

# Barnack and Pilsgate

## Annual Village Meeting 2019

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Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held at 7.00pm  
on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in Barnack Village Hall.

1. Those in attendance: *34 Residents (including representatives of local organisations) and 6 Parish Councillors; Harry Brassey, Margaret Palmer, Sophie Moore, David Laycock, Phil Broughton and Martin Bloom.*  
*Ward Councillor; David Over (6.30pm – 7pm).*  
*Parish Clerk; Susie Caney.*  
*Chris Evans, Senior Reserve Manager, Natural England.*

2. Apologies for absence: *Parish Councillor Ivor Crowson.*

3. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Harry Brassey.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018. *Approved and signed by the Chairman.*

5. Chris Evans, Senior Reserve Manager (Natural England) attended the meeting to answer questions regarding the management of Hills and Holes.
  - *CE explained that the recent consultation on a proposed long-term direction to restrict access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is to enable grazing and the closure of individual compartments over the next five years, as and when needed. The public right of way along the Walcot wall from the Sports Pavilion entrance will be fenced off so that access is not restricted.*

Residents raised issues such as;

- *The welfare of the ponies that had been grazing H&H, dogs being able to fit underneath gateways when off-lead, the condition of a footpath after a trench had been dug to lay a water pipe, restricted access when walking dogs, why there was a need for grazing, poor signposting, tree felling.*
- *Chris informed residents that the ponies are no longer grazing H&H and they are privately owned and cared for. It is hoped that now the rank grasses and scrub have been efficiently grazed by the ponies, and the sheep will be able to stay on top of it for the time-being. NE have to look at all grazing options, including introducing cattle if it were necessary, although it is preferred to continue grazing sheep. NE have a statutory duty to follow SSSI legislation for the preservation of the site, which includes ensuring that the site has no more than 20% scrub/hawthorn trees etc.*
- *Dogs must always be kept under close control on Open Access Land, they must be kept on a lead near livestock and are banned from any compartments containing livestock. Over the years there have been several occasions of sheep worrying, killing and maiming by dogs.*
- *The 'messy and hazardous' area where the trench had been dug and filled will be inspected by CE following the meeting. The location was chosen as most suitable as it was an area with no vegetation and a pipe needed to be laid to supply the water troughs.*

There was a feeling of frustration amongst residents at the meeting, but NE will work to improve their communication and ensure signs are correctly updated. It was also noted that others are grateful for the work NE carry out to preserve the Site of Special Scientific Interest, and the continued access for walkers to enjoy it.

If any residents would like to volunteer and help with the management of the site, please get in touch with Natural England (contact details on signs).

6. Chairman's report. *(Available upon request from the clerk).*

7. Reports from local organisations:
  - a) **Barnack Community Association** – Sally Hullock.
  - b) **The Cricket Club** – Sally Hullock on behalf of Will Armitage.
  - c) **The Royal British Legion, Barnack & District Branch** – Max Sawyer.
  - d) **Flower Club** – Petrina McCarey.
  - e) **Women’s Institute** – Martin Bloom on behalf of Lyn Huckerby.
  - f) **Youth Group** – Sophie Moore on behalf of Kerrie Garner.
  - g) **Barnack Primary School** – Mike Mills.
  - h) **Friends of Barnack Church** – Mike Mills.
  - i) **St John the Baptist Church** – Dave Maylor.

8. Public Forum:

Correspondence - *Resident Doris Hamilton was unable to attend the meeting but wrote a letter enquiring about an update on a recreational facility (MUGA) which was read out on her behalf. This is still an area being investigated, and if anyone has any suggestions for locations within the village, please get in touch with the parish council.*

Community Infrastructure Levy - *Barnack and Pilsgate will be receiving CIL funds from the Linden Homes development and residents are welcome to come forward with suggestions on how it can be spent. For spend criteria (set by the government), please contact the parish council.*

Village Shop - *The village shop is missed and again, if a location is identified or anyone is interested in looking into either a community or commercial venture, please talk to the parish council. The BCA are also considering ideas such as running a post office session in the village hall.*

Finances - *Peter Sindall, treasurer of the Parish News, raised a query regarding transparency of accounting for all local organisations, as well as the parish council. The Barnack Community Association treasurer is Andy Cavaciuti and any BCA enquiries can be directed to him. For copies of the audited parish council accounts please contact the parish clerk.*

Maintenance – *The bottom of Main Street was not included in the footpath resurfacing work.*

Dog Fouling – *There is no enforcement and it continues to be a problem in some areas of the village.*

Rabbit Farm – *Will the owner talk to the village about the setup? Some residents have concerns about the animals’ welfare. The parish council will enquire.*

Road Closures – *These have been poorly signed in the past, but we have advance notice from Linden Homes for the next scheduled closure.*

Traffic – *It was suggested CIL money could be used to put traffic lights or a roundabout at the junction of Jack Haws Lane and Uffington Road as this is a dangerous junction. It is unlikely it would meet Highways criteria.*

9. Date and time of next meeting - 7.00pm on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020, with refreshments served from 6.30pm.

10. Meeting closed at 9.10pm.