Barby and Onley Newsletter May 2021

www.barbyandonleyparishcouncil.co.uk



2021 Tallest Sunflower Competition

The competition is open to children of primary school age (or younger) who live in Barby or Onley. Full details on Page 9.

Closing Date is 3rd May.

Barby Townlands Charity - Improving access to Camp's Copse

Over the last few weeks we have undertaken a number of improvements to the section of the public footpath that runs from near the top of Longdown Lane (just



past the cricket ground), through the pasture field, then Camp's Copse and the newly planted area. Three new metal kissing gates have been fitted, and three of the old stiles rebuilt to lower them and make them more accessible. Sleepers have replaced the plank bridges where needed and handrails fitted. We are extremely grateful to our team of volunteers, Bob Wilson, Howard Smith, Steve

Hamp and Wayne Foster, who have carried out the project for us. They have worked really hard and done a great job, particularly when the ground was very soggy back in March.

So please do have a walk down and enjoy the refurbished footpath.

Parish Council News (Parish Clerk 01788 891184)

Parish Council Meetings – The next meeting of the Barby & Onley Parish Council will take place on **Monday 17th May 2021** at 7.30pm. We will hold this meeting on line via zoom if legislation allows us to do so, otherwise it will be held in the main hall of Barby Village Hall. As always, members of the parish are welcome to join the meeting and raise any issues they wish during the period of public participation. We may not be able to provide an answer straight away, but the matter will be investigated and put on the next agenda. The meeting on 17th May will the first meeting of the newly elected parish council and will be their annual meeting at which the first item of business will be the election of a chairman for the year ahead.

There are 11 seats on Barby & Onley Parish Council, but we only had 10 people put their names forward to become Parish Councillors, so they have all been duly elected unopposed. There will be no parish council ballot paper at the Polling Station on 6th May. There will of course by an opportunity to vote for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, and for Councillors to serve on the newly established West Northamptonshire Council which has replaced Daventry District and Northamptonshire Councils.

Your new Parish Councillors are: - Edan Edison, Steve Gee, Nigel Gove, Bryan O'Reilly, Paul Reynolds, and Andy Sabine from Barby, and Adrian Cooper, Dawn Cotton, Sadie Milligan and Sarah Withington from Onley Park. Sadie Milligan and Sarah Withington are becoming councillors for the first time. It is good to have some new people joining the council to help improve our local community. There is still one vacant seat so anyone who would like to take up the role of Councillor should contact the Clerk <u>clerk@barbyandonleyparishcouncil.co.uk</u> for an application form as the new Councillors will be able to co-opt someone to fill the seat.

The law requires that vacancies be filled within 35 days of the day of the election. This year, the 35-day period ends on 25th June. The vacancies cannot be filled until after the candidates that are declared automatically elected come into office, which is on 10th May 2021. Therefore, the vacancies arising due to insufficient nominations for election must be filled at a meeting, or meetings, of the council held between 10th May 2021 and 25th June 2021 inclusive. If the council fails to fill the vacancies by 25th June 2021, then West Northamptonshire Council has powers to take steps to ensure that the vacancies are filled, including ordering a new election (at the cost to the parish council).

<u>Meeting types and venues</u> - Currently the legislation allowing the parish council to meet on line will not be extended and meetings must go back to a face-to-face format from 7th May, despite village halls not opening for most activities until 17th May. This has caused a lot of consternation and has resulted in a High Court case against the Government to try and get this ruling overturned. We still await the outcome.

In Barby & Onley we will continue to hold meetings on line if we are allowed to do so, until such time as corona virus restrictions on indoor meetings are lifted. We aim to investigate running hybrid meetings if we can find an easy way to make this work so that all the meetings are easy for people to access in whatever

format suits them best. Obviously, this will be dependent on whether it is legally permissible.

<u>Councillor Catherine Lomax</u> - The parish council would like to thank Catherine Lomax for her many years of service to the community both as a Parish Councillor in Barby & Onley for 42 years, and as a District Councillor for over 20 years. We wish her a very happy retirement from public service.

Barby & Onley Parish Council Annual Financial Return - Each year the parish council's arrangements for management and control of its business in areas of book-keeping, compliance with proper practices, risk management, budget setting and monitoring and year-end procedures are examined by an independent Internal Auditor. This helps to ensure that public money is safeguarded and spent legally.

