**Great and Little Barugh Parish Newsletter January 2015**

Welcome to the first edition of The Barughs newsletter. Your Parish Council would like to update you on what they have been working on since the Election in May 2015 and would love to hear your opinions on issues and upcoming projects.

**Your Councillors**

* Sarah Houlston, Chair
* Karen Garrett, Vice Chair and Acting Parish Clerk
* Peter Milner, Councillor
* Richard Metcalfe, Councillor
* Duncan Collinson, Councillor

We would like to thank Dorothy Ashton, who resigned as Parish Clerk due to personal commitments, for all her hard work over the years, it was very much appreciated. We would also like to extend our best wishes and gratitude to Carolyn Swift who has been Treasurer for many years but has sadly stepped down due to ill health. We would like to wish them both all the very best for the future.

**What’s New In Local Government**

As of April 2015 the Government implemented the ‘Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities’ which has heavily impacted on Parish and Town Councils. The new legislation requires that all Parish Councils comply with the contents of the Transparency Code in this digital age. As a Council we are required by law to:-

1. Offer a Parish website which is free at the point of use for all residents
2. The website is government funded for 3 years for any equipment, web-building and hosting. After three years the Parish will be responsible for paying the hosting fee.
3. Currently the information is held on Ryedale District Council’s website as a temporary measure.
4. Ensure all Parish documentation is available to view on the website, Agendas, Minutes, End of Year Financials, expenditure and Correspondence. This is to ensure all Parish Councils are open and transparent.
5. Details of your Councillors, their roles and specific interests.

Other legislation requires that Parish Clerks now all have to be employed by the Parish Council and as such personnel issues including NI, Tax, employment reviews and workplace pensions would have to be implemented. This is obviously very difficult for small Parishes with limited funds and a varying workload. We agreed that Karen Garrett would act as Parish Clerk, as Councillors are not allowed to be paid. During this time Karen will record the hours required, monitor the workload and a view will be taken down the line as to how much having an employed Parish Clerk would cost as that would impact on the Parish Precept in the future if that were to go ahead.

The Parish Council joined the Yorkshire Local Councillors Association (YLCA) which we have found to be an invaluable service for keeping us up to speed with current legislation, their advisory service is an excellent tool for finding out clear and accurate information for all areas of Local Government, especially now with an increased workload being handed down from Central Government. It has also be very useful to attend their meetings and meet other Parishes and exchange problems and ideas.

I think we can safely say the last few months have been very much like going back to School for all the Councillors!

**WEBSITE & NEWSLETTERS**

1. We would like your help in choosing a domain name for the website!! Some ideas so far:-

Thebarughs.com (Number 1 choice at the moment!)

Barughsambo.com

Greatandlittlebarugh.com

Any ideas would be very gratefully received, it needs to be memorable!

1. Photographs – we would love some photos of the villages to use for the website, preferably in colour. It would be fantastic if you could email any ideas for names or copies of photographs you may have to Karen Garrett or give her a call on 01653 668245.

All Parish Information, notices of meetings, newsletters etc will be put on the website. There will be residents who have no emails/internet access and we will deliver hard copies to your addresses. Notices/information will still be provided on the notice boards.

1. If you wish to advertise events or local services you will be able to do so on the website!
2. Email database – it would be really helpful if you could email karen@brawbygrange.com to be added to the newsletter distribution list. You will be notified of meetings and forthcoming events by email. Unfortunately we don’t have the time to hand deliver leaflets to every household so your assistance in supplying an email address would be helpful.

**NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12th January, The Golden Lion, Great Barugh at 7pm. Anyone wishing to raise an issue/speak at the meeting will be given a 3 minute slot or alternatively your comments can be read out in your absence. Please contact Karen prior to the meeting if you wish to address the Council. We look forward to seeing you there.

**PARISH PRECEPT**

We will shortly be looking at preparing the Parish Precept for 2016/2017. Ideally, we would like to ensure that the contributions for the Parish that you pay on your Council Tax remain small, however, there are some services which we feel require payment through the precept which have never been included before.

