

BARTON-UPON-HUMBER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MINUTES of MEETING HELD in the ASSEMBLY ROOMS, BARTON-UPON-HUMBER
on THURSDAY 12 APRIL 2018 COMMENCING at 7.00 pm

In attendance:

Councillor N Pinchbeck (Chairman)

Councillors F Coulsey, Mr J Oxley, J Sanderson, Mrs P Sanderson, Mrs C Thornton, A Todd, B Troop, J P Vickers, K Vickers, Ms J Warton and Mrs W Witter.

Sgt Timothy Rion (Barton Policing Team) and Supt David Hall representing Humberside Police, Mr Rob Beales (Head of Service – Transport, Highways & Environment) - representing North Lincolnshire Council, 13 local residents, Mrs C Clark (Deputy Town Clerk) and Ms S Richards (Town Clerk).

Apologies:

Councillors J Evison (unwell), N Jacques (away), Mrs J Mason (away) and Mrs J Oxley (personal issues).

1. **Welcome from the Chairman**

The Chairman, Councillor N Pinchbeck 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 then stated that the attending representative of North Lincolnshire Council is unable to discuss issues or answer questions relating to the “Top Field” development due to the authority being threatened with legal action. In light of this, North Lincolnshire Council felt it is inappropriate to comment further at the present time.

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 2017/2018**

Consideration was given to the above mentioned Annual Reports, circulated with the April 2018 issue of the ‘Bartonian’. Members of the public were given a brief resume and invited to ask relevant questions.

(a) **Community Committee** (Chairman: Councillor A Todd)

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

(b) **Environment Committee** (Chairman: Councillor F Coulsey)

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

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

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

(d) **Planning Committee** (Chairman: Councillor J Sanderson)

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

4. Questions for North Lincolnshire Council

Mr R Beales (NLC) answered the reports submitted by members of the public prior to the meeting commencing. A local resident of Far Ings experiencing flooding and drainage issues in his garden. Mr Beales explained an officer would be undertaking a site inspection and the drainage team will investigate further. Parking issues reported by a resident on Forkedale will be looked into and a site visit undertaken by traffic officers at North Lincolnshire Council.

- **Mr P Chapman** enquired about the proposed funding for a relief road in the town and asked if the whole of Barton could be looked at regarding the increasing volumes of traffic. Mr Beales stated a relief road was being looked into through independent consultants undertaking a study. The results will be due at the end of April and a report will be produced in due course. Mr Chapman commented that since some of the trees/shrubbery have been removed at the 'Top Field' development site on Ferriby Road, this has given rise to traffic noise from the A15.
- **Mr D Warren** expressed concern stating that the corner of Butts Road/Pasture Road had dropped 5 inches since Christmas. As this was a major bus route with a culvert underneath he felt this required urgent attention. Mr Beales stated this matter would be investigated.
- **Mr J Hall** enquired if the recent programme of sub-standard road resurfacing works, undertaken by an external contractor would be coming back to rectify the work. Mr Beales stated they would be returning on or around the 20 May. The contractor would be footing the bill for the repair work to be undertaken – not North Lincolnshire Council.

Mr R Beales left the meeting.

5. Questions for Barton Policing Team

Supt D Hall (Police) and Sgt T Rion gave an up-date regarding anti-social behaviour issues in the town, notably a recent issue on Burgate. The perpetrator was caught and is under-age, so their parents have been notified and partner agencies involved. Reports of youths in the town centre with anti-social behaviour issues are being monitored.

- **Mr D Warren** felt the town was "awash with drugs". he reported to have seen this in several locations in the town, which he gave report on. He also highlighted the debris and rubbish they had left behind and felt disgusted about this. Supt Hall stated the Police are aware of this issue and is a national problem. Enforcement and drugs warrants are issued with some offenders apprehended. He urged members of the public to report such incidents directly to the Police for the matter to be investigated and the necessary powers implemented.
- **Mr A Stewart** - had previously reported traffic and speeding issues in the Caistor Road area. The Police commented this had not been reported for the last few months. However, the traffic team is deployed with specialist resources to investigate traffic issues and positive action taken.