This process has been completed for Barby & Onley Parish and the Internal Audit Report and end of year bank reconciliation and annual return can be found on the parish website. The annual return is then submitted to PKF-Littlejohn LLP for external audit and if all is in order this is signed off by 30th September each year.

Keeping our village tidy - After a very wet winter and lots of digging by contractors the verges were in poor condition at the start of the mowing season. Regular mowing is now underway, and they are recovering well. Please help us by not parking on grass verges, and please do not dump your own grass cuttings and garden waste around the village. This is proving to be a problem at Onley where grass cuttings are being dumped in wooded areas. Please DO NOT do this.

Litter Picking - There have been a number of people collecting litter as they go for walks, and the Parish Council would like to thank them for helping to tidy up our area. Thanks to those who took part in most recent litter pick when a vast number of bags of rubbish were cleared from Barby Lane.

The clerk has lots of plastic bags and is purchasing additional litter picking equipment which is available for anyone to borrow if they feel they can spare some time to help keep the area tidy. Just contact the clerk at <u>clerk@barbyandonleyparishcouncil.co.uk</u> and she will provide you with the necessary equipment.

<u>Annual Parish Meeting</u> - The Annual Parish Meeting, which is not a parish council meeting, but a meeting of parishioners was held on 29th March. Thanks to those who took part. This was an opportunity to hear a summary of the previous year's achievements from the Parish Council, the District Council and the County Council and from any parish organisations who wished to participate.

Obviously, the last year has seen most village groups on hold, but it was good to hear the plans for reopening of the village hall. The annual report of the Parish Council was given as follows:

Barby & Onley Parish Council Annual Report

APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021

In normal times every English parish is required to hold an annual meeting of its parishioners between 1st March and 1st June. This is not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting of parishioners, although if the parish has a Parish Council, then the Chairman is required to chair the meeting.

Last year (2020) due to the Covid-19 pandemic, central government brought in temporary legislation to help parish councils operate in a covid secure way with socially distanced remote meetings. This legislation allowed parish councils to meet remotely via video conferencing and removed the requirement to hold the Annual Parish Meeting. Most people are now very familiar with "Zoom" and other forms of video conferencing, but it was all very new in April and May last year, so the parish council decided not to hold an Annual Parish Meeting in 2020.

The planned elections for a new parish council in 2020 were also postponed and have been rescheduled for 6th May 2021. This means that the current Parish Councillors have served a 6-year term, far longer than normal.

Despite the considerable difficulties posed by Covid-19 the parish council has adapted very well and managed to continue meeting remotely using "Zoom". We have continued to strive to put things in place to continue help improve the parish where we can.

I believe I can say it has been the strangest of years that most people can recall and I hope that with the vaccine rollout progressing at fantastic speed, our new normality will begin during the summer months and better times are ahead of us.

<u>Councillors</u> - The Council was chaired by Councillor Dawn Cotton through 2020, but in November 2020 she was keen to hand over the reins of Chairmanship to another Councillor.

The annual meeting of the parish council, which had been delayed from May with the intention of holding it as a face-to-face meeting, was held online in November. (no-one had any real concept that the pandemic would last so long when it first started).

At the annual meeting I was elected as Chairman with Councillor Steve Gee as Vice-Chairman.

During the year we have said goodbye to Carol Weller, James Wood and Bridget Little as councillors, and welcomed Edan Edison as a councillor.

Thank you to all those who take on the role of councillor to try and ensure our parish is a great place to live, it is an entirely voluntary role, and each councillor gives up some of their spare time for the community to make decisions that we feel benefits us all. We hope that we will have a full complement of 11 new and returning councillors after the May election. Please put your name forward if you are keen to get involved. The closing date for nomination papers is Thursday 8th April at 4pm.

<u>Planning</u> - The Parish Council acts as a consultee in the planning process with the decisions on whether planning consent will be granted or not being made by the Planning Department at Daventry District Council. This year the Parish Council has been consulted on 30 planning applications and 3 appeals.

