

**BARTON-UPON-HUMBER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MINUTES of MEETING HELD in the ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BARTON-UPON-HUMBER
on THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2016 COMMENCING at 7.00 pm**

In attendance:

Councillor Mr J Oxley (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs A Clark, F Coulsey, N Jacques, Mrs J Mason, J Sanderson, Mrs C Thornton, P Thornton, A Todd, C Ulliott, J P Vickers, Ms J Warton, Mrs W Witter and D Yellowley

Sgt David Burton (Barton Policing Team) representing Humberside Police, Chris Matthews (Assistant Director, Community Services Places Directorate) representing North Lincolnshire Council, 10 local residents, Mrs C Clark (Deputy Town Clerk) and Ms S Richards (Town Clerk).

Apologises:

Councillors J Evison, Mrs S Evison, Mrs J Oxley and N Pinchbeck.

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman, Councillor Mr J Oxley 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. He commented this year was the third time he had been the Town Mayor, in a 30 year service. He stated that current improvements in the town were school improvements, a new town centre cctv system, more housing and development, together with 600 additional jobs announced by WREN. He concluded that the town was developing and on the up.

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 2015/2016

Consideration was given to the above mentioned Annual Reports, circulated with the April 2016 issue of the 'Bartonian'. The 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)

Consideration was given to the Annual Report of the Working Party. No questions were raised from members of the public.

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

Consideration was given to the Annual Report of the Working Party. Councillor Mrs Witter wished to give thanks to everyone on this Working Party and associated partners who contributed to making the town look beautiful this spring. No questions were raised from members of the public.

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

Councillor K Vickers commented that due to a population increase in the town, resulting in more council tax contributions, this had resulted in the town council being able to keep the same level of council tax for 2016/2017 as it had for 2015/2016. No questions were raised by members of the public.

(d) Planning Committee (Councillor Mrs W Witter)

Councillor Mrs Witter explained the planning committee met every three weeks to consider the town's planning applications. It had handled slightly fewer planning applications last year although it still dealt with the highest number of planning applications as a town council in the North Lincolnshire Council Planning Authority area. All planning applications for the town are available to view on the North Lincolnshire Council website. She concluded that the needs of both industry and housing were carefully considered.

- **Mrs U Vickerton** enquired about the WREN planning application status, Councillor Mrs Witter advised her to see the Town Clerk regarding this matter.

4. **Strategic Plan for the Town**

Councillor Mr J Oxley referred to the ordinary meeting of the town council held on 6 April, whereby Councillor R Waltham (Deputy Leader – North Lincolnshire Council) had spoken about the authority establishing a new group to deliver the programme 'Barton Regeneration 2018'. This would involve representatives from several local organisations, including the town council to put views forward. Councillor Mr Oxley felt this was good news for the town and a positive step forward.

Chris Matthews (NLC) explained this initiative would focus on several issues in the town and be a 2/3 year project, to include obtaining Green Flag status for Baysgarth Park. Some of the actions are already underway, with resources from North Lincolnshire Council being used to focus on improvements in the town.

Councillor P Thornton asked if he could read out a report from the town council's strategic plan working party. The Chairman, Councillor Mr J Oxley refused this request, as he and the town council had not seen sight of the documentation. Councillor P Thornton left copies of the document for members of the public to peruse, if they wished to do so.

5. **Questions for Barton Policing Team**

- **Jeremy Crook** asked if the Barton Beck area was becoming a problem area. He cited an incident during one of the town's 'Ghost Walk' evenings and the new seating adjacent to the Beck was discussed. Sgt Burton (Police) commented he was not aware of any particular issue, but they would keep an eye on the area.
- **Mr J Hall** enquired if the new cctv system in the town covered the Beck area. Currently it doesn't.
- **Mrs V Vickers** enquired if the new cctv system was beneficial. Sgt Burton explained that it was. Whilst the old system run by the town council had been useful previously, the new system offered improved images and had been useful to gain intelligence for several criminal issues in the town.
- **Mr J Hall** enquired about crime statistics in the town. Sgt Burton explained overall crime figures were slightly up for some anti-social behaviour issues. The public were encouraged to report incidents directly to them more frequently. Town centre crime figures were currently quite good. General crime statistics are available on the Humberside Police website for individual crime figures. Sgt Burton further explained from 22 February the Police service has changed to be more localised and was now led by Inspector Tim Harvey in the town. Road safety and speeding issues were fed to the Road Safety Partnership for further investigation. Following a speeding incident on Barrow Road, the culprits were now facing court action. Damage to the bus shelter in the Market Place was discussed, which he agreed to look into.

- **Jeremy Crook** highlighted some current thefts from gardens and garden sheds in the West Aridge area and wished to warn the public about this.

