

Minutes of Barton Turf & Irstead virtual Annual Parish Meeting held on April 6th 2021

Present on screen: G Neave, J Fletcher, S Maxwell, M Mills, D Dean, H McFadyen and D Bradley
Clerk

Also present: 3 parishioners

Apologies received from NNDC representative G Mancini-Boyle

Due to the Covid19 pandemic in March 2020 there was no Annual Parish Meeting held. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2019 were therefore circulated, and those Councillors who had attended agreed it was a true record of the meeting. The Chairman is to sign the Minutes at the next formal meeting.

Declarations of Councillors' interests – None declared

The following reports were received:

Chairman's Report

At the time of the Annual Parish Meeting on 9th April 2019 Cllr Neave had stepped down as a Councillor after 27 years. However, in July that year with only 5 Councillors, he was approached and asked to return on the Council and to take the chair.

Thanks is given to all the fellow Councillors for their support throughout, and without the Clerk administration would have been far more difficult. Also, thanks is given to both our District and Norfolk County Councillors. Thanks also to M Oakden who continues to update the Council website, and to PC Gibbs who is a great asset and support to the community.

There has been very little happening since 2019. Highways Department have continuing tightening budgets and battle to keep all Councils happy. If there are concerns about any of the local highways these can be sent directly to Norfolk County Council.

The Broads Authority 24 hour free mooring lease agreement for Barton Staithe has been ongoing and with further meetings and correspondence with BA they have twice refused to pay any money for the lease. The Council is currently looking into now allowing BA to renew the lease, and for the Council to take back the mooring so that an income can be raised to help towards the cost of repairs to the Black Shed.

During storms of February 2020 Barton Turf village sign fell down as the main post had rotted through. Conversion Green gave their time for free and replaced the post and sign on 11th December 2020. The delay was due to Covid restrictions and finding a suitable replacement post. The Council thanks Conversion Green and all others for giving the community it's identity back. The telephone box regularly flooded during the last winter. The problem has been addressed with drainage around the outside of the box leading into the common pond.

This last year has not been easy for any of us with the ever-changing Covid restrictions and the necessity of zoom meetings, so we look forward to face-to-face meetings later this year.

New Village Hall (Cllr Fletcher)

The Covid pandemic has affected the operations of NVH almost totally. The hall has gone from total closure to partial reopening with several variations. The Committee has ensured that at all times the regulations have been followed and has endeavoured to make the hall as accessible as possible to as many users as possible, with emphasis on user safety.

The main hall was sanded and sealed last May. The building is due some maintenance to some of the external rendering. A new access system is planned. There is no intention to appoint another caretaker.

The hall is due to open on April 12th and will operate under government regulations stipulated at the time. It is hoped that more general opening will occur according to the roadmap, with full opening on June 21st. Trustees have agreed that returning users will have a reduction in fees of a third for the first calendar month they return.

NIB Community Heritage Group (C Penstone-Smith, Chair)

The Committee has continued to keep busy with virtual zoom meetings, with continued research on our village staithe.

Disappointingly the VE Day Celebration in May had to be cancelled. Research has continued based around John Yaxley's map of local WW2 incidents and other local research from the war years. It is hoped a future event can be held to display this.

The group has also been working with the Norfolk Record Office's Community Archive Project with a view to creating an archive for the three villages with an accessible catalogue. Photos are requested from residents to provide memories of how 2020/2021 was like during the pandemic.

Barton Turf Community Charities (Cllr Neave, Chair)

Firstly, an amendment to the last APM minutes is needed. It was Anglian Water that changed the hose tap regulations, not Anglia Water as stated.

During 2019-2020 the year was quiet, with 5 people on the waiting list for moorings. At the start of 2020-2021 the village was in lockdown. At the end of the year 9 people are on the waiting list.

The Black Shed is in need of unknown expenditure with increasing damp problems and the possibility of roof re-felting. It is hoped a feasibility study will determine actual costs so that a grant application can be made.

The common has been flooded for the whole of the winter to a continuous level not seen for at least 65 years. Both the Black Shed and the common will potentially be a financial burden to the charity. To start to address this, the Trustees have dramatically increased the cost of dinghy moorings for 2021-22, and will continue to move the cost to something similar to that of other parish costs around the Broads. An honesty box has not yet been positioned but will be this summer for car parking at the Staithe.

It is anticipated to ease the current situation of flooding on the common, once advice from useful organisations is received.

Gay's staithe report (Cllr Neave, chair of Gay's Staithe Committee)

NIBCHG has completed research and found the correct spelling of Gay's staithe. The last 2 years have been quiet with grass regularly cut and a willow tree coppiced last autumn.

It is hoped the track leading down to the staithe will be resurfaced this year. The biggest problem is the honesty box for the water tap. Security for the site is very difficult, so if any further damage and theft occurs the Committee will look to move to on-line payments for water usage. The new owner of Wherry Cottage is to meet with the Committee who can offer to help with posts, trees and track. A section of quay heading is believed to be part of the BA 24 hour free mooring, but without a copy of the agreement BA states it is owned by Gay's staithe. Repair cannot be carried out till an abandoned boat is moved. If this section can be used as a permanent mooring, then it could be made as a paid mooring to finance the upkeep.

Barton Turf Charity for Relief in Need

Business has been conducted by telephone between the Secretary and Chairman.

The usual distribution of Christmas gifts took place. The Broads Authority continue to manage the Fen, to achieve the goals of the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. The Rural Payments Agency offered the option of applying for a further one year extension, which the Trustees have applied for. Locals had complained about poor behaviour of some fishermen due to distance to nearest toilet facilities. The Trustees and Parish Council made the decision to temporarily close the car park in order to protect local residents during the Covid 19 pandemic.

North Norfolk District Council (G Mancini-Boyle)

In his absence the Clerk read out the report submitted:

Fix your bike voucher scheme is available on the Government website. £50 to service the bike.

NNDC have employed 2 full time and 2 part time social prescribers. Their main purpose is Doctor referrals for vulnerable people.

C Penstone-Smith thanked all the Councillors for their continued work within the communities.

The Chairman stated that if anybody had any concerns there should be no hesitation in getting in touch with him or any of the Councillors.

There being nothing further to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting.