterprise | Great Broadfields Farm, Chelmsford Road, Barnston |
| 3.00 | **Public Forum** – Nil |
| 4.00 | **Chairman’s Address**  Cllr Burlend welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.  This has been an extraordinary year owing to the world pandemic. Covid 19 has meant that this is the first meeting in over a year to be held in the village hall. However over the past twelve months, we have managed very well in the circumstances to keep conducting the business of the Parish Council via Zoom. Thank you all for your patience and cooperation during this difficult period and a special thank you to Fay for her hard work during this difficult time.  Financial Position: The financial position of the council at the end of the financial year is £ 27,164.11. This compares with £ 27,822.49 last year.  The B1008 and road matters:  Traffic through the village has been markedly reduced during the last year mainly due to the Covid restrictions prohibiting and discouraging travel. This is now picking up once again but still is below the expected norm. Doubtless this will change quite rapidly as restrictions are lifted and we return to normal. It is possible that with changes to work patterns i.e., more working from home, there might be permanent changes to traffic levels but this remains to be seen.  The new speed signs appear to have had an impact on the levels of speeding through the village, although for some this is seen as a challenge. The downloaded traffic data from the signs, while not particularly easy to interpret seems to show that in the main the 30mph limit is being adhered to by the majority of the traffic. The software supplied with the signs is not easy to use and not as reliable as it might be, causing errors.  The main road issue this year has been the extend and frequency of road works including road closures owing to the installation of ducts and pillars for fibreoptic broadband. Gigaclear and Openreach have both been digging in the village and just last week, most houses in Barnston have been notified that County Broadband intend to do the same.  During the last series of roadworks, a great many complaints were received both from residents and businesses. I requested a meeting with Cllr Bentley cabinet member of Essex County Council with responsibility for infrastructure to put to him the points raised by residents and to ensure that ECC were aware of the feelings in the village regarding the road closures. Essentially nothing was going to change as the companies have a statutory right to install their ducts but ECC do monitor the works to ensure as far as possible that the traffic disruption is minimised, work is conducted safely and that reinstatement is done to a good standard.  Play areas: The play areas continue to be maintained and formally inspected by ROSPA on an annual basis. The monthly inspection check list introduced last year to ensure as far as possible that nothing is overlooked has been successful in anticipating problems.  The Parish Council is in the process of ordering a new item of play equipment for younger children and this has been funded in part by funds contributed by our district representatives. Thank you to them and be assured it is much appreciated.  Other Improvements: The Parish Council has arranged a series of domestic waste skips to be provided with the cooperation and assistance of the village hall. These have been well attended and are valued by the villagers. The Parish Council expresses it’s thanks to the village hall committee for its assistance at these sessions.  The green waste skip has also been visiting the village but these are manned. These too are appreciated by villagers.  Daffodils have been planted in the grass verge along Chelmsford Road and there have been several litter picking sessions organised by the Barnston Facebook group. We are very grateful to them for their efforts to improve the environment. Landvista has undertaken some litter picking sessions along Buttles Hill and a significant quantity of material has been collected. This will be an ongoing problem as it is highly unlikely that littering by motorists and lorry drivers will stop.  A significant amount of vegetation either side of the bus stop has been removed. This was in places overhanging the path and was unsightly. Seeded topsoil has been used to improve the site with the intention of making maintenance easier and quicker in future.  Grass bunds have been installed around the meadows at Onslow Green and the Wellstye Green. A maintenance and conservation policy has been prepared for these areas and some work has already commenced and more is planned in the near future. Mr Lloyd Rankin has been the volunteer warden for the Onslow Green area but he has now decided to step down. We thank him and appreciate all his hard work over the years.  The hedge on the Chelmsford road between Salmonds Close and the substation has been reduced in height and thinned. This included trimming some trees and has been done to a good standard.  Website: The new website is up and running and becoming a useful resource for the village. There is a gallery for photographs and we would welcome any contributions to this from anyone with historical photographs or other documents of interest of the village or its inhabitants. The website is managed by the clerk.  The Parish Council: There have been no changes to the makeup of the parish council. Landvista was appointed after a tendering process to undertake the maintenance previously done by the handyman. This arrangement is working well and there has been a big improvement in the appearance of the village.  All that remains now is to record my personal thanks to all members of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk and our district and county council for all their hard work and commitment |
