

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of Barton Turf & Irstead Parish Council,
Held on 8th March 2022

Present: G Neave, M Mills, D Dean, A Wilton, S Maxwell, H McFadyen and D Bradley Clerk
Also Present: NNDC representative G Mancini-Boyle and 4 parishioners

Apologies for absence from: J Fletcher. PC Gibbs had been hoping to attend if not called out.

The Minutes of the meeting held in 2021 had been circulated, and the Council agreed they were a true record of the virtual meeting. The Chairman duly signed them.

Declarations of Councillors' interests: None declared

Reports were received as follows:

Chairman

Thanks was given to all the Councillors and D Bradley the Clerk for all their support through these difficult and challenging times. Thanks was also given for the help from our Norfolk County and North Norfolk District Council representatives, and to PC Gibbs who has been a great asset to the Parish Council and community. M Oakden was thanked for his work with the Council website. A local farmer has offered to cut overgrown verges at cost as when and when required, as Highways no longer provide the service. Special thanks was given to NCC Cllr R Price for his efforts in arranging for us to share Sam2 traffic monitoring system with Neatishead Parish Council.

The Broads Authority 24 hour lease agreement for Barton Staithe is still to be resolved. The current agreement runs out on 1st June. BA has refused to pay a penny towards this renewal as they have continued to hide behind the Asset Strategy Management Plan 2012. However it has been discovered they have paid elsewhere on an agreement only 4 years ago. The latest request to BA is to obtain change of use for the parish of a large part of the 24 hour mooring to permanent use, allowing BA to retain the forward section to enable visiting craft to fill up with water.

The NIB Wildlife Friendly Villages group completed a survey of Barton Common, and Norfolk Wildlife Trust has provided a suggested management plan for the common to both enhance the site for wildlife, whilst still retaining an area for recreation.

New Victory Hall – sent by J Fletcher as Parish Council representative

Over the past year the NVH has reopened in stages and is now fully open. All hirers are back, as well as some new ones such as the Ukulele and Craft groups.

NVH is working closely with the local Wildlife Group to establish eco-friendly areas in the NVH grounds. NVH is also working with the local community on preparations for the Platinum Jubilee in June. Financially the hall is in very good shape having benefitted from various government grants over the past two years.

NIBCHG

With varying Covid restrictions regular group meetings were not held, but concentrated efforts continued on research of WW2 Memories Day, postponed from the VE Day 75th Anniversary in 2020. J Yaxley's unique Wartime Incidents Map was displayed, which was made for 50th VE Day Anniversary in 1995. A grant enabled the group to finance a full size copy of the map which will mean the original copy can be returned to the Black Shed in due course. The event was an opportunity to pay tribute to John for his passion about the history of the villages, with his provision of artefacts, documents, photos and memories he shared which form part of the archive. Also the group pays tribute to Anne Wilson and Alan Cox, to Geoff Neave and David Drake, all of whom gave

memories and knowledge of the history of the three villages. Research has confirmed the correct spelling of Gay's Staithe. The Group is striving to produce an electronic catalogue of the documents and photographs accumulated over the past 8 years. The Farmers markets at NVH have enabled displays of research done on WW2, and that relating to the origin of the village staithe and common land.

Barton Turf Community Charities (from G Neave)

During the last year the Barton Turf Staithe parish mooring was relatively quiet and there are currently 5 people on the waiting list for 2022/23. The increase in the mooring fees last year have helped us to start to get a fund together to address concerns over the Black Shed and possible quay heading repairs.

As already mentioned in the chairman's report, the 24-hour Broads Authority mooring renewal has been very difficult partly because BA use different criteria at different moorings, and partly the problem for both sides is and will continue to be the dramatic increase in the cost of renewing piling. If we achieve an agreement giving back to the parish a considerable amount of the current 24 hr mooring to the parish for its own use, we will need to always keep the mooring full, so may have to look outside the village for new berth holders. That said, priority will always be given to Barton Turf parishioners. We will also have to ring fence a considerable percentage of the mooring fees towards future quay heading repairs.

The long-awaited surveyors report for the Black Shed has very recently been received. We hope to have a plan in place for its refurbishment soon once we determine the ongoing use for the building and the level of repairs to achieve this.

The problem with the flooding on the common has been considered, and we have come to the decision that we don't have sufficient funding to change things, also if we did it would probably have a detrimental effect on the wildlife. Looking at Michael Brandon-Jones A history of the Common it appears that there have been flooding problems for over 120 years so this is not a recent phenomenon. As already mentioned in the Chairmans report the relatively newly formed NIB Wildlife Friendly Villages Group completed a wildlife survey of the common. They also asked Norfolk Wildlife Trust to produce a wildlife management plan, which can exist alongside a recreational area. The plan hasn't been formally endorsed yet, but we expect to shortly. If adopted, the plan will involve leaving areas of different grass lengths, encourage bramble to extend slightly, removing scrub from ponds and later some dredging of the ponds. It is hoped that the dredging of the ponds will help to alleviate some of the flooding issues.