<u>Defibrillators</u> - We now have potentially lifesaving defibrillators in place at Barby Village Hall, and in the old red phone box at Onley. These are checked every week by volunteer members of the village. Thank you for carrying out this essential service to make sure that they are always in good order.

<u>Play Equipment Upgrade</u> - Last year we were able to install Adult Fitness Equipment at both Barby and Onley Park thanks to grants from "Tesco Bags" and Daventry District Council. However the annual playground equipment inspection last year found that the slide and swings at Barby had rotted at ground level and were deemed unsafe. We were able to make good use of the period that play areas had to be closed due to Covid restrictions to remove the condemned equipment and install a new slide and swings ready for use when the play areas were able to reopen.

A grant of £8,041 from Daventry District Council helped to pay for half the cost of the new slide and swings, and grass safety matting has been installed below the swings which has removed the need to regularly top up the woodchip that was previously there as a safety surface, therefore reducing maintenance costs a little.

<u>Other repairs and improvements</u> - The bench opposite "Barby Village Stores" has been repaired and the rotten wood replaced, and the new age travellers memorial bench on Elkington Lane has also been renovated.

With an eye on the environment and sustainability which the world has now realised we all need to play our part in, wildflower seed has been planted on the village green, and on the Ware and the area of wildflowers around Barby flagpole has been enlarged. We hope they will look lovely when they flower in the summer and help encourage wildlife, bees, and insects to the village. Whilst this was already planned, and only Covid halted it from being done last year, we were fortunate to obtain a grant for Daventry District Council to cover some of the costs.

The Japanese Embassy to the UK invited us to receive cherry trees as part of a project to foster good relations between Britain and Japan. The trees were paid for with grants from Japanese companies that trade with the UK, and the project hopes to see cherry trees planted throughout the country. We have planted 3 on Barby Green opposite the shop, 3 near the War Memorial on Rectory Lane and 4 at Onley which will look wonderful when in bloom for many years to come.

Work has been carried out on trees within the parish as and when required, with the dead cherry tree at the end of Rectory Close being removed and ivy trimmed back from trees that were being over laden with ivy foliage. Trees have also been trimmed back where they have been obstructing street lighting.

Tree maintenance forms quite a portion of our annual costs, and whilst issues are regularly brought to our attention, not all are Parish Council responsibility with some being County Council which we try to press as hard as we can to be resolved but this isn't always as timely as we would like.

<u>Policing</u> - Unfortunately, it has not been possible for the police to run the "Speedwatch" initiative during this year due to Covid restrictions, but the police have been able to visit Barby with the speed van at various occasions which does help remind people to drive within the speed limit. We do regularly ask where possible that the mobile camera visits the village as Daventry/Rugby Road regularly sees excessive speeds as it is so straight and 'tempting'. During the quietness of lockdown periods, it was observed by many villagers that speeding had appeared to increase.

The police have also installed an ANPR camera to help them monitor vehicle movement between County boundaries. The data is only available for police use but can help them identify any problems with vehicle movements. With incidents such as the 'sheep rustling' that occurred in 2020 and was a cross border major crimes incident it can help provide key information about vehicle movements and useful intelligence.

The parish suffered an attempted break-in at Barby Sports Pavilion in December 2020 which resulted in damage to the roller-shutter door and security lights. Although the PCSO Craig Edgell has so many villages to cover that he can only visit the parish rarely, he is very keen to be kept informed of any issues and will visit should the need arise. His contact details are on the Parish Council website and monthly newsletter so you can report any non-urgent police matters to him and he will help where he can.

<u>Communication</u> - It has been great to see everyone pulling together during this difficult year. We've all had to adapt very quickly to working from home, home schooling, social distancing and shopping for those who have been shielding, many have also helped with litter collection whilst going out for daily allowed exercise. The community response to the pandemic when the fear of the unknown hit us all was truly fantastic. It highlighted what a close community we live in with neighbours offering help and the community Facebook page being full of offers of help wherever needed. Thankfully compared to many other areas of the country and world, we were certainly away from the worst of the issues. Councillor Edan Edison has taken over posting on Facebook and the Parish Council strives to increase communication with the parishioners the best we can. By holding online meetings this alone has enabled more people than usual to be able to keep in touch with what the Parish Council has been doing.

To stay in line with legislation the website has been reviewed and an accessibility statement produced.