| 4.01 | **Election of Chairman**  Cllr Burlend was proposed by Cllr Singleton and seconded by Cllr Tuttlebury. Declaration of Acceptance to be signed in due course. Cllr Burlend will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of office to continue his role as Chairman in due course. |
| 4.02 | **Election of Vice-Chairman**  Cllr Jackaman was proposed by Cllr Clyne and seconded by Cllr Hills. Declaration of Acceptance to be signed in due course. |
| 4.03 | **Appointment of Representatives**  It was unanimously agreed that Councillors would continue with their existing appointed area of special interest. These are listed on the village website. |
| 5.00 | **District & County Councillors Report**  Cllr Barker circulated a county council update prior to the meeting, this included the following points;   * Libraries are now back open and you can collect Covid 19 Lateral Flow tests from Dunmow, if required. * In Uttlesford 98.5% of all reception age children have been awarded their first or second choice school. ECC is aware of the deficit of reception places for September 2021 and two reception classes will be provided at Helena Romanes. * Resurfacing of Dunmow High Street was completed last autumn and the By Pass earlier this year. The mini roundabout at High Easter Road has also helped with driver behaviour. |
| 6.00 | **Road Safety**  Cllr Hills requested replacement road chevrons which were positioned on the Barnston bends. **ACTION:PARISH CLERK**  Cllr Burlend reported that the 30mph speed repeater signs have not yet been replaced along High Easter Rd. **ACTION:PARISH CLERK**  A general discussion ensued regarding Gigaclear and the remedial ground work that has been completed around the village.  Cllr Burlend contacted County Broadband regarding the proposed work to install new ducting along High Easter Rd. Cllr Burlend is awaiting a response.  The clerk agreed to contact Truvelo regarding an annual software update. **ACTION:PARISH CLERK** |
| 7.00 | **Park Gym**  The Clerk confirmed that the National Lottery Community Fund application for the park gym was successful and the sum of £9900 has been granted for the outdoor park gym.  The Parish Council agreed to contribute a further £10,000 towards the outdoor gym.  The clerk will contact the village hall committee to inform them of the funding. The exact location of the gym needs to be finalised with the village hall committee. **ACTION:PARISH CLERK** |
| 8.00 | **Minutes of Previous Meeting**  Minutes of the previous meeting (12th April 2021) were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by Cllr R Burlend, Chairman. |
| 9.00 | **Action Points from previous Meeting**  The clerk has instructed Kompan to install the new play apparatus at Watts Close Park. The exact orientation of the Toddlers Castle needs to be agreed on site. Awaiting an installation date. **ACTION:PARISH CLERK**  The faulty street light in Watts Close has been reported.  The clerk issued a letter to the resident regarding the overgrown hedge on Chelmsford Rd.  The first general household waste skip has been booked for Saturday 22nd May at 10am at the village hall. |
| 10.00 | **Clerk’s Report**  The precept payment was received on 15th April for the sum of £14,082  The insurance for the ride on mower has been renewed.  The parish council’s accounts are now uploaded onto Scribe software.  The clerk met with the internal auditor on 16th April. We are now awaiting his report.  The insurance renewal for the LCP is due on 31st May. The clerk is currently seeking additional quotations. **ACTION:PARISH CLERK** |
| 11.00 | **Financial Position – Statement of bank account as at 30th April 2021**  The financial position as at 30th April 2021 was £ 38,164.82 in the current account. |
| 12.00 | **Planning Applications**  UTT/21/1394/HHF | Single storey side extension for new wet room to provide fully accessible ground floor bedroom suite. | 31 Barnston Green, Barnston - Noted  UTT/21/1104/HHF | Demolition of existing brick garden wall and erection of new garden wall made from brick pillars and fence panels. | 41 Rayfield Close, Barnston -Noted  Re-consultation -UTT/20/3380  Original application /FUL UTT/20/3380/FUL | Replacement Farmhouse and garage and use of the existing farmhouse as ancillary workspace for the farm enterprise | Great Broadfields Farm, Chelmsford Road, Barnston - Noted  UTT/20/2530/ HHF | Erection of entrance gates| Honey Trees, Bishops Green, Barnston – Comments to be made. **ACTION:PARISH CLERK**  UTT/21/1482/LB | Emergency works to roof structure to apse south end of roof | The Old Rectory, Parsonage Lane, Barnston - Noted  UTT/21/1497/FUL | Proposed demolition of existing structures & construction of 1 dwelling. | Little Penton, Onslow Green. Comments to be made. **ACTION:PARISH CLERK** |
| 13.00 | **Planning Applications Determined**  UTT/21/0922/DOC | Application to discharge condition 2 (details of materials) attached to UTT/20/0938/HHF | The Cart Lodge, High Easter Road, Barnston - **Discharged Conditions in Full** |
| 14.00 | **General Correspondence to note -** Nil |
| 15.00 | **EALC – Various (SS)** |
| 16.00 | **Bus News (ST)**  Cllr Clyne confirmed that the buses are still operating a part time bus service due to the pandemic. |
| 17.00 | **Any Other Business**  The padlock on the gate at Watts Close park needs replacing. **ACTION:PARISH CLERK**  Cllr Hills confirmed that the landscape maintenance work will commence at Wellstye Green in mid-September. |

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| **May 2021** |  |
| BJP Insurance Brokers | £120.20 |
| Scribe program software and 1yr subscription | £582.00 |
| Landvista Ltd | £837.60 |
| Mrs F Jupp (Salary) | £492.60 |
| Mrs F Jupp (Expenses) Zoom conferencing | £14.39 |
| Mrs F Jupp (Expenses) | £ 2.25 |
| **DIRECT DEBITS/STANDING ORDERS** |  |
| EON | £101.86 |
| A&J Lighting | £59.88 |
| UDC | £57.11 |

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 14th June 2021, 7:45 p.m at Barnston village hall.

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