6. **Questions for North Lincolnshire Council**

- **Mrs U Vickerton** enquired about the capacity of schools in the town, bearing in mind the population was growing. It was reported that the junior and infant schools were full and was there sign of a fourth school being built. Chris Matthews (NLC) explained he will look into this matter and respond back to her when further information had been sought.
- **John French** enquired about permitted works to listed buildings and the unnecessary expense incurred by some of the owners due to lack of information. He asked if a leaflet and guidelines could be provided to the building owners by North Lincolnshire Council, in which the Barton Civic Society offered to deliver to them. Chris Matthews (NLC) felt the idea was good and that liaison with the Conservation Officer at North Lincolnshire Council was required. Councillor K Vickers explained that an article could also be inserted into an edition of 'The Bartonian', if required.
- **Mr J Hall** commented about the travellers who descend on Victory Way, which had made encampment there for some considerable time, blocking the road with their vehicles. Chris Matthews (NLC) explained that the Traveller Liaison Officer at North Lincolnshire Council dealt with this type of issue, whereby the matter was looked into and action and notice served upon those offending. Sgt Burton explained that the traveller needs also had to be addressed when notice was considered.
- **Jeremy Crook** referred to a recent NAT meeting and an issue of missing litter bins in the town. He also stated that the end of November to March, West Aridge had not seen sight of the automatic road sweeper. Chris Matthews (NLC) explained that a major review had recently taken place at North Lincolnshire Council with changes to service areas. It was anticipated that the new system would offer an improved, streamlined maintenance service with the introduction of ward officers. He explained the budget and priority system regarding maintenance programmes.
- **Ms D Burney-Jones** made comment upon dropped kerbs, with some vehicles being parked on them causing obstruction. She asked if they could be painted to highlight the area more. It was explained that obstructions on the highway were a Police matter and should be reported. Any areas that consistently suffer from this problem can receive a mailshot from North Lincolnshire Council in the local area, politely asking members of the public to beware of this problem. Councillor Mrs A Clark enquired about the timescale of the proposed zebra crossing installation on Holydyke. Chris Matthews (NLC) explained it was in the programme of work to be undertaken, which would be 3/6 months from now.
- **Mrs P Sanderson** enquired if the parking areas on Barrow road could be painted and divided into parking bays as some motorists were inconsiderate when parking their vehicles. Chris Matthews (NLC) explained he didn't feel this was a practical solution and the public highway was for the use of everyone and not just the residents of Barrow Road. However, he would look into this matter.
- **Councillor K Vickers** enquired about the new initiative for 'Gumdrop' bins used for the disposal of chewing gum, then this be used for re-cycling issues. Chris Matthews (NLC), felt this was a matter for the 'Barton Regeneration 2018' group to look into.
- **Councillor N Jacques** enquired about the North Lincolnshire Council 'Barton Regeneration 2018' group and how the information gathered by the town council's strategic plan working party can tie in. Currently 300 responses had been received, whereby he stated 500 was required by the working party. Chris Matthews (NLC) explained that the information can be perused by the group at its first meeting.

- **Councillor Ms J Warton** raised the issue of dog fouling in the town. She had found out that the problem period appeared to be when the street cleaner was on holiday over the Christmas and New Year Period. Chris Matthews (NLC) stated that when an operative was on holiday, maintenance continues with holiday cover provided to undertake the duties. The black bag system was queried and why the holiday cover couldn't use the trolley instead.
- **Ms D Burney-Jones** enquired about designated officers to monitor dog fouling issues, particularly around the Baysgarth Park and Waters' Edge Country Park. Chris Matthews (NLC) explained that Community Wardens did undertake this service and had powers to take action if necessary. However, public intelligence was required to assist this service as there were only a few wardens to cover the entire North Lincolnshire area. He stated that Sally Walker (NLC) was currently giving talks at town/parish councils regarding this service.
- **Mr J Hall** wished to praise the excellent service given by the street cleaner in the town. It was felt he did a very good job. Chris Matthews (NLC) stated he would pass this onto the North Lincolnshire Council employee.

7. General Questions from the Floor

- **Ms D Burney-Jones** enquired about events in the town and the noise emitting from some of them, in relation to informing local residents. It was explained that the Licensing Department at North Lincolnshire Council addressed licensing issues and did publicise events. However, noise nuisance required to be reported to North Lincolnshire Council. Some local events are advertised in 'The Bartonian', but only those that the town council are notified of.
- **Mrs U Vickerton** – enquired about the local flooding strategy. Chris Matthews (NLC) explained the role of the North Lincolnshire Council Flooding Forum with partnership agencies, including the Environment Agency. Also, there was a flooding and drainage team to deal with such issues. The anti-flooding strategy details were available to view on the North Lincolnshire Council website. Flood defences and warning systems were also discussed. Councillor Mr J Oxley explained an emergency plan for residents was also available on the town council website and was printed in 'The Bartonian' periodically.
- **Councillor Mrs A Clark** raised the issue of comments made locally on Facebook that were untrue. It was claimed that the Mayoral allowance at the town council was £20,000, when in actual fact it was £2,000. Both Councillor Mrs Clark and Councillor Mr J Oxley stated that during their respective mayoral years, they had both topped up this allowance with personal funds of their own. It was also acknowledged that all members of the town council were volunteers and didn't receive payment for being a councillor.

8. Items for discussion or report at the discretion of the Chairman

Councillor Mr J Oxley announced that to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday, a beacon would be lit on the Humber Bank at 7.15 pm on Thursday 21 April 2016. All welcome to attend. He also stated that the town council were looking into the provision of a number of public seats to be located along the Humber Bank. Anyone wishing to sponsor a seat may apply to the town council office for details. So far, some expressions of interest had already been received. 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.

.....Chairman 4 May 2016