**Great and Little Barugh Parish Council.**

 Minutes of meeting held on 4th December 2024, 7pm, Brawby village hall.

Present: Sarah Houlston, Richard Hagger, Sue Gough, Richard Metcalfe

1. **To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.**

Apologies received from Halina Gleave.

1. **To receive any declarations of interest not already declared under the Council’s Code of Conduct or a member’s Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**

None received

**2:1 To receive, consider and decide upon any applications for dispensation.**

None received.

1. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October, 2024, as a true and accurate record.**

Minutes approved.

**3:1 To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 14th October, 2024.**

APGP Licence to be purchased. Access to digital mapping could be very useful, Cllr. Hagger to take a look and enrol us. Cllr Gough to send the link to Cllr. Hagger.

 Spring bulbs for planters in the villages. (£50 budget). Cllrs. Houlston and Gough to purchase.

 Parish Council Sub Committees. It is agreed that the following committees will be formed and joined by the following councillors:

 Geothermal Project Committee: Cllrs. Houlston, Gough, Hagger and Metcalfe.

 Common Land and Biodiversity Committee: Cllrs. Houlston, Gough and Metcalfe.

1. **Public session.** To allow residents and members of the public to make representations, ask questions and give evidence in respect of any items of business.

There were no representations made, no members of the public were present.

1. **To consider and decide upon the following planning application/s:**

 Planning Application No: ZE24/04670/HOUSE

Applicant: Dianna Reader

Description: Erection of a single storey rear extension following removal of existing conservatory and formation of a dropped kerb to allow the provision of off-street parking to front of dwelling.

Location: 3 Hillside, Barugh Lane, Great Barugh, North Yorkshire. YO17 6UZ

Case officer: Janet Villa-Fordon

Application Approved.

1. **Agenda items.**

**Lower Green in Little Barugh.** Progress has been made with the two wild flower mini meadow project. The ditch at the front of the green has been cleared by Cllr Metcalfe, who also strimmed the green for a second time. The area was raked by Cllrs. Metcalfe, Houlston and Gough. Cllr Houlston organised collection of the waste material by Mr Robert Snowball.

During this project, Mr Bulmer began work to the boundary of his property, which is opposite the Lower Green. A conversation was had with Mr Bulmer regarding the Parish Council’s responsibility for the stewardship of the upkeep of the Green/Common lands in our villages. Mr Bulmer assured us that the affected areas of verge would be made good.

**A discussion was had regarding the number of trees planted by the PC over the years and where they are situated.** It was agreed that a map of their location within the Parish would be extremely helpful, and that the AGPG license may well help us to produce this and the map would then be put onto our web site.

Both of these aspects; the common land/greens and trees form part of our parish biodiversity and more work on our biodiversity and our policy on biodiversity needs to be done. Kieran Holliday, conservation officer at Flamingo Land will be helping with our survey.

**Parking on the verges in Great Barugh** was discussed. It is to be hoped that this can be discouraged next year with the extension of the meadow project into these areas.

**Street Lighting in Little Barugh.** An email was received from a resident Rachel Sargeant, regarding one of the lights not functioning and concerns for elderly residents. This will be reported on the NYC’s portal.

**VAT reclaim for the Geothermal Project.** This has proved to be a difficult issue. This Parish Council is not VAT registered and the project has thrown up some difficulties. The wording of the information accompanying the original application form clearly stated that VAT had to be paid back to NYC, as we understood it. As it appeared to the PC, there would not have been the funds to pay Third Energy, as set out in the spread sheet Cllr. Houlston created. Cllr. Houlston met with Joss Holmes of Great Habton in order to seek advice, as well as emailing Third Energy.

A decision was unanimously agreed that the PC would email NYC to get clarification on this matter in writing before we can go ahead with any payment. It should be noted that the VAT form was submitted by Cllr. Houlston on 27th November, receipt of which was acknowledged.

**Parish Council Website.** Cllr. Hagger looked at the information we were sent, encouraging councils to move over to a gov.uk site and reported back that it was not value for money for us as a very small council. It was unanimously agreed that we should continue with our current arrangement.

**Precept.** Our Parish Council set a Precept of £400.

**Vehicle Activated Sign in Great Barugh:** Cllr. Hagger delivered the latest report on data recorded by the sign in Great Barugh. This is very positive, showing that the average speed over the last 4 months was 28 mph. with an occasional excessive speed recorded. 33% of motorists were recorded at 30-35 mph. The data is available for anyone to view on request. The VAS has had a considerable effect on reducing speeding through the village. This information will be added to the PC Spring newsletter.

**Parish Portal.** Changes to the parish portal have been noted. Cllr. Gough will register in the new site after 11th December.

1. **Correspondence.**

Cllr. Gough reported all relevant correspondence to the PC. Including the email from Rachel Sargeant, as discussed previously.

Meeting closed at 8.16 pm.