Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday 23 May 2023 at 8.40pm in the Village Hall, Bainton

1. **Present**

Cllr P Brierley (PB Chair), Cllr D Walford (DW Vice Chair), Cllr P Metcalf (PM), Cllr S Lowes (SL), Cllr C Bays (CB), Cllr G Byass (GB), Cllr A Dodgson (AD), Mrs E Brooks (Clerk to the Council).

1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllr A Mason (AM)

1. **Chairman’s report**

Let me start by thanking all the past and current members of the Bainton Parish Council (BPC) for their efforts over the last year, we could not function without their volunteering and community mindedness. I would also like to thank Ward Councillor Michael Lee, in particular, whose attendance throughout the year has shown commitment to work through some of the remaining issues that have been unsolved in the village for a number of years.

**Community Support**

The BPC is always available for anyone in the community to raise an issue so the council can liaise with the regional bodies to look for a resolution. This year we have only looked at a few requests for an additional zebra crossing and signage but, unfortunately, we have not met any of the Highways Agency’s requirements for new facilities. As with every year, the BPC has continued to review all planning applications relating to the village, ensuring that only sustainable development is approved that will not further stress the already taxed infrastructure. We also continue to support local services such as the twilight bus service for after school activities and the maintenance of the playground.

**Long Standing Issues**

The temporary closure remains in place for the Green Lane, and Millenium Wood, though this has not stopped illegal use by some motorised vehicles. We continue to work with ERYC representatives to look for a long-term solution that will allow the lane to be repaired and avoid future damage. While we wait for a county-wide green lane policy to be produced by the ERYC, we will push the issue with both media coverage and with local interest groups as possible.

**Social Activities**

A year of royal events were marked by two village event days; last June saw the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebration and, more recently, the King’s Coronation. Both events were well attended and assisted by a grant obtained through the council. Let’s strive to come together as a community over the next year without the prompting of a royal engagement.

**General**

The Parish Council itself has undergone considerable change over the last year. Barry Froggatt left the village, after many years of service, resigning from the chair with a number of other council members also leaving. The new council members have allowed for there to be greater representation from both across the village and with demographics. With one seat remaining open, anyone is welcome to be considered for election, join us.

**Looking Ahead**

The poor state of the village sewerage system has been a problem for many years, with none of the parties involved taking full responsibility. With the recent attention water companies have been receiving for allowing sewage to enter waterways across the country, this year may be the time to get this resolved; even getting the water company to commit to some action would be a start.

1. **Matters raised by the residents of the parish**

None

1. **Close of meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.43pm