

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, E Sier, R Baxter, S Lusher, W Martineau, M Dolan B. Cllr Bull & C. Cllr J Spicer.

1. **Apologies for absence** Cllr Crittall

2. **Election of Chairman**

Cllr Sier nominated Cllr Hammond for the position of Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Martineau. Cllr Hammond accepted the position.

3. **Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Hammond completed the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. **Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr Hammond nominated Cllr Sier for the position of Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Lusher. Cllr Sier accepted the position.

5. **To elect Council Officers and Representatives to outside bodies**

Cllr Sier was elected as the Parish Council representative for the Village Hall

6. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

6.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None

6.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests. None

6.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act. None

7. **Minutes** - Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 5th April 2017 signed and approved as a correct record.

Meeting Adjourned

8. **Meeting open to the public**

Tom Tawell and Andrew Fillmore, from Pigeon Investment, came to the meeting to introduce Mr Fillmore as the new planning consultant for our area. Mr. Fillmore was unaware of what had passed before. The Parish Council brought him up to speed. They asked about our recent Neighbourhood plan consultation event. The Parish Council confirmed that we hadn't yet collated all the evidence but once we had it was unlikely to support their proposals. It would seem that they have no immediate plans to hold a public consultation.

Potholes are causing problems again in the village. In particular the large one in Sandy Lane This has been reported on a number of occasions but no action has been taken so far. Cllr Lusher will report the ones on Millfield Road and the Clerk will liaise with Cllr Spicer regarding The one in Sandy Lane.

Action Cllr Lusher/Clerk

There was a recent report of a car being advertised for sale on SCC land in front of Millers Yard. SCC have procedures for dealing with these infringements and as such this activity should be reported to them.

8. **Report from County Councillor:**

9. Report from B. Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull reported that St Edmundsbury had spent a lot of the previous year working towards Devolution. Unfortunately, due to Norfolk County Council not wanting to join the Devolution deal as well as some Norfolk District Councils this would not now be happening. Because of Government cuts to councils. St Edmundsbury was therefore having to raise money in new way by behaving more commercially in order to become more self sufficient.. For example they had set up housing company, Barley Homes, in conjunction with Forest Heath District Council and Suffolk County Council to build homes to sell and it was expanding its planning services. She also reported that St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath were looking to become one council. They had been sharing services, and staff for some time but if the One Council were to go forward there would be just one cabinet and one planning committee etc. This would result in some savings but would greatly increase efficiency and the delivery of services. On a more local level Cllr Bull had a very enjoyable time at the Primary School, with the children, staff and MP Matt Hancock celebrating the opening of their new play equipment which Cllr Bull made a financial contribution towards from her locality budget. Matt Hancock also held a meeting at Bardwell to discuss the problems some parishes are facing regarding broadband access. Cllr Bull has a Councillor Award that can be awarded to anyone in the parish who makes a difference to the lives of those in the village. If you know of anyone who has made an outstanding contribution and you would like to nominate them for this award please contact Cllr Bull.

10 Police Report

No report received.

Meeting reconvened

11 Progress reports. For information, from:

11.1. Chairman

Another busy and challenging year for our new councillors, as we completed some projects and new ones were being considered. We work well as a team, with support as always, from Joanna Spicer and Carol Bull, our County and Borough councillors respectively.

Our biggest spend and most exciting project, was the transformation of the activities available to the community on the cricket meadow. This has proved extremely popular. We began in July 2015 with a public meeting so that three providers of community exercise equipment could project their plans for a public vote. HAGS, the company selected, sent catalogues of equipment and the hard task of selection began, with some useful input from some of the youth in the village regarding the exercise equipment.

Installation began in August 2016 and the chairman monitored the site regularly, helping to sort some problems which arose, like storage of the equipment when the delivery lorry could not enter through the Bardwell Road school entrance! There was a lot of interest with great excitement over the Zip Wire especially, as the primary pupils viewed progress from their school. In September, the clerk and some councillors met regarding the goals, inspection was held and it all passed!

At last, the Official Opening was held on 23rd October 2016, advertised, with light refreshments (thanks to the clerk). The County Council sent congratulations, Carol Bull officially cut the ribbon and a pleasant time was had by the few who came. After a couple of minor repairs in November, the account was formally settled in December 2016. The Freerider safety issue in January 2017, was sorted in February. One incident of vandalism to the table tennis equipment was dealt with by the chairman and a replacement settled. Now the meadow echoes to the noise of young people and children having fun. Families visit with little ones and grandparents. A pleasing success.

A great achievement throughout the year, after months of hard work, was the final completion of the Emergency Plan for the village, revised and edited by Councillor Bobby Baxter. Thank you for all of your hard work, Carol Bull included, in completing that marathon task in February 2017. It will be reviewed regularly in the future to update.

Future housing development was another major concern in the community. Pigeon attended meetings in June and August 2016 with two development concepts, the second one adapted after residents' concerns about road access through a current estate. They also met with the Village Hall Committee. It became increasingly clear to the parish council that the only way to be involved in any meaningful way was to embark on A Neighbourhood Plan – a legal plan which ensures community consideration by Borough Council Planning, after a lengthy, legal process. In June 2016, the council began that process and on September 27th training for a Neighbour Plan began. A village survey was planned in October 2016, printed and put out in November. In December 2016, after the results were analysed, showing the range of community concerns, selecting a consultant was the next phase. In January 2017 two consultant firms put forward their applications to help with the Plan. The *Place 4 People* firm was chosen and a public meeting held on March 9 2017. With a drop-in early session and an evening formal one, attendance was pleasing. The rationale behind the Plan, the meaning of it for the village, through talks and visual material was explained, as well as the need for volunteers to come forward to help with the next stages and be part of The Working Party. The application to designate The Neighbourhood Area had been submitted by the clerk. Feedback forms were put out in the meeting and in the shop. These are about to be analysed by the first meeting of The Working Party on May 18th. Very early stages yet!

