

BARBY AND ONLEY PARISH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Monday 25th April 2016

A new Council started their 4 year term of office in May 2015 following an election, as we had 12 people standing for 11 seats.

Simi Pandhal who was unsuccessful in May has now been co-opted onto the Council following the death of vice chairman Councillor Brian Lomax. Councillor Dave Blezard has now become the Vice Chairman.

Our District Councillor Catherine Lomax is reaching the end of her term of office and will be standing for re-election on the 5th May. We would like to thank her for all her hard work on behalf of the Parish both as our District Council and also as a Parish Councillor.

The Parish Council has been awarded the Foundation Award of the Local Council Award Scheme which has replaced the Quality Parish Scheme. It is nice to know that the Parish Council is recognised nationally as being well run.

All the new Councillors who joined the Council in May have attended training to ensure that they can offer the best service possible to the parish.

The Parish Council resolved to use the General Power of Competence which is a power of first resort brought in as part of the 2011 Localism Act. This give the Parish greater powers to do anything that a normal person would be able to do (such as run a business) – we are not sure whether the Parish will use this power, but at least it will not be restricted by legislation if it wants to do something which enhances parish life.

I would like to formally thank Ian Webb for his work as Newsletter Editor. Ian works very hard keeping the website up to date and ensuring that people are aware of what is going on via social media. Website usage continues to grow with about 750 viewings per month.

The Parish Council has funded the installation of WIFI at the village hall.

Thanks also to Dom Fisher who acts as Highway Warden on behalf of the village. Mike Dalton who keeps the Vehicle Activated Sign charged up, and picks up lots of litter, and the footpath wardens who walk our village paths and report problem areas.

POLICING

Having not seen much of our PCSO Kev Thompson this year, we were very pleased when the Police and Crime Commissioner offered to come out and visit the village. This was duly arranged, but unfortunately he couldn't make the visit or reschedule it, so we were unable to highlight our concerns to him.

What has your Council done this year?

Given permission for Barby Fete Committee to allow dogs into the Play Area on a

one-off basis for a Dog Show run as part of the fete. This was very successful and enjoyed by everyone who took part.

We looked at installing an electricity point on Barby Green to allow Christmas Tree lights to be plugged in. This proved to be prohibitively expensive, but we did put up a tree and light it with solar rechargeable lights that could be boosted with a USB charging unit.

There is now better road signage at the Water Tower Cross roads and signs to indicate that you are approaching a Playing Field as you come up Longdown Lane. We are very pleased to say that we have got agreement to reduce the speed limit past Cleves Cottages, and a 7.5T Weight Limit will be imposed along the Ridgeway and Longdown Lane, funded by planning gain money from DIRF T 3 which should reduce the numbers of HGVs that use that route.

The speed reduction humps at Onley Park have been repainted, and white lining has been extended down Onley Lane to stop traffic coming around the corner in the middle of the road.

During the year concerns were raised that the No 10 Bus was meeting the bus coming in the opposite direction at the narrow point on Kilsby Road outside Boseworth cottage, resulting in the pavement and the cottage garden frequently being driven over. We have tried to resolve this matter to no avail, as the buses are officially scheduled so that they do not meet.

A seat has been installed in the bus shelter on Rectory Lane, Barby. Onley Play Area seat has been removed for repair and will be reinstated shortly.

A defibrillator has been purchased and installed on the outside of Barby Village Hall and training arranged so that people are aware of how to use it.

A new 21 year lease has been negotiated with Barby Townlands Charity to ensure that the Sports Field, Play Area and Tennis Court can continue to be used by everyone in the parish.

Street lighting is currently being reviewed, with LED lighting being considered to replace redundant concrete columns and mercury lamps. The Council has been adding to a fund for a number of years to help pay for refurbishment of lights. It has been agreed to replace the 4 mercury lamps and 3 concrete columns with LED lanterns.

Councillor Peter Downes has painted preservative on the parish notice boards to try and extend their life and has agreed to repaint the red phone box at Onley Park.

