

**BARTON-UPON-HUMBER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MINUTES of MEETING HELD in the ASSEMBLY ROOMS
on THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2015 COMMENCING at 7.00 pm**

Present

Councillor J Evison (Chairman)

Councillors M Burman, T Chant, F Coulsey, N Jacques, Mr J Oxley, P Thornton, A Todd, J P Vickers and K Vickers.

Also Present

Sgt David Burton (Barton Police) representing Humberside Police, Andy Tate (Head of Neighbourhood & Bereavement Services) and Halyna de Boer (Neighbourhood Services, Area Manager – Rural) representing North Lincolnshire Council, 10 local residents, Mrs C Clark (Deputy Town Clerk) and Ms S Richards (Town Clerk).

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman, Councillor Jon Evison welcomed the attending public, also extending a welcome to introduce representatives of Humberside Police, North Lincolnshire Council and Members of Barton-upon-Humber Town Council.

2. Notice of Meeting

It was noted that Notice of this Meeting had been given in accordance with Schedule 12 Paragraph 14 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.

3. Barton-upon-Humber Town Council Annual Reports 2014/2015

Consideration was given to the above mentioned Reports, circulated with the April 2015 issue of the 'Bartonian'. The Chairmen or Vice-Chairmen of the Committees and Working Parties were introduced for the respective reports. Members of the public were given a brief resume and invited to ask relevant questions.

(a) Community Working Party (Chairman: Councillor A Todd)

Councillor Todd appraised the report and explained what the working party undertakes. A question was put forward by a member of the public enquiring if any plays were being held in Baysgarath Park this year. Councillor J P Vickers (Chairman of the Barton Tourism Group), stated that the group is just finalising details for the summer programme of events in the park, and indeed the town. The events leaflet/programme will be available shortly.

(b) Environment Working Party (Chairman: Councillor F Coulsey)

Councillor Coulsey gave a report of the working party. He also requested for any volunteers to come forward who are interested in assisting at the annual bulb planting day, to be held on Saturday 17 October 2015. A question was put forward by a local resident regarding the mechanism to provide new and also to replace damaged and missing waste bins in the town. Councillor K Vickers explained that the town council and North Lincolnshire Council had budget allocation to undertake this. The resident was then invited to provide a list of the locations he felt required a bin in the town for consideration by the aforementioned councils.

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee (Chairman: Councillor K Vickers)

Councillor K Vickers gave a report of the committee. He explained a 2.51% reduction for a band D property had been achieved for the year 2015/2016, whilst maintaining services of the council. No questions were raised by members of the public.

(d) Planning Committee (Vice Chairman: Councillor F Coulsey)

Councillor Coulsey gave appraisal of the committee. No questions were put forward by members of the public.

4. **Questions for Barton Policing Team**

A local resident stated that “boy racers” were causing concern driving noisy vehicles around the town, in particular the Dam Road area. Sgt Burton explained the problem of vehicular noise dropped into a grey area, however, vehicles were regularly stopped and checked to ensure they are legal and insured. The Barton Neighbourhood Action Team (NAT) regularly addresses this issue as an ongoing project together with joint partnership working with North Lincolnshire Council Safer Neighbourhoods and the town council. Another resident enquired if DV meters were used by the Police. Sgt Burton replied that it was not in their remit to do so. He encouraged members of the public to report vehicular issues directly to the Police, to assist them in addressing this issue.

Sgt Burton reported that Inspector Brett Rutty was no longer in post at Barton Police Station, he had moved to another posting within Humberside Police. However, a new Inspector had been appointed, namely, Stephen Lamb M.B.E. He stated that overall crime was down in the town by 13.9% this year. This was an improvement from last year (previously reported as down by 12%). Theft from motor vehicles, vehicle theft and anti-social behaviour was also down by 22.4%. 2 robberies were reported last year and to date, 2 this year. Unfortunately domestic burglary has risen by 22%, but this was mainly attributable to one particular individual, who is no longer in the town. There had also been an increase in shoplifting, but, once again, this was mainly attributable to 1 individual.