1. **Salt/Grit Provision**

Historically, this has been paid for by generous residents, one from each village, but we feel this is unfair. We have been having ongoing communication with NYCC regarding Salt Provision, especially for Little Barugh which does not have the benefit of being on a gritting route, we are trying to argue the case that the salt should be provided free of charge due to the nature of the roads, bends, parked cars and hills, not to mention the near misses and incidents with school bus. The cost of replenishing the salt bins with two refills is £180 per village. This will need to be included in the precept. Your thoughts on this matter would be gratefully received.

1. **Roadside Maintenance/Grass Cutting**

NYCC no longer offer a roadside verge cutting service free of charge. Several residents very kindly occasionally strim and mow near junctions and around road signs at their own expense. It may be nice to have a sum of money in which to reimburse residents for their fuel as a goodwill gesture.

**Traffic Calming Measures & Speeding**

The issue of speeding is an ongoing one and we have had residents expressing concern about speeding through both villages. We would appreciate feedback from anyone with issues, we are hoping to hold an evening with a talk about the subject in the near future.

**Third Energy – Shale Gas Application at Kirby Misperton**

Over the last few months we have endeavourered, where possible, to keep you informed of any events, for and against, relating to this application via our leaflets notifying you of PC Meetings. In collaboration with Habton and Kirby Misperton Parish Chairs, Sarah Houlston helped host an information evening at Kirby Misperton Village Hall which was well received.

The Parish Council set up a sub-committee to investigate and learn about the implications of the application to frack at Kirby Misperton. After months of attending meetings, presentations and consultations held by Third Energy, Environment Agency, Kevin Hollinrake MP and anti-fracking groups, hours spent researching and talking with experts from DECC, EA, Public Health England etc as well as speaking to many local residents, the sub-committee formulated a comprehensive objection to the application.

There is currently another consultation in process and at the moment the decision by NYCC has been deferred until February 2016 pending further information required by NYCC and further consultation periods are expected.

**Little Barugh Village Green**

We have a number of people who have very kindly offered to tidy up and rejuvenate the old pond area in Little Barugh, maintaining the seat and planting a variety of trees and flowers to make an attractive place to sit, children to play and help keep the village looking lovely. The trees have been kindly donated by Circle, who work alongside Flamingoland. Great care will be taken to ensure the correct drainage measures are looked into before embarking on the project. There have been reports of dog fouling (and even human), it would be great to think that rejuvenation of the green area would ensure dogs are kept under control and respected by passing visitors. Duncan Collinson and Lesley Salisbury are the people to see if you wish to join in and help.

**HRH Queen Elizabeth II Birthday Celebrations**

Next year is Her Majesty’s 90th birthday and like the Jubilee, we are looking into the possibility of having a joint village event to celebrate this. We would love to hear any ideas of what you would like to do to create a super community get together, volunteers will be required!!

**Fundraising**

Fundraising would be an excellent way of being able to run any events such as the Birthday celebrations or any other events residents may wish to have, keeping the village looking lovely with planting. One suggestion was a village lottery (which has been successful in Brawby in helping keep the village hall up and running, paying for pensioners Christmas party etc). The way it works is on the Bonus Ball, residents pay £1 per week for their chosen number, if their bonus ball number comes up the prize is £25, the remainder of the money is kept in the pot. This would potentially raise over a year £1768, quite a way towards supporting the upkeep of our villages. Other suggestions have been cake stalls and garden parties.

**And Finally……………!**

Your views are very important to us, if you have any other comments/issues you would like to raise please feel free to email/write to Karen.

We would be very grateful of any feedback and look forward to receiving ideas for website names, photographs or any other information towards the village website.

Remember, if you wish to be added to the newsletter email list please email karen@brawbygrange.com with your details. Anyone without email, please can you call Karen who will add you to the leaflet list on 01653 668245.

We would like to wish all the residents, a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

***Karen Garrett***

***On behalf of Great and Little Barugh PC.***

Contact Karen Garrett 01653 668245 karen@brawbygrange.com

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