We have also been able to make more use of the flag pole to commemorate events, and any parishioner is able to request a flag to be considered to be flown but they must give us notice for it to be agreed during our monthly Parish Council meeting. We did launch a project to designing a village flag but unfortunately didn't get any takers for the project. Thanks to Cllr Gee for taking on the responsibility of raising the flags.

We have relisted "Barby Village Stores" and "The Arnold Arms" as assets of Community value. This places a legal charge on them and allows the parish first refusal on them should they ever be sold. This legislation was put in place in 2011 as part of the Localism Act and has allowed Community buyouts of pubs in some rural areas and prevented loss of a valued village meeting place. <u>Accounts</u> - Barby & Onley Parish Council financial year ends on 31st March. Barby & Onley accounts are complicated as when the village of Onley Park was transferred to the parish by the Ministry of Justice in 2005 a lump sum of £165,185 was provided to cover maintenance of the open space land. This money is ring-fenced for that purpose. At 31st March 2021 £98,229 of the ringfenced money was left. £5,722 was spent on mowing and tree works at Onley during the year.

For year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

INCOME -

The precept amount collected through the Council Tax by Daventry District Council on behalf of the parish council was £57,330. Other income received included:

- £794 towards the cost of mowing the village verges from Northamptonshire County Council
- £784 towards litter collection within the 30mph limits of the parish.
- £430 from Newsletter Advertising which was down by 40% from the previous year not surprising since lots of events have not been able to go ahead due to Covid-19.
- £17,742 in Community Infrastructure Levy which is paid on new buildings built in the parish.
- £8,041 from Daventry District Council towards the new Slide and Swings
- £494 from Daventry District Council towards the wildflower planting
- £5,755 refund of VAT paid on goods in the previous financial year.

We also received an unexpected windfall by way of a rebate on the streetlighting charges for Barby. E. ON had not amended their records to show that all our street lights in Barby had been changed to LED lanterns, we had queried this in the past but now many years down the line out of nowhere it was resolved. This has greatly reduced the usage of electricity and we have been refunded £8,348 for overcharging since 2017, this also helps the Parish finances on an ongoing basis while we continue to pay off the interest free loans for years to come.

EXPENDITURE – precept expenditure of £55,414 was made this year. In addition, £5,722 was spent at Onley from the ring-fenced fund for maintenance of the open space, and £5,767 was spent on repayment of the loan taken out to convert the street-lighting in Barby to LED lanterns.

The parish rent Barby Sports Field, Barby Play Area and Barby Tennis Court from the Townlands Charity. We were due for a rent review in September, and the trustees have agreed to hold the rents at their current level for the next 5 years which is great news for us all.

Parish Council accounts are scrutinised annually by an independent verifier who checks the figures and also checks that the council is operating correctly and has the necessary policies, insurance and risk assessments in place. To ensure that we comply with governance and accountability legislation the accounts are also reviewed annually by external auditors PKF-Littlejohn LLP.

A full analysis of the income and expenditure and spend versus budget can be found on the website which is maintained and kept up to date by Ian Webb, who we would like to publicly thank for all the help he provides to the Council by editing both the website <u>www.barbyandonleyparishcouncil.co.uk</u> and the newsletter.

<u>West Northamptonshire Council</u> - On 1st April 2021 Daventry District Council and Northamptonshire Council will be replaced by the new West Northamptonshire Council which will deliver all services that are currently provided by Daventry District and Northamptonshire County Councils.

To contact the new Unitary Authority please visit <u>www.westnorthants.gov.uk</u> or phone 0300 126700.

Daventry District Council has produced a special commemorative book called "Daventry District Council Through the Years, which charts the many changes, challenges and achievements during the 47 years of service to the local community. Anyone who wishes to borrow a paper copy please contact the parish clerk <u>clerk@barbyandonleyparishcouncil.co.uk</u> a copy will also available to view on the parish website.

Elections will take place for the 93 Councillors who will form West Northamptonshire Council. You can help shape your new Unitary Council by either voting in the election or standing as a candidate.

Deadlines for your diary!

- Nominations to stand 8th April.
- Register to vote 19th April.
- Apply for a postal vote 20th April.
- Voting day 6th May.