A local resident reported anti-social behaviour issues in Baysgarth Park, affecting a community social group. Also, groups of youths gathering there which some felt intimidated by this. Sgt Burton urged everyone to report such incidents, and any reports of crime in general, to allow the Police to act on the intelligence to be able to dedicate Police resource to the problem. If reports are not forthcoming and reported, then the Police are unaware and cannot address the problem.

5. **Questions for North Lincolnshire Council**

Andy Tate gave appraisal to his area of work – Neighbourhood & Bereavement Services. A review was currently being undertaken to amalgamate this with the Highways Department. 2 parks in North Lincolnshire had been awarded the national green flag status. He felt that Baysgarth Park in the town would be ideal to look into for green flag status next year. This was based on the park being sustainable and with a management plan. Shortly, there will be a dedicated ward officer appointed, to work closely with the town council to assist and improve the local service. The Neighbourhood Services depot is to remain in-situ on East Acridge in the town, following the review. There will be at least 3 depots (Barton, Brigg and Scunthorpe).

A local resident reported that the road sweeper service had not been up West Acridge for some considerable time and enquired when it is likely to be re-surfaced, together with the Western Drive area. The footpaths were also queried, along with pothole issues and increased traffic flows, adding to the congestion and parking of vehicles was also on the increase in this area. It was stated that the programme for road sweeping would be looked into and re-surfacing was likely to be scheduled in the next round of re-surfacing and road maintenance programme of work.

Halyna de Boer stated that Neighbourhood Services merging with the Highways Department would allow for a better co-ordinated programme of work. She explained the winter road sweeping schedule not hampering the road salting programme meant the road sweeping was sometimes halted for a time.

She concluded that there had been a problem with the road sweepers requiring maintenance work to them and that the path sweepers were now defunct from service.

6. **General Questions from the Floor**

A resident stated the last bus from Barton to Hull was at 9.20 p.m. in the evening. This was hampering transportation, particularly to concerts and events that finished later than this. Also, with the forthcoming Hull City of Culture in 2017, the current service was not ideal. Councillor Evison agreed this needed improvement, and commented that he would look into this matter with a view to improving the service with the bus providers, particularly at weekends.

A member of the Barton Civic Society reported that there would be a public meeting held on Friday 15 May 2015, by the Civic Voice regarding 'Heritage Buildings' that are not listed. The meeting would be held at The Assembly Rooms, 7.30 pm. All welcome.

A member of the public raised the issue of vehicular parking on Pasture Road outside the football field, notably on match days. Councillor Oxley stated that the football club had applied for and received a grant of £27k to build a car park to house 36 vehicles to alleviate on-street parking issues on match days and when events were being held there. Further grants were being applied for to improve the facility. Further reports were received regarding general vehicular parking in the town, parking restriction periods, a park and ride system from the Humber Bridge Viewing Area with cctv monitoring, housing developments being built without enough vehicular parking provision, parking on Chapel Lane and evolvement changes with the increase of local residents working away from the town. Councillor K Vickers stated that these issues need carefully looking into. In particular, to enforce further time restrictions for the public car parks in the town would no doubt increase on-street parking, which was also reported as currently being a problem in some areas of the town. Councillor Evison concluded that North Lincolnshire Council have some funding to make provision for a further car park in the town. The problem was where to locate it and this required planning. Currently, there are mixed feelings regarding vehicular parking in the town by the local community – what suits one, does not always suit another.

A local resident wished to congratulate North Lincolnshire Council for the resurfacing of the public car park behind the St John's building on Castledyke West.

Another local resident wished the offer of the local Army Cadets to keep the Cenotaph tidy be accepted. Councillor Evison confirmed they were already undertaking this. The same resident queried the necessity for the town council to hold the annual town meeting each year, as he felt it served no purpose. Councillor Evison stated that the meeting was a statutory requirement of town and parish council's to hold, therefore the town council were obliged to hold the meeting each year.

A member of the public enquired what was happening to Eagle House, located on Fleetgate. Councillor Evison reported that as far as he knew, it was currently going to auction to be sold.

7. **Items for discussion or report at the discretion of the Chairman**

There being no further comments, the Chairman thanked the attending representatives from Humberside Police and North Lincolnshire Council who had answered questions and gave thanks to members of the public for their attendance.

The meeting was closed at 8.00 p.m.