Supt Hall gave an up-to-date report regarding the local Policing service in the town with facts and figures quoted. Following the historical cutbacks, plans to reinvest in the force are now being made. There are officers and a community policing team based in Barton, with other services based in Brigg, Scunthorpe etc. There is a large recruitment drive being undertaken with an increase in officers employed. Crime and incident data has become more complex with a lot more reports received regarding safety issues. Indeed many reports received are not crime related at all. There is a broad range of service provision that is continually expanding. Local priorities are dealt with in conjunction with partners agencies, including child protection, modern day slavery etc etc.

- **Mr D Warren** enquired if split shifts of Police personnel could be implemented to assist the service. Supt Hall explained this matter was being looked at to cover unsociable hours. Currently a 5 shift pattern operated, with a move to a 4 shift pattern allowing larger teams more options. It is anticipated that community policing will move to a 24/7 service in due course.
- **Mr J Hall** asked if the town centre CCTV was useful. The Police representatives stated it was a useful tool but not the solution to all problems. The Police have a budget for Caistor Road CCTV monitoring and the Interchange CCTV was queried. The PCC have additional funds for community group initiatives, to help achieve the Police crime plan through Safer Neighbourhoods etc. The local Neighbourhood Action Teams are a forum for local priorities to achieve safer and stronger communities.
- **Mrs V Vickers** enquired about the best way to report crime or concerns to the Police. Supt Hall stated that whilst the Police had suffered failures in the 101 non-urgent medium, the system has been improved to incorporate new technology with a much improved service. Crime Stoppers can be contacted on 0800 555 111 whereby reports can be made anonymously. The regional call centre passes on intelligence locally. The Community Alert System is very interactive and useful on-line. A presentation of the service can be made at the local NAT meeting if required. Councillor Ms J Warton explained that she has recently used the 101 reporting system and had positive feedback.
- **Mr J French** stated that a local resident had recently found a knife in the town and found the local Police station was closed three times when he went to hand it in, despite the opening times advertised. Supt Hall explained there had recently been a spate of staff sickness at the station therefore this may have affected the service. Also, Police personnel are deployed to where they are required at the time, if an incident needed immediate attention etc. There is a call button that can be pressed at the Police station if the front door is closed.
- **Mr T Chant** explained the local Police station was closed Monday and Tuesday this week so he went back later in the week to report an incident. Police representatives explained that the buzzer outside the front door could have been used to alert attention.
- **Councillor Mrs P Sanderson** asked if the front desk at the Police Station could be manned by a civilian officer. Supt Hall replied that the role was currently been undertaken by a civilian officer who was also an ex Police Officer. The staffing issues at the Police Station were explained and signage outside the Police Station is to be reviewed. Sgt Rion requested that intelligence/concerns/crime from the public all need to be reported directly to the Police. This allows resources to be allocated to the target areas to ensure the service is effective.

6. Questions from the floor

- **Mr Ian Lawless** felt that reduction of the number of Councillors serving on the town council was a good idea. However, sectioning up the town so that a Councillor could serve each section would be better. Councillor N Pinchbeck explained that following the Community Governance Review, the town council would have 12 Councillors serving the town after the elections next year. It has also been agreed that the town to be served as one ward as opposed to the current two. The Councillors are all unpaid volunteers who will serve the whole of the town, not sections of it. Mr Lawless enquired about how councillors are elected. Councillor Pinchbeck explained the election system, whereby any resident can put themselves up for election. The twelve with the most votes are then elected onto the town council. Mr Lawless also asked if the town council could start an e-mail circulation to residents. Councillor Pinchbeck responded that the 'Bartonian' was circulated to each household with information several times a year, the town council website is currently being redesigned with information, there is a Facebook page, council meetings and notices placed. In light of this, he felt the information was indeed available to everyone.

