

BARTON BENDISH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 commencing at 7.30pm in Barton Bendish Village Hall

Present: Cllr W Chapman (Chairman), Cllr R Simon, Cllr A Stephen, Cllr P Swallow, Cllr S Tilburn, Cllr D Wells.

Sharon Sweet - Parish Clerk

Borough Councillor – Sue Lintern

No members of the public were in attendance

1. To elect Chairman for the ensuing year

2. Cllr Chapman was elected unopposed, all in favour. Cllr Chapman signed the declaration of acceptance of office for the position of chairman.

3. To elect Vice Chairman for the ensuing year

Cllr Tilburn was elected unopposed, all in favour.

4. To consider apologies for absence and approve reasons if requested

Apologies for absence received from Cllr T Webster.

5. To receive Declaration of Interests and any requests for dispensation

None.

6. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2025

The minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting on 12th March 2025, having been circulated to all prior to the meeting, were **AGREED** as correct. The Chairman signed the minutes.

7. Public forum for members of the public to comment on agenda items, and updates from Borough and County Councillors

Prior to the meeting Borough Councillor Sue Lintern had sent a written annual report on updates from the BCKL&WN.

Cllr Simon advised that a resident wished to display a Tommy Statue on one of the grass verges. It was noted that while the council does not have the authority to grant permission for installations on grass verges (as they are not under parish council responsibility), members had no objections to a privately owned Tommy Statue being placed, provided it does not impede grass cutting.

8. To consider the installation of grit bins at Boughton Long Road (2) and the top of Buttlands Lane (1), as well as any other locations identified

It was **AGREED** to purchase 2 grit bins for Boughton Long Road, clerk to **ACTION**.

9. To review and confirm website hosting arrangements

After a discussion, it was **AGREED** to continue to have the website through Norfolk ALC and review in one year.

10. To consider renewal of Norfolk ALC membership £116.07

Members discussed whether to renew the Norfolk ALC membership. It was **AGREED** not to renew the Norfolk ALC membership for 2025-26.

11. To elect representatives:

- a) **RAF Marham (1 co-ordinator for Family Day & Christmas meal) - AGREED** to Cllr Wells to be responsible
- b) **Barton Bendish Poor's Charity (2 representatives of the Council Trustee) - AGREED** to elect Cllr Stephen and Cllr Webster
- c) **Updating noticeboards in the parish – Cllr Tilburn and Cllr Stephen AGREED** to continue with updating noticeboards

Chairman's signature.....

Date.....

12. To note dates of the Borough Council's annual Planning Parish Update Sessions in June and to consider if any councillors wish to attend (Thursday 12th June 2025, 6.30pm – 8.00pm and Wednesday 25th June 2025, 3.30pm – 5.00pm)

Noted by members.

13. To note the High Grove Solar Farm DCO consultation (site between Narborough and Dereham) and to consider submitting a comment by 12th June 2025

Members discussed the proposed solar farm. After considering the impact on agricultural land, particularly the loss of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land, and the scale of the development, it was **AGREED** to **OBJECT** to the DCO consultation on the following grounds:

- Loss of agricultural land needed for food production.
- Impact on Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land, which should be protected.
- Excessive scale of the development, affecting the landscape and local character.

14. Administration and Governance

- a) To review parish CIL report return for 2024-25 and authorise Chairman to sign – the report noted NIL expenditure for CIL 2024-25. The Chairman signed the return.
- b) To note the insurance renewal £355.09 (year 3 of a 3-year agreement) - It was **AGREED** to renew the insurance policy as presented.

15. Finance

Year-end accounts 2024-25

- a. To consider the Internal Auditors report for year ending 31st March 2025 (including AGAR page 4) - recommendations were noted
- b. To agree the accounts for year ending 31st March 2025 - having been circulated prior to the meeting, the year end accounts were **AGREED**
- c. To consider whether to exempt from an external audit and if so to authorise the Clerk and Chairman to sign the form - it was noted that as the Council's income and expenditure for the year was under £25,000, the Council could exempt itself from External Audit. This was considered and **AGREED** and the Clerk and Chairman were authorised to sign the form.
- d. To consider the assertions on, and complete, the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and to authorise the Clerk and Chairman to sign - the Council considered the assertions on the Annual Governance Statement, completed the form and authorised the Chairman and Clerk to sign on their behalf
- e. To consider and approve the Accounting Statements 2024/25 and to authorise the Chairman to sign - the Council considered and **AGREED** the Accounting Statement and authorised the Chairman to sign on their behalf
- f. To note the Public Exercise of Rights dates of 3rd June to 14th July 2025 – noted by members

2025-26

- a. To authorise payments and note any monies received - the following payments were **AGREED**:

Payee	Amount	Type	Description
S Sweet	£1085.49	SO	Clerk salary & allowance (April, May June)
D Dann	£ 59.80	BACS	Internal Audit
Zurich	£ 355.09	BACS	Insurance
NPTS	£ 62.94	BACS	Annual membership

The following receipt was noted:

Payee	Amount	Type	Description
BCKLWN	£6293.50	BACS	Precept 2025-26

Chairman's signature.....

Date.....

- b. **To review and sign cash book reconciliation** - the Cash Book had been reconciled to 28th April 2025 and was confirmed by sight of the bank statement to the Chairman
- 16. To consider planning applications received from the Borough Council. Any applications received after the issuing of this agenda will also be considered at the meeting:**
 - a. **25/00501/F – Proposed horse arena at Blandings Church Road Barton Bendish King's Lynn Norfolk PE33 9GF**
Members discussed the application and **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** the proposal with the following comment:
"The council recognises the importance of preserving dark landscapes and dark skies, as outlined in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Clause 191c and Norfolk County Council's Environmental Lighting Zones Policy. Accordingly, the council supports the application as presented, provided it remains without floodlighting and is for private use only."
- 17. To note planning decisions from the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk:**
None.
- 18. To receive items for inclusion on the next agenda**
None.
- 19. To confirm date of next meeting, as 9th July 2025 at 7.30pm Barton Bendish Village Hall**
The date was confirmed.

Meeting closed: 8.30pm

Chairman's signature..... Date.....