

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 7:35pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, A Steer, R Baxter, N Greenwood, W Martineau, C. Cllr J Spicer & B. Cllr Bull

1. **Apologies for absence** Cllrs: M Dolman & S Lusher
2. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** None
3. **Minutes** – The minutes of the 10th January 2018 meeting confirmed and as a correct record.

Meeting Adjourned

4. **Meeting open to the public**

There was one member of public present, who thanked the Parish Council for their hard work for the village.

5. **Report from County Councillor: J Spicer**

Cllr Spicer and the Clerk met with the new SCC Highways officer, Francesca Clarke, to discuss some issues in the village. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the street sweeper to visit the village, especially in Bardwell Road by the school. The Clerk has arranged this with SEBC Cllr Spicer is ensuring that the works, adjacent to the School outside the Beeches, to clear the road, is carried out. It was agreed that there was little else that could be done at this time, to help with safety at the School, apart from encouraging volunteers to help with Speed Watch. There is a deep trench, by the Church, left by the contractors who did the recent work at the Church, this fault was noted by Francesca Clark and there is a procedure for problems which arise from contractor works and she will see that this problem is rectified. The Clerk was informed that SCC are trying to reduce their assets and as such will not be replacing the oak bollards on the B1111. If, however we arrange their replacement ourselves, using an approved contractor, Cllr Spicer would be able to contribute towards their cost from her locality budget. To use funds from her highways budget would necessitate having new plans drawn up, which we know from past experience, is very expensive. The Clerk is in the process of getting further information from Francesca Clarke and arranging quotes for the work. The kerb at the shop has been reported as damaged and it was hoped that this would be repaired soon.

The Parish Council are being asked, via a survey, if we would be willing to take on more highway works in the village. It was agreed that we would if a grant to cover costs was forthcoming.

The School Transport consultation is still ongoing. The Parish Council will write a letter emphasising concerns over freedom of choice, discrimination in an area of rural deprivation and the damage that can be done uprooting children and disrupting their education.

The possibility of changing the 'Give Way' sign to a 'Stop' sign was discussed. Cllr Spicer will investigate this further.

Action Cllr Spicer/ Clerk

6. **Report from B. Councillor: C Bull**

Following the anticipated joining of Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils there will be a need for a new district level warding structure for West Suffolk. Ahead of this the informal view of Parishes are being sought and at this point they would like to know the local considerations that could influence how parishes are grouped together. Barningham feel that it is important to maintain the current arrangements as we have close association with our neighbouring parishes. Following a discussion last month, the Clerk confirmed that we are still owed £557.84 in open spaces money. This could be used to repair the wet pour at the play area and needs to be spent before October 2019.

Meeting reconvened

7. Progress reports. For information, from:

7.1. Chairman

The Chairman had no report to make.

7.2 Clerk:

7.2.1 Highway matters. To include

School Travel Plan survey

As discussed under Cllr Spicer's report, there is little more we can do regarding this at the moment.

There is a possibility of Cllr Spicer funding some 30mph wheelie bin stickers. The Clerk will follow this up.

Action Clerk

7.2.2. Sign for cricket meadow & Aggie's Piece

Cllr Dolman has this matter in hand.

7.2.3 Streetlight B1111

SCC have made an error in that there is no power for the street light to be connected to in its present location. It was agreed that the most sensible solution, and least expensive option, is to re-locate the light to the other side of the road. This work will be carried out at SCC's expense.

Action Clerk

7.2.4 Website

Onesuffolk have upgraded their website. The old site was no longer supported by the manufacturer and browser support could have ended any day. This upgrade meant the site was off line for a period of time and the link to the Neighbourhood plan survey was not active. The Clerk made sure the problem was rectified. The Clerk is attending some training, so she can continue to administer the site.

Action Clerk

7.2.5 West Suffolk Electoral Review - local considerations

See under Cllr Bull's report.

7.2.6 Grass cutting.

The Clerk met with Ed Batram Garden Services to discuss the grass cutting in the village. Steve Wilson, the village caretaker is happy to give up all the grass cutting and as such Mr Batram provided the Clerk for a price to cut the all the grass listed on the contract for a price of £2150 per annum, based on 10 cuts. He will look at our existing equipment and see if it can be repaired. He will also check on Aggie's Piece when in the village and be available for any emergency/ routine additional works.

