

LANGAR CUM BARNSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 21st April 2016 at 7.45pm at Barnstone Village Hall

*Present: Cllrs R Brooks, (Chairman), A Bellamy, A Carter Davies, V Gell, T Simpson, R Whitehead
In attendance: County Cllr R Butler; 43 members of the public including representatives from parish groups and organisations; representatives from Everards Brewery and William Saunders Architects.*

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Borough Cllr T Combellack, PCSO J Heaps

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 16th April 2015 were approved as correct and signed by the Chairman. (Copies available from the Clerk and online at www.langarbarnstone.com)

3. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported as follows:

Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council Chairman's Report 2015/16

Your Parish Council has once again had a very busy year, which started with the local elections in May 2015, the results from a Parish Council point of view were very disappointing with three vacancies still remaining. The results of a transport survey in the parish, to which 33% of the parish responded, were passed on to NCC & Trent Barton Bus Services.

Once again the LcB Festival in June proved a great success and our thanks go to all who made it possible. We have also, in an effort to improve the parish facilities in general, appointed two Parish Wardens, who will become the eyes and ears of the community. They will be carrying out maintenance on parish properties and ensuring local footpaths are maintained to a reasonable standard as well as other duties.

2015 was the year in which the PC who, after many years of badgering the relevant authorities, were pleased to see Superfast Broadband introduced in the parish. We are aware that not everyone has been connected, but as technology advances we hope they too will soon be connected up.

The PC continues to carry out its programme of improvements to the village hall, a new water heater has been installed and we will shortly be installing a new heating system, unfortunately the present system has been found not fit for purpose, this has been borne out by the number of complaints received from the users of the village hall. On a brighter note I am pleased to report that the new heating system has been donated by a heating contractor with the Parish Council only being invoiced for the installation costs. I would like to mention at this point that the PC has also taken over responsibility for the financial management of the village hall.

From a financial point of view I am pleased to report that the PC has been successful in applying for funding in order to install outdoor gym equipment at the Barnstone outdoor play area in May 2016, we were awarded a total of £5000 towards the cost of the equipment.

In October of last year the PC received a letter from the solicitors of the late Mr R Gale of Langar which informed us that we were to receive a legacy of £25,000 towards the upkeep of the Parish village hall. For those of you who may not be familiar with the name, Mr Gale was a local farmer and owner of a major part of Langar airfield.

With regards to highway matters we continue to correspond with Notts County Council regarding safety at Langar crossroads with no progress being made despite many suggestion being put forward, however I am sure that you are all aware of the signs that have been erected around the village school, this all part of a county wide safety programme where it is hoped that the entrance and exit areas are a safer place for parents and children alike.

On a more sombre note, despite efforts made by various bodies, the Church of England authorities have decided to close St Marys Church Barnstone due to the cost of repairs and maintenance to the fabric of the building. There was also the unfortunate incident of the fire at The Unicorns Head which robbed the Parish of its only Public House. However I am sure that we will all be extremely interested to learn of the progress being made in the rebuilding programme which we will learn about later in the evening in a presentation to be given by representatives of Everards Brewery. We as a Parish have also suffered the recent loss of our local Post Office.

Finally, the Parish Council will continue to strive to improve the facilities within the Parish and make further improvements to the village hall for the benefit of the Parish in general.

R Brooks 21st April 2016

4 Presentation on plans for the Unicorns Head by representatives from Everards Brewery and William Saunders Architects

Copies of the presentation are available from the Clerk or online at www.langarbarnstone.com

The following issues were raised:

- Late evening noise nuisance – signage to be installed
- Post Office closure – could it be accommodated in the pub – possibly if there is space
- Community Shop – could one be accommodated in the pub – it was a question of space and balance of facilities in the community

5 Reports from Community Groups and Organisations

Short reports were given by the following groups:

- **Village Hall**

Tom McHarg reported that bookings were healthy and that the hall was occupied every weekday evening. Charges remained the same. The hall chairs would be replaced shortly. Comments welcomed.

- **Brownies**

Dot Clayton reported that she had been Brown Owl for 36 years. The programme includes a party to celebrate the Queen's Birthday, attending the annual Mayfest where we get to meet girls from all over the County, and an **open evening on Tuesday 21st June 2016, 6 – 7.30pm.** plus the annual **Ceilidh on Friday 24th June 2016** as part of the Langar & Barnstone Festival. We do have some vacancies for more girls aged 7 – 10 years old to join us. If you would like more information please call Brown Owl on 01949 860022.

- **Vale Market Café**

Andrew Charlett made the following report:

We are now in our fifth year of operation and continue to provide a popular venue for members of the community to meet up and chat over a snack and drink at the Café. The Market has also proved popular for customers to buy locally sourced bread, eggs and vegetables and we now have a large collection of books in our library where people can exchange books they have enjoyed for others they are eager to read. The Vale Market Café also provides an opportunity for us to tell customers about upcoming events within our community and to enable residents to meet and discuss matters of interest with local councillors and Police officers.

Once again we have organised a French themed Café event during the Langar and Barnstone Festival week. This year we are intending to host an English breakfast themed event on Saturday 25th June.