- **Mr J French** enquired if the frontage of The Assembly Rooms could be improved. He felt externally the brickwork could be made to look better, particularly as it was a civic, historical building. Councillor K Vickers explained the building was run by CHAMP Ltd and a programme of on-going improvement works are being made. Major improvement works are carefully considered as it comes down to the cost of undertaking these. Mr French also asked if the North Lincolnshire Council led 'Regeneration 2018' group could be continued to future years as he felt there was much more work to do. Members of the town council agreed that the work undertaken by the group had been successful with several projects undertaken.
- **Mr T Chant** discussed several issues regarding Baysgarth Park. He stated that a few years ago a plaque had been removed from outside the park gates, the park paths causing flooding problems, the park he felt had been given to the residents of Barton for people to use, referring to the family who donated the Park. The Green Flag status aimed for he felt could prevent things happening etc. Councillor N Pinchbeck responded explaining that the Green Flag status was to improve the park so that everyone could access and enjoy it. The work has not gone against the covenant of the Park and was endorsed last year by a descendant of the family who originally owned it. On Facebook 95% of people were in favour of the park improvements and the town council were in favour of the improvement works undertaken by the Friends of Baysgarth Group. Nobody is being stopped from using it, the Athletics Club can also still use the park and wheelchair and mobility carriages can now access the park via the new paths running through the park.
- **Mr J Hall** felt the improvements made to the park was a vast improvement and for the work to continue. He also enquired if an additional pharmacy could be brought into the town due to the increasing population. Councillor N Pinchbeck replied that he had had consultations with both pharmacies in the town and at the Health Centre. Whilst there had been problems at the pharmacies due to staffing issues and a spate of inclement weather, he felt there had been improvement to both pharmacies recently. It had also helped with the pharmacies at Barrow and Goxhill to assist with the local service. NHS England were looking into implementation of a third pharmacy in the town in the future perhaps. The Health Centre is currently looking into how it can help the service where it can.
- **Mrs U Vickerton** having recently attended a Patient Forum, stated that a third chemist was not likely to be forthcoming in the town. Councillors Mr J Oxley and Ms J Warton endorsed the NHS on-line prescription service Pharmacy/2U to be a good, reliable service to use as an alternative.
- **Mr A Taylor and Mr P Chapman** wished to ask the town's three ward councillors about the 'Top Field' development and also the public "open space" which he stated had been determined by the North Lincolnshire Council Leader, Councillor R Waltham in discussions with him. He wanted to know if a public consultation would be held regarding use/maintenance/protection of the land. Councillor K Vickers responded that the matter was important to protect the land. 650 trees are to be planted with a walk way, in lieu of the trees to be felled on the 'Top Field' development site. The area adjacent to the development site has been offered to the town council. This is to be discussed at a forthcoming finance meeting. Mr Chapman felt there should be a public consultation to determine the use of the land and not just planting of the trees. Councillor K Vickers explained the tree planting will protect the land for the future. Mr Chapman felt that a public consultation to determine use of the land will go some way to restore public faith in the town council.

Sgt Timothy Rion and Supt David Hall representing Humberside Police left the meeting.

- **Mr D Warren** enquired about the town Library moving from Providence House to the Leisure Centre, which he disagreed with. Councillor J P Vickers explained it was to be an all round care package. This followed extensive refurbishment the Tofts Road Day Centre required with much investment needed. Providence House Library was mainly used by school children and the Leisure Centre under-used. Following a public consultation, it was decided to combine all three together with additional service providers to ensure all services remained in the town. There will be revised bus services to ensure transportation is available for everyone in the town to access the Leisure Centre complex and the addition of the Call-Connect bus service will compliment this. The future of Providence House is currently unknown. However, it would be ideal for GP/Health Centre services with parking available.
- **Veronica Feirn & Andrew Flatt** asked what was to become of the current Lidl store once Lidl vacate it. Councillor N Pinchbeck replied that Lidl had recently submitted a planning application to North Lincolnshire Council to divide the store into two. When they vacate it, this may or may not happen. It may be utilised by one company or service. Councillor J P Vickers stated that the building was a private one, therefore, it was not currently known who will occupy it. It was felt that it was ideal for a well-being centre with the benefit of town centre parking.
- **Mr P Chapman** enquired if there had been any money set aside in the North Lincolnshire Council budget for the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Ferriby Road. Councillor J P Vickers confirmed there was.

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

None.

The Chairman, Councillor N Pinchbeck thanked everyone present at the meeting, including the speakers and members of the public for their comments and attendance.

The meeting was closed at 8.30 p.m.

.....Chairman

2 May 2018