VILLAGE LITTER PICKS have been arranged by Councillor Peter Downes, last July, and last week as part of the "Clean for the Queen" campaign.

Mr "Baggy" Buttle is picking up litter on a weekly basis from the centre of the village.

The dead cherry tree opposite the Church in Rectory Lane finally had to be taken down this year, as it was in a dangerous state. This will be replaced very soon. Tree work at Onley has been carried out to ensure that trees are safe and dead wood removed.

YOUTH

Claire Griffin has taken over as Youth Leader running Onley Park Youth Club and she currently runs a 2 hour youth club on Thursday evenings for the young people of Onley Park.

A Play Afternoon was arranged during the August summer holidays run by DDC.

Repairs have been carried out to the Play Equipment in both Barby and Onley Play Areas and the woodchip will be topped up very shortly at Barby Play Area. Goal Posts were erected in Barby Play Area and have been enjoyed.

PLANNING

The Neighbourhood Planning Group, under the leadership of Councillor Dave Blezard has worked very hard this year, and produced a draft Neighbourhood Plan which is now lodged at Daventry District Council. The next stage is for an independent examiner to be appointed to scrutinise it.

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who have worked so hard to produce this document which will help shape the way the parish grows and develops in the future. All residents will be given a chance to vote at a referendum to be held at the end of this year.

This year has seen a proposed housing and office development on the Same Deutz Fahr Tractor site. This has currently been withdrawn, although it is expected that a further plan will be received.

A plan to build a housing development opposite Barby Primary School was refused by Daventry District Council and we are now awaiting the outcome of a Planning Appeal.

Land off Kilsby Road was initially given the go-ahead for development, but the decision made by the Planning Inspectorate was questioned at a judicial review and the Inspectorate are having to reassess the site. Again a decision is awaited.

The land to the rear of Balding Close has been granted planning permission for 6 houses, and 2 affordable units.

A development of 3 houses has been given planning consent off Elkington Lane on the site of redundant farm buildings.

A development of 7 houses to the north of Rugby Road is currently being considered by Daventry District Council planning department.

An application for change of use of land to use as a residential site for one gypsy family with two caravans is currently being considered by Daventry District Council. The proposed site being on the right hand side as you enter the driveway to Barby Moorings off Barby Lane.

Barby Moorings lost their appeal against a refusal to allow a 2.5 storey building at their marina.

The parish is very concerned about the number of "Temporary" sheds/ mobile homes/ vehicles and even a canal boat in the fields near the Oxford canal east of Barby Moorings and continues to lobby the District Council to take action against these unauthorised units.

The Parish has asked that Daventry's Settlements and Countryside Plan includes some legislation to allow temporary sheds in fields to be subject to planning law.

Work on DIRFT 3 has started, and the first stage of Rugbys urban extension onto the Radio Mast site is being built. A 650 house "Village" to be called "Houlton" will be built between the Sainsbury warehouse and Hillmorton to the north of the A428.

Although outside the Parish, we have also submitted an objection to a plan to build 110 houses on the left hand side as you approach Hillmorton along Barby Lane. A decision has yet to be reached by Rugby Borough Council on whether they will allow the application despite it being contrary to their Local Plan.

Overall the Parish Council were consulted on 26 planning applications during the year.

BUDGET

A precept of £43525 has been requested from Daventry District Council . This represents 4% increase. The parish precept will cost a Band D homeowner in Barby or Onley £87.05 per year, which is 1 £3.38 more than last year.

Both Barby Village Stores and the Arnold Arms are listed as Assets of Community Value under legislation which came into place in 2012. Should either site be sold, then the Parish Council will be alerted, and given an opportunity to raise funds to purchase the site if it is likely they will be lost to the village.

New buildings will now be subject to a Community Infrastructure Levy which is a form of building tax based on square metre of build area. 15% of this tax will come directly to the parish, and this will increase to 25% once the Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted.

25 April 2016 Chairman Andy Sabine