The venture is non-profit making but we have been able to cover our costs and run at a slight surplus. With this we are able to support local community activities. This year we were able to provide a grant to Vale Ventures to help them to stage the pantomime.

We have an enthusiastic group of volunteers and are always eager to welcome any more who wish to help us, particularly younger members of the community who may be looking for experience in preparing or serving food or selling produce. We are looking forward to continuing to serve our community.

- Tarmac**– Chris Stephens and Niki Heath made the following report:
 As you may or may not know, we are no longer Tarmac, Lafarge Tarmac, Lafarge or - for those of you with long memories - Blue Circle, we are now CRH Tarmac.
 CRH are an Irish company and one of the biggest construction materials companies in the world and as such offer a great future for us as a plant. Although they are a large company, they are not heavy handed or prescriptive, except in the area of safety, where there are 16 Life Saving Rules which are applied worldwide.
 Safety is our No.1 goal. We have achieved 1665 Lost Time Injury Free days, so we are well on our way.
 The plant is thriving and our target sales for this year are around 220kt which is a small increase on 2015.
 We directly employ 73 people on the plant, but indirectly through the supply chain, that figure rises to 128 and if the impact on the wider economy is included, we reach the dizzy heights of 972.
 This puts a fair amount into the local economy each year - about £3 million at the last count. As you may be aware there has been cement making on this site for over 150 years and a lot of the housing in the village was built by the company many years ago. This led to the plant having a long lineage of families who have worked here over the generations. That link is still here with the next generation of families happily filling vacant roles on the plant. It is also pleasing to see that 85% of our employees live within 10 miles of the plant.
 Tarmac currently have job vacancies. They will also be taking part in the Langar & Barnstone Festival when they will include a Gymkhana section under Riding for the Disabled.
- Langar & Barnstone WI**
 Diane Columbine gave the following report:
 The Group had altered its meeting times from evening to afternoons. Activities including Card making, jewellery, occasional speakers and a garden party. LcB WI would be celebrating 96 years next year. Guests are always welcome.
- Ladies Walking Group**
 Jill O’Sullivan gave the following report:
 A new season of walks started at the beginning of April with a 3-mile ramble over Barnstone Bump, followed by last week’s damp trek across Fletcher’s Field and beyond, going vaguely right and coming out on the Granby Road.
 Yesterday it was a romp round the back lanes and byways of Whatton and Aslockton.
 We’ve made some wild claims about distances covered in the past, but now we’ve got Karen’s phone app working we can be a bit more accurate. Most walks are about 3 miles, and last about an hour, though next week’s walk to Dove Cottage and back is going to be a bit more of a challenge.
 We’ve got some lovely countryside round here and it’s a pleasure to explore it on foot. The walks are weekly, weather permitting, from April to September and follow footpaths across fields, along canal towpaths, farm tracks and old railway lines.
 There are about 20 people on the list, and the usual turnout is anything from 3 or 4 people to larger groups of 10 or more.
 I’ve got talking to people I’ve never met before, and become re-acquainted with some I haven’t spoken to since the days of the school run.
 It’s all very casual, with no commitment, no cost and no fancy equipment – just turn up in comfy walking shoes and bring an anorak. It’s called the Ladies Walking Group, but all are welcome – we now have a couple of dogs who come along too.
 Contact Claire at the Parish Council for details.
- Transport**
 Jeff Fry gave the following report:
 Last year, our Parish Council distributed a transport questionnaire to every household in Langar and Barnstone, with an encouraging response rate of almost 33%.
 The findings were broadly in line with what was anticipated. The majority of respondents were aged 65 or over, and the principal concerns were over access to local shops and medical services. There was interest in the possibility of accessing community transport services, and the wish to have improved links to Bingham was also highlighted, particularly in light of the improving shopping facilities in the town.

Whilst these findings were not too surprising, they nevertheless provide objective evidence that is being used in ongoing discussions with NCC, Trent Barton and others over the transport needs for our villages.

- **Cushion Club**

Claire Pegg reported the following:

Cushion Club is the parish film club, which shows the latest releases in the village hall on the last Saturday of each month for a membership fee of £12 per year. All welcome. Contact Claire for more details.

- **St Andrews & St Mary's Church**

Robin Coles gave the following report:

All are welcome to use the church space. Forthcoming events include the Boots Orchestra as part of the Festival on 18th June, a Pop up Café on the first Saturday of each month, a Picnic on the Green to celebrate the Queen's birthday on 12th June, a flower display in Church on the theme of Australasia.

- **Belvoir Archers**

Vicky Denton gave the following report:

The Club continues to remain about 45 members, despite losing 4 members over the winter months as they emigrated to Australia

The Junior Club continues to have about 10 juniors

We have just had our 5th Annual AGM and Founders shoot which was very well attended

The issue raised at the AGM by our female and Junior Archers was the lack of toilets for the Club and we will be looking into this issue over the next year. We have been looking at options of plastic and metal chemical toilets which will need to be serviced on a regular basis, we expect costs to our club to be between £1k and £4k. One option we looked into was £17K which was too expensive for the club to achieve.

