

Minutes of a meeting of Barbon Parish Council held at Barbon Village Hall on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Janatha Anstiss (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Chris Brown, Charles Howarth and Neil Udale, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hazel Hodgson, one member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Roger Groves.

**23/34 Public participation:**

The only matters mentioned were to be discussed later in the meeting.

**23/35 Requests for Dispensations:** None.

**23/36 Declarations of Interest:**

There were no Declarations of Interest made in respect of any matters on the agenda.

**23/37 Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**23/38 Reports:**

Councillor Hodgson engaged with the Council on a number of issues and expressed to willingness to help in any way possible, especially with speeding issues/application for a 20mph speed limit and the production of a Parish Council newsletter.

It was suggested by Councillor Howarth that the Barbondale woodland walk could perhaps be improved with a grant. It is believed that two or three gates are in need of repair or replacement, to make them function as horse gates; it is a bridleway as well as for pedestrians.

**23/39 Highways:**

Councillor Howarth reported that there are many potholes marked out for repair in the near future.

**23/40 Finance:**

*a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:*

Barbon Village Hall	£12.00	Hire of Hall
William H Hartley	£20.63	Maintenance
William H Hartley	£41.25	Maintenance
William H Hartley	£41.25	Maintenance
K M Price	£79.48	Backpay to 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023

K M Price                      £148.35                      Quarterly expenses to 30<sup>th</sup> September,  
Including use of home office and travel.

- b. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. The Pay Award for Clerks (notified to the Council by CALC/NALC) was approved – this is for an increase of £1 per hour across all salary points. Barbon's Clerk is currently employed for 15 hours monthly at Point 20 on the scale.
- d. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved to make a Precept upon Westmorland & Furness Council in the sum of £6,483 for the financial year 2024-25. There is therefore no increase in the parish element of the Council Tax.

**23/41 Planning:** None.

**23/42 Street lighting in Barbon:**

Correspondence regarding street lighting in Barbon had been received. In 2018, the former SLDC had informed the Council that there are six street lights in Barbon, owned by CCC, the electricity being administered by SLDC. Councillors believe there are only four lights. The Clerk will make further enquiries with the new Westmorland & Furness Council.

**23/43 Dark Skies project:**

Barbon's support for the Dark Skies project was confirmed.

**23/44 Parish Council Newsletter:**

Councillor Brown offered to produce a quarterly newsletter for the Parish Council, and will liaise with Councillor Hodgson, who offered to help and Merlin Hibbs, who looks after the website.

**23/45 Parish Council website:**

The thanks for the Council were express to Merlin Hibbs, who is happy to add further material to the website if this is sent to him. The website is run at virtually no cost to the Council.

**23/46 Correspondence:**

- a. Correspondence was reported between Tim Farron MP and a local resident regarding street lighting at School Lane was noted. This had been discussed earlier in the meeting.
- b. Westmorland & Furness Council had been approached regarding parking concerns in the village. This was noted, although it is not within the remit of the Parish Council to take action, apart from encouraging everyone to park responsibly and not to block access for emergency vehicles, etc.

**23/47 Dates for meetings during 2024:**

*Provisional dates or meetings during 2024 were agreed s follows:*

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Annual Meeting

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

*The meeting closed at 8.20pm.*

*Signed:*

*Dated:*