To apply for a postal vote, visit <u>www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote</u>.

At the moment the old telephone numbers will be re-routed, and services will continue as before with no change to bin collection days, and the same people will still be working at Daventry District Council's offices, which are likely to remain in place as a local hub. Next year may see further rises in Council Tax though, as West Northamptonshire Council has been formed by amalgamating Northampton Borough, South Northamptonshire and Daventry District. The three areas will need to be brought in line, and Daventry District Council had the lowest council tax of the three, so it is likely to go up as they area is streamlined.

I'd like to pay a particular thank you to our longstanding clerk Catherine Camp for all her hard work. Catherine is behind all of the work the Parish Council does and whilst she is a paid employee, she frequently goes above and beyond in her work and deserves the appreciation of the community for making everything run smoothly.

Finally, a huge thank you to all Councillors and residents for the part they have played in helping the community as a whole get through this difficult year. Please consider standing as a Councillor in the coming election and help us continue to improve our local area.

Paul Reynolds, Chairman, Barby & Onley Parish Council, 29th March 2021

Clubs and Societies

Barby Cricket Club - The winners of the 100 Club in March draw were: M. Elliott - £80.00, N. Weston - £50.00, and D. Gardner £40.00

Barby Gardening Club -2021 Tallest Sunflower competition. The competition is open to children of primary school age (or younger) who live in Barby or Onley. Please contact Bernard Scott, 33 Daventry Road (01788 890635) for an entry form. Closing date is 3rd May 2021. The sunflowers will be measured during the week ending 5th September and the winner's trophy and prizes will be given out shortly thereafter.

Barby Church Trust (Charity no 277482) - "**Taps & Toilet 100 Club**". The draw this month (April) took place at Barby Shop on Sunday 18th April. The winner was Pat Walsh who won £80. The next draw will take place on Sunday 16th May.

WI – 17 members joined a zoom meeting when Roy Smart spoke to us about Wallace Simpson and the abdication crisis. There were a lot of questions and comparisons were made to what is happening today. Our next meeting (zoom) is Tuesday 11th May at 7.30. Christine Farmer, a WI advisor will discuss with us the chosen resolution for 2021 which is "To increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer".

Anyone who has been knitting/crocheting blue forget-me-nots should let Sally Robbins have them by May 3rd. (Crown House Kilsby Road). They will be displayed around Rugby for Dementia Awareness week 17th to 23rd May. Members will be celebrating NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers Day by having an afternoon tea in Barby Village Hall on 5th July. Our usual July meeting (13th July) will be in the orchard for our annual BBQ and Boules. Despite not being able to physically meet we are pleased to welcome a new Barby resident to our WI and welcome back a former member. If you would like to know more about the WI please give Chris a call on 890963.

Evergreen Club – We are hoping to restart out fortnightly meetings in June. Watch this space.

St Mary's Church, Barby

Services – Currently we are able to keep holding 'actual' services in Church; usually alternating Morning Worship and Holy Communion on Sundays at 9.30am. There isn't any singing in the Church during the service, but we have taken to all singing a hymn or two outside afterwards. Hopefully, the weather will be more and more accommodating for us to continue doing that over the summer months.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Last year's meeting was postponed for a few months; that turned out to be a year! So, this year we really do have to hold one, and by the end of May. It really needs to be an 'actual' meeting and an open one. The recommendation from the Bishop is to hold it after a morning service and we have selected May 30th. The morning service will be at 9.30am, so the meeting can be at 10.15am.

The main thing to be considered before the meeting are the pending vacancies in the Church: Ross Atchison has faithfully served as Churchwarden for a number of years and was really looking to stand down last year, so will definitely be stepping down this year. Carol Champion has also done a sterling job as Treasurer and Churchwarden these last few years, but due to changes in her work commitments will have to stand down this year too. Therefore, St Mary's needs to be praying for two Churchwardens and a Treasurer. Please engage with this issue now, or at least some time well before the meeting. The Church cannot function without these posts being filled. To help things run smoothly week by week the Church would also benefit from having a Sacristan; someone to prepare the Altar, and to wash and iron the linen.