Coaching:

Over the past year the Club has strengthen its coaching team with the addition of two new level 1 coaches but we have lost a level 2 coach who left for Australia. We currently have a candidate coach going through the level one coaching course and have two people on the list for Level 2 coaching which should start in November. We hope by March 2017 this will give us 3 Level 2 coaches and 3 Level 1 coaches (6 coaches in total to around 55 members).

Over the winter months Belvoir Archers have been using the Barnstone Village Hall fortnightly on a Saturday for the Junior Club and one to one coaching sessions as well as every Tuesday nights for general shooting. We have seen an improvement in all of the members who undertook this coaching.

We have a programme of beginner courses and have a goes over the summer months.

Normally our Have a Go's are on the last Thursday of each month. The end of Mays Have a Go will be on Friday 3rd June to link into Archery GBs' Big Weekend at the Start of June which is where the whole country's Archery clubs put on Have a Go's.

We also hoping to have a Have a Go at Dove Cottage on Sunday 15 May for their Summer Fete and also on Saturday 11th June we are holding a Have a Go for the International Police Organisation.

Field:

We were very grateful to the Parish Council for permission to place a new container on the field which allowed the club to purchase (with assistance from Sports England) some foam bosses.

We used these Foam bosses Last Saturday when Belvoir Archers held their First Double Word Record Status World Archery 50m 60m Cadet and 70 m tournament. This event was full very early with a waiting list. We had entries from 1 ArcheryGB national team and a GB Para archer as well as a dozen entries from ArcheryGB Junior Team. We have been informed by ArcheryGB that they had selected this shoots as one for the National Series which concludes with the Final at Wollaton Hall in September.

The event saw a Junior Lady shoot a national record (subject to ratification) by a Junior Lady and another Junior Lady claim her six gold end. We have started to take bookings for this event next year. We also have our summer and winter Windsors competitions which are normally very well attended with archers from across Nottinghamshire as well as far as Chester attending.

- **PTA**

The PTA are looking for volunteers to marshall the Annual Bike Ride on 21st May – please contact the school if you can help

Nigel Wood gave the following three reports:

- **Langar & Barnstone Festival 2016**

This year will be the 4th Langar & Barnstone Festival. As usual local groups, businesses and individuals have come together to organise a series of events. The festival will run from Saturday 18th June until Sunday 26th June. Events include a Pony Gymkhana, a concert by the Boots Orchestra, tours of the Barnstone Works, Brownies Open Evening & Ice Cream Parlour, Quiz Evening, “Have-a –go” Archery, a visit to Merrivale A.D. Plant, a Ceilidh, Festival Café & W.I. Cake Stall, Classic Car Meet, Langar PTA Proms & Picnic, Art Exhibition, Lego Grand Prix, Ballroom Dancing, Bowls Tournament, Medieval Graffiti Exhibition and a walk based on the Civil War.

Full details will be in the June issue of Signpost.

- **Langar Village Pond Trust**

2015 was a good year for wildlife with a wide range of birds and insects seen around the pond. A family of eight Mallard chicks was successfully raised by their parents. Frogs and newts continue to breed in the pond as do dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies. The hedges had their first cut to begin shaping them to their final height and weed control continues to encourage the growth of the more fragile wild flowers. Further sowings of wild flower seeds were made during this Spring.

Water supply remains a concern. Rainfall in the past year has once again been below average and there has been no significant snowfall to compensate. The system for collecting rainwater from the roof of The Unicorn’s Head was slowly but surely increasing the water level. Unfortunately, the fire at the pub, which destroyed the roof, has resulted in the loss of this water supply and will not become available again until the restoration work is completed at some time in 2016. There is no guarantee that the replacement guttering will be constructed to allow us to continue to collect the rain water. A request was made to Everards for a supply of 25 cubic metres of water to carry us over this period but this was refused. It is likely that the pond will dry up causing the clay lining to shrink.

The relocation of the glass recycling bins to the front car park of the pub following the fire has resulted in an increase in litter in and around the pond. People depositing waste bottles have been leaving cardboard boxes and plastic bags by the recycling bins and these have been blown into the pond.

A weekly maintenance programme is in place to ensure the grass is cut regularly and the surroundings are maintained to keep a balance between tidiness and a natural environment.

- **Langar & Barnstone in World War One**

To date the Facebook page has received 163 likes and is regularly updated with items on the men and women from the parish who served in World War One. Typically, each item usually is seen by 50 or so people but a recent article on the Nottinghamshire Volunteer Regiment was seen by over 600.

Articles will continue to appear in Signpost up to and including the March 2019 issue. The display in St Andrew’s is overdue for updating and this will be done this year.

It is hoped that a new Roll of Honour, including all those who served, will be produced in time for the centenary of the end of the war and be dedicated at the remembrance service of 2018. This will include the names missing from the current Roll of Honour.

New information is constantly being found and the intention is to produce the results of the research in 2018 in the form of an electronic book which will be accessed from the Parish website. Copies will also be produced for Langar School and any other interested parties.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm after which light refreshments were served

SignedChairman

Date