**MINUTES OF BARNSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MONDAY 8th JANUARY 2024 – BARNSTON VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

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| Cllr R Burlend MBE (Chairperson) | Cllr S Tuttlebury | Cllr D Sellens |
| Cllr D Jackaman (Vice- Chairperson) | Cllr B Regan | Cllr Loveday |
| Cllr J Clyne MVO | Cllr S Barker | 2 members of public |
| Cllr Martin | Cllr M Jaggard | Cllr P Singleton |

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| 1.00 | **Apologies for Absence**  Mrs Fay Jupp (Clerk), Cllr J Hills  The Parish Council expressed disappointment at not receiving apologies from the UDC Councillors. |
| 2.00 | **Declaration of Interest** - Nil |
| 3.00 | **Public Forum**  A resident attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the size and volume of lorries using Chelmsford Rd and enquired as to why there is no weight limit in place.  Cllr Barker responded to the questions and agreed to speak to the Highways Officer to arrange a meeting with the Chairman to see if it would be possible to improve the signage. |
| 4.00 | **District & County Councillors Report**  Cllr Barker reported that UDC will be meeting to discuss the ‘Norse Council House’ contract.  UDC are experiencing financial pressure due to loan repayments and the exacerbating interest rises.  Essex County Council are also experiencing cost increases which are putting pressure on the council’s finances, these include increases on cost of materials, for example tarmac, increase in wages and salaries, children’s services and the increasing cost of school transport. It was noted that within UDC 85% of bus routes are currently subsidised, this is a heavy cost for the District but also a vital lifeline for some residents. |
| 5.00 | **Road Safety**  The Clerk to report the pothole located on the mini roundabout. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**  The construction site at Sparlings Farm is creating mud and road debris along Chelmsford Rd. The Clerk to contact the site contractor and Highways to request that the site entrance and road is to be kept clean/swept. |
| 6.00 | **Parish Council Vacancy**  Expressions of interest have been received from three candidates.  Further discussions are required and informal interviews with the candidates are to be arranged. Cllr Burlend, Cllr Clyne, Cllr Jackaman and the clerk will meet with the candidates and report back to the PC at the next meeting. |
| 7.00 | **Minutes of Previous Meeting**  Minutes of the previous meeting (11th December 2023) were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by Cllr R Burlend MBE (Chairperson) |
| 8.00 | **Action Points from previous Meeting**  The clerk liaised with Cllr Burlend and submitted the Local Plan comments to UDC on 13th December 2023.  The Clerk has ordered a bareroot Liquidambar tree for planting at Wellstye Green to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III. (Liquidambar – medium size tree and provides good autumn colour.)  The clerk will contact Great Dunmow Town Clerk regarding the laying of a Remembrance wreath. The Clerk will also contact the Royal British Legion to purchase the wreath. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**  Cllr Jackaman to provide information from Essex Wildlife Trust in relation to managing areas around the village. |
| 9.00 | **Village Hall Play Area**  Funding for wet pour surfacing - A grant for £1500 has been received from Cllr Regan & Cllr Martin, a further £500 has been granted by Cllr Barker. Thank you to Councillors for their contributions.  Three quotations were provided for wet pour surfacing around the new apparatus. The Parish Council agreed to proceed with Abacus Playgrounds. The Clerk to instruct the contractor in due course. |
| 10.00 | **Clerk’s Report**  The Precept documentation was submitted to UDC on 13th December 2023.  A bicycle is being intermittently locked to the bench in one of the bus shelters. A discussion ensued and signs will be attached to the bike and displayed in the bus shelter.  The grit bins have been checked and topped up. The usual areas will be gritted if needed and there is a spare salt spreader in the garage. |
| 11.00 | **Financial Position – Statement of bank account as of 31st December 2023**  The financial position as of 31st December was £ 9020.53 in the current account. |
| 12.00 | **Planning Applications - Nil** |
| 13.00 | **Planning Applications Determined**  UTT/23/2710/HHF | Single storey rear extension. | Millfield House Mill Field Barnston – **Approved with Conditions**  UTT/23/2710/HHF | Single storey rear extension. | Millfield House Mill Field Barnston– **Approved with Conditions**  UTT/23/2754/LB | Proposed repair works to wall. | Barnston Hall Cottage Parsonage Lane Barnston – **Approved with Conditions**  UTT/23/2374/HHF | Removal of modern additions and erection of two storey rear extension, 1.5 storey front extension and single storey side extensions. Demolition of shed and erection of 3 bay cart lodge with driveway alterations | Parsonage Farm Parsonage Lane – **Approved with Conditions**  UTT/23/2219/LB | Extension and conversion of barn to residential use - 1 no. new dwelling. | Barn To The South Of Lanham Barn Onslow Green Barnston – **Approved with Conditions**  UTT/23/2058/HHF | Demolition and reinstatement of existing storage outbuilding. | Haydens Barn Onslow Green Barnston – **Approved with Conditions** |
| 14.00 | **General Correspondence to note - Nil** |
| 15.00 | **EALC – Various – Nil** |
| 16.00 | **Bus News – Nil** |
| 17.00 | **Any Other Business - Nil** |

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| **January 2024** |  |
| James Todd & Co | £ 34.32 |
| Parish Clerk Wage | £ 393.00 |
| A&J Lighting | £ 59.88 |
| Landvista Ltd | £ 1485.00 |
| Barnston Village Hall | £ 14.25 |
| Chairman’s Allowance | £ 93.55 |
| A&J Lighting | £ 514.80 |
| UDC | £ 65.95 |
| HSBC | £ 8.00 |
| N Power | £ 251.95 |

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 12th February 2024, 7pm at Barnston village hall.

Should any member of the public experience problems accessing/ printing the Minutes from the Website please. contact Barnstonpc@hotmail to request a copy.