A new bench was approved and placed by the Spar shop and installed for free by a resident in March 2017.

Ongoing issues/ plans:

- Village Hall parking (cost of £3,000+ means it is on hold) / the retirement of the Hall Committee in May 2017 and the required staff to continue smooth running of The Village Hall. Happy to report that as of last night a new committee has been formed with new people coming forward.
- Primary Play Area collapsed fence was fixed after storm Doris and liaison with the house residents who were very helpful
- Broadband in the rural areas /July 2016 green box at Pound Corner
- Community Events –Keep Barningham Beautiful April 23rd. September events around the whole village. A Meeting was held and attended by councillors William Martineau, Mark Dolman, and Bobby Baxter
- Mill Road leak problem – since 2011 / Meeting April 10 2017 Highways and Anglian Water. Chairman attended/ Bardwell Road flooding
- Regular use of the VAS /. Keeping volunteers available and trained for the Speedwatch team.
- Councillor Julia Crittall has shown interest in training as s First Responder

11.2 Clerk:

11.2.1 Bench, outside shop, update.

The new bench at the shop has now been installed. The installation was kindly undertaken by local builder Mr Bibbey, at no cost. The Parish Council would like to extend their thanks to Mr Bibbey for undertaking this work.

Action Clerk

11.2.2 Highway matters. To include:

11.2.2.1 Mill Road, leak.

Mill Road was dug up prior to the resurfacing but no source of the leak could be found. It was agreed that the situation will need to be monitored.

11.2.2.2. Bardwell Road, congestion

As Mr Milton was not present for the meeting it was agreed to include this matter on the next agenda.

11.2.2.3. Sandy Lane, pothole & parking

Unfortunately, little could be done about the car parking next to the pothole, apart from politely requesting it is parked elsewhere. The pothole was discussed under item 8, meeting open to the public.

11.3 New streetlight, update.
This is still being chased.

11.4 Garden area around village sign

A resident, Gill Ellison, has kindly offered to weed and plant the area around the village sign.

11.5 DPD

The Clerk has been contacted by the manager of DPD at Snetterton. He would like to come to the next meeting to discuss the problems with vans in the village and community involvement.

12 Finance.

12.1 To consider payments. The Following payments were approved and signed by two signatories.

12.1.1 V Gay. Wages for April	101646	£820.16
12.1.2 S Wilson wages for April	101647	£341.57
12.1.3 HMR&C	101648	£364.00
12.1.4 R Baxter Emergency plan expen	101649	£51.97
12.1.5 V Gay, expenses	101650	£180.64
12.1.6 SALC, subs	101651	£368.62
12.1.7 Kingfisher, bench	101652	£337.79
12.1.8 Parish online	101563	£33.60

12.2 EOY Accounts. To agree accounts for submission for audit

The Clerk has prepared the end of year accounts and these have been checked by Cllr Hammond. Full council agreed to the accounting statement and the Clerk will submit them for internal audit prior to submitting them for external audit.

Action Clerk

13. Village Hall. To discuss ongoing management of the Village Hall

Following last night's Village Hall Annual meeting we are relieved and grateful to report that the Village Hall has a new committee. The new people are Karen Bibbey as chairman. Lindsay Sams as secretary and Julie Surridge as treasurer.

14. Future Village Events To discuss:

14.1 Keep Barningham Beautiful

Although the day was a success, with the Councillors clearing and cleaning up around the village. It was disappointing that only three residents from the village attended. It was agreed that in future we need to advertise the event better and be mindful of its timing.

14.2 Community Event

The planning for the event is ongoing. It is evolving into more of a music based event with two bands booked and a barbeque planned. Any funds raised will go towards the cost of a defribulator for the village.

15. Neighbourhood Plan, Update on:

15.1 Update from working party

The working party had a really good first meeting and we are currently half way through the evidence. The next meeting will be held next week.

15.2 Area Designation

The area has been designated, by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, to facilitate the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Barningham Parish Council.

15.3 Funding

The grant application is a complicated process and whilst waiting for information, from a third party, the submission deadline was missed. The Clerk has re-applied and is confident the grant will be awarded soon.

16. Update on Community Speed watch and Aggies Piece:

The speed gun is back and seems to be working well. As always new members are always welcome.

The Clerk will make arrangements for Aggies to be cut and baled.

Action Clerk

17. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

None received.

18. Caretakers report

I have finally completed the edging of the footpath in Sandy Lane and have turned my attention to the elevated path opposite the shop where I have trimmed the vegetation with shears and, for the first time, tackled the weeds with weed-killer. I have only had one trip to Aggie's Piece with my secateurs. In the Play Area, I have greased the lower bearing on the roundabout and removed most of the obscene graffiti with a solvent.

The latest load of spoil from the Lawn Cemetery proved unsuitable for the levelling-up of the back row of graves and so it will have to be carted away. There are lots of molehills in the cemetery at the moment and I have been using those for levelling-up. It was agreed to keep an eye on the situation.

19. Cemetery

A cheque has been received £150 from Mr Taylor towards the memorial repairs

20. Planning Matters

None received

21. Correspondence for information

None of note this month.

22. Date of next meeting: 7th June 2017

23. To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:

23.1 Personnel Issues. None.

23.2 Legal Issues. None.