Finances - These are holding up well. Many thanks to all those who are contributing at present as we try to keep afloat in these challenging times. However, there has a been a considerable drain on the finances thanks to having to have extensive roof work done. And, as we are well aware, there haven't been any fundraising activities for some time. We are in an era now where we will have to just dig deep to keep things going.

Ordination – In June we will be saying goodbye to Clare and her family as she is Ordained and takes up an Assistant Curate post in Kettering. Clare will be much missed, and we will have lost an able member of the Benefice Ministry Team. Let us give thanks for all she has contributed here and pray for the family as she settles into a new area and a new church.

Rev Nigel Fry enfrys@gamil.com 07854 810 588

Other Notices

Village Garage Sale - This year it is planned to take place on <u>Sunday 11th July</u> from 10.00am to 2.00pm so start looking out for the things you want to get rid of. Further details in next month's newsletter. *Karen Holman*

Christian Aid Week – 10th to 16th May 2021 - We will be delivering envelopes to all households in Barby at the start of Christian Aid Week but, due to Covid concerns, we won't be collecting these. Instead, if you would like to make a donation, please return your envelope to 8 Rectory Close or 12 Castle Mound by 16 May. Alternatively, if you would prefer to donate online, we have set up an e-envelope on the Christian Aid website. Please follow this link: <u>https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/st-marys-barby</u>. *Thank you. Piippa Reeve.*

The Arnold Arms – is now open for outdoor drinking, subject to Covid 19 restrictions.

The opening hours are as follows: Monday to Thursday 11.00am to 2.00pm and 4.30pm to 11.00pm Friday & Saturday 11.00am to 11.00pm Sunday 12noon to 10.00pm

Your Current Parish Councillors (to 10th May)

<u>Chairman</u> Paul Reynolds	Lilac Cottage, Daventry Road, Barby	07815 551202 paul.reynolds@bopc.org.uk
Vice Chairperson Steven Gee	41 Daventry Road, Barby	07969 992557 steven.gee@bopc.org.uk
Catherine Lomax (District Councillor	22 Daventry Road Kilsby	01788 822483 clomax@daventrydc.gov.uk
Adrian Cooper	70 Onley Park, Willoughby	01788 819060 or 0752 760 6823 adrian.cooper@bopc.org.uk
Dawn Cotton	69 Onley Park, Willoughby	01788 815906 dawn.cotton@bopc.org.uk
Edan Edison	5 Ashleigh Close, Barby	07960 670 270 edan.edison@bopc.org.uk
Nigel Gove	37 Holme Way, Barby	01788 891118 nigel.gove@bopc.org.uk
Bryan O'Reilly	The Glen, Onley Lane, Barby	01788 899065 or 0793 060 7345 brian.oreilly@bopc.org.uk
Andy Sabine	137 Norton Leys, Rugby	0783 459 2123 andy.sabine@bopc.org.uk
Parish Clerk Catherine Camp	Hopthorne Farm, 18 Kilsby Road, Barby	01788 891184 <u>clerk@barbyandonleyparishcouncil.co.uk</u>
Police	Tel 101 for non-emergencies, 999 for emergencies craig.egdell@northants.pnn.police.uk (0755 777 8055)	
Highway Problems	www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/streetdoctor or call 0300 126 1000	

Dates for your Diary

May	6 th	Local Elections Barby & Onley Village Halls 7am to 10pm	
may	11 th	WI Zoom Meeting 7.30pm	
	17 th	Parish Council Meeting – Virtual (Zoom) – 7.30pm	
	19 th	Badminton resumes in Barby Village Hall 8.00pm	
	20 th	Indoor Bowls resumes in Barby Village Hall 9.30am	
	25 th	Pilates restarts in Barby Village Hall 9.30pm	

Copy for the next Newsletter (June) should be sent to Ian Webb, 6 Daventry Road, <u>barbyandonleynewsletter@gmail.com</u> (01788 890800) by Sunday **23**rd **May**.

<u>Pilates is back at Barby Village Hall</u> Classes resume on <u>May 25^{th.}</u>

Two classes every Tuesday 9.30am and 10.30am. Currently booking is essential. Pilates is a gentle effective exercise strengthening the core muscles to support the spine and joints. It also improves flexibility, posture & balance. Suitable for all ages. Qualified instructor. Still £6 per session. For details phone Mary 07876 502438



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