

**BARTON-UPON-HUMBER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MINUTES of MEETING HELD in the ASSEMBLY ROOMS
on THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2011 COMMENCING at 7.30 pm**

Present

Councillor K Vickers (Chairman)

Councillors T Chant, Mrs A Clark, F Coulse, Mrs J Mason, Mrs J Oxley, Mr J Oxley and J P Vickers.

Also Present

Inspector B Ruddy (Rural Neighbourhoods Inspector) representing Humberside Police, Mr C Barwell (Spatial Planning Manager), Mr R Beales (Head of Better Routes) and Mr P Scott (Assistant Director: Construction & Technical Services) representing North Lincolnshire Council, Ms S Richards (Town Clerk), and 10 local residents.

1. **Welcome from the Chairman**

The Chairman, Councillor K Vickers, welcomed the attending public, also extending a welcome to introduce representatives of Barton Local Policing Team, 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 2010/2011**

Consideration was given to the above mentioned Reports, circulated with the April 2011 issue of the 'Bartonian'. The Chairmen concerned were introduced for the respective Committee Reports, and members of the public were given a brief resume and invited to ask relevant questions.

(a) Community Regeneration Committee (Councillor A Todd) - No questions.

(b) Environmental Regeneration Committee (Councillor Mrs J Oxley) –

A local resident stated he had attended the Barton Chamber of Trade and Industry meeting earlier in the week and spoken to several other local residents, whereby comment had been made regarding several business properties being empty and the town centre itself looking as though it needed a boost. He further commented it was a “depressing street scene”. Councillor Mrs Oxley replied the question was a rather open one, but, the Environmental Regeneration Committee work hard to enhance the town centre with hanging baskets and planters, and work in partnership with the Neighbourhood Services Team to keep the town centre clean and tidy. She concluded that the town council had previously spoken about the closure of several businesses in the town, resulting in empty premises. However, she felt it was encouraging that the George Public House was to shortly re-open, following an improvement programme to the building.

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee (Councillor Mrs W Witter) - No questions.

(d) Planning Committee (Councillor Mrs W Witter) – No questions.

4. **Questions for Barton Local Policing Team**

Inspector B Ruddy answered questions and made comment on the following matters:

A local resident commented upon travellers that locate themselves on Falkland Way. He enquired if they could be moved on and stated they very often left rubbish behind when they left, leaving it for the local taxpayer to clean up and pay for. Inspector Ruddy explained this was not a specific issue for the Police to deal with. Indeed, there was a Gypsy and Traveller Officer at North Lincolnshire Council who liaised with these people. These settlements are managed where possible by the agencies concerned. The Police do however have empowerment to take action if the law is broken.

Levels of crime in the town was discussed. Inspector Ruty explained there was an encouraging downward trend generally in the North Lincolnshire area. Up to the year end in March, there had been an 11% reduction in criminal damage, though there had been an increase in burglary. This was currently being addressed. However, overall, crime levels were the lowest they have been for 5-6 years.

Concern was raised regarding unsociable behaviour in Baysgarth Park. This involved graffiti, alcohol drinking, whereby a daily collection of cans/bottles are being collected for disposal and groups of young adults congregating in and around the new playground area. Inspector Ruty commented that the Police were aware of this and felt the recent spate of good weather had prompted some of this. They had not received any specific evidence of drug abuse in the park. He stated that the town centre was classified as an 'Alcohol Restrictive Zone'. This is enforced by the Police and alcohol seized where applicable, though service calls were few and far between. The sale of alcohol from retail premises is monitored under licensing regulations by North Lincolnshire Council Licensing Department, which worked in close partnership with the Police. Young people congregating in the Park, he felt, was where they should be, rather than hanging about the streets, sometimes getting up to mischief. However, it was also stated that parents need to take responsibility where their children are in the town and to observe their behaviour and drinking. It was pointed out that some of the new play equipment was designed for slightly older children to use, therefore, this was maybe encouraging older children to congregate around the play area. However, the Police were increasing their monitoring of the park to alleviate some of the reported issues.

A report had been made regarding a youth on a motorbike, wearing no safety helmet and the bike having no registration plate having been seen around Appleyard Drive, particularly the wooded area. Inspector Ruty encouraged the public to report any incidents at the time it happened, in order for the matter to be actioned.

The progress and success of the town centre CCTV system was questioned. Overall, the results had been generally good claimed Inspector Ruty. It was felt it gave reassurance and crime prevention to the public and had assisted to identify offenders of several crimes. The Mayor, Councillor K Vickers commented that it was hoped to progress and extend the system when budget monies allowed.

Additional Police patrols were requested on Waterside Road and the request for a gate to be on the car park entrance, directly behind Haven House. This was due to several business premises located there with equipment stored and some scrap metal taken. "Boy racers" had been observed on the road also. Inspector Ruty explained the latter was a seasonal problem, and additional monitoring of the Tesco Store car park was taking place, following service calls from some local residents on Malkiln Road, whereby some young people congregated late in the evening. Once again, Inspector Ruty reiterated that the public need to report incidents when they happen, to show where monitoring is required.

Current cuts in the Police budget were queried. Inspector Ruty explained that due to careful planning in the last twelve months, Humberside Police have some reserves, though do face challenging times ahead. Neighbourhood Policing have some funding secured. It was felt that generally, Humberside Police probably fared better than some other forces in the country at the present time.

5. **Questions for North Lincolnshire Council**

The condition of the highway on Burgate/High Street was commented upon, as well as the practices implemented by contractors undertaking remedial repairs to the highway following the winter's inclement weather conditions. The poor condition of several other highway areas in the town was reported to also require attention. Mr Beales stated that a full highway repair scheme was to take place in September for Burgate/High Street. A road closure would be in operation with the work

being undertaken on Sundays where possible to minimalise public disruption. The current programme did not have Chapel Lane and Fleetgate listed for repair this year, but, he would check the position for the next financial year.

The condition of the former Blue Bell Public House was queried, together with a recent planning application submitted to use the premises for a housing development, being refused. Mr Barwell commented that planning regulations must not have been met by the developer in some way for the application to be refused. However, he would investigate for a progress report from the site developer.

6. **General Questions from the Floor**

Concern was raised regarding the state of The Haven. The water is not flowing as it did a few years ago and the mouth of the Haven where the shipyard is located is dry. Following investigation, it was reported that Barton Haven is classified as a main river and as such is under the Environment Agency's control at Lincoln (Tel: 08708 506 506), as is the pump station and pumped outfall at the transport interchange, the tidal sluice and Butts Drain alongside the railway to Pasture Road then turning south alongside Pasture Road as far upstream to Butts Road/Pasture Road South. The feed drains are under the management of North East Lindsey Internal Drainage Board. The local resident to investigate the issues he raised with the relevant agencies.

The poor condition and deterioration of Eagle House was raised. A representative of the Civic Society stated they had contacted the agents regarding this matter and remedial work was in progress.

Comment was made regarding what an eyesore the George Public House had become, particularly as it was located in a prominent area of the town centre. There had been poor workmanship in boarding up of the windows which also looked a further eyesore. It was reported an investment programme of work was currently being progressed to improved the condition of the building, with a view to re-opening the public house in the near future.

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, together with members of the town council and members of the public, the meeting was then closed at 8.15 pm.

.....Chairman 4 May 2011