7.2.7 BT Phone box, Defibrillator

The Clerk has been in discussion with Community Heartbeat and has been informed that we could apply for all the funding, including installation, from The National Lottery. The defibrillator, approved by BT, is covered in this scheme. Community Heartbeat are not a funding charity, but they will offer advice and support where funding is required, and they have been able to confirm that in the past they have had a lot of success with helping communities obtain full funding from the National Lottery. In addition, Community Heartbeat can offer training for the community. There is also something called 'VET', which is a village emergency telephone, this is something that will also be investigated further. It is important that we have someone who can visually check the equipment on a weekly basis. A simple rota should work for this with the checks only taking a couple of minutes. The Clerk suggested that she look at the information already provided (currently 26 attachments!) and then meet with the Chairman to discuss the matter further.

7.2.8 Grit bin

The Hopton Road grit bin needs repair. Cllr Greenwood will have a look and see if he is able to carry out any required repairs.

Action Cllr Greenwood

8. Finance.

8.1

The following accounts were approved for payment and the cheques signed by two signatories to consider payments.

Administration	£2288.74
Community Workshop, NHP questionnaire printing	£1740.00

9. Data Protection

To discuss future arrangements to comply with new Data Protection laws.

There is still conflicting advice about who can fulfil the role as DPO. The Clerk is still waiting to hear directly from the ICO.

10. Village Hall

The village hall has put on hold their idea of making changes to their car park and have decided it would be more important to improve their outside space. To this end they have asked if the Parish Council would be willing to make a financial contribution towards their costs. The Parish Council would need to know how much they are asking for and what the funds would be used for. The Clerk will write to ask this.

Action Clerk

For the last two years the Parish Council have held a Keep Barningham Beautiful event. It is understood that both the Village Hall and the Church are holding clear up events this year. It was suggested that all three come together and hold a joint event. Cllr Hammond will speak to the Church and the Clerk will speak to the village hall.

Action Cllr Hammond/Clerk

11. Speedwatch

As agreed I met with Eddie Sears to find out what has happened. There has been no effective handover as the volunteers nominated then withdrew and nothing further was done!

I have retrieved the flashing speed sign and batteries, and this went into operation at St

Andrews Close on Sunday 28th Jan. It was left in place and operated successfully all week.

Last Sunday I replaced the missing bracket on the post at the crossroads and moved the sign to that location. I intend to leave it there all week. I have now also removed the 30mph repeater sign which was put on the post in Hopton Rd in error and replaced it with a bracket to take the speed sign.

I will in the short term continue to manage the sign on a weekly basis, but I cannot take on the management of Speedwatch because as you know I am very involved with the NP and family circumstances are taking up some time at present. The organisation of Speedwatch is quite onerous and I do not believe that there is anyone who is likely to take this on. I would therefore like the PC to seriously consider that we invest in a second panel and the positioning of more posts in Hepworth and Bardwell Roads. The management of moving the signs around is far easier and takes very little time. It will give us as much if not more security than the sporadic appearance of Speedwatch volunteers that we have had to date.

I have also asked Carol to return the Repeater sign to Highways via Joanna Spicer by way of complaint at their ineptitude in not removing the sign despite repeated requests to do so over the last 18 months. It took me about 10 mins to do and I will not be sending them a bill for my time. Trevor Elliot

12. Neighbourhood Watch

In the absence of Cllr Lusher this item was deferred to the next meeting.

13. Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk has spent a lot of time researching who owns land in Barningham and contacting them to make sure they have had an option to submit an expression of interest in having their site included in our Neighbourhood Plan.

Trevor Elliot, Cllr Hammond and the Clerk met with Ian Poole last week to discuss the Character Assessment. Trevor has done a lot of work already, enough so that we can put together the initial descriptions from the comfort of a centrally heated room before we have a

walk round to pull everything together! We will have another meeting soon as we would like to have the character assessment completed before the end of March.

The Clerk is looking at carrying out a wildlife audit but she going to wait until we have had the surveys returned so we can see if we can enlist any further help. All the surveys have been delivered and we are getting them back in. Once we have had them all in we will need to input them into survey monkey, we may need some additional help with this.

We want to hold another public meeting in the coming months to discuss the results of both the survey and call for sites.

14. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

Following the recent high winds and subsequent power cuts concerns were raised about vulnerable residents in the village. UK Power Networks offer schemes to help vulnerable people. Details of this will be put in the magazine.

Action Cllr Baxter.

Cllr Greenwood asked about providing recycling facilities in the village. The Clerk will investigate this further.

Action Clerk

15. Aggie's Piece

The Clerk has put a new padlock on the chain at Aggie's Piece.

16. Caretaker's report Circulated

The New Year lull is gone, and I am starting to get a few little jobs out of the way. Leaf clearance is pretty well done now although Church Road did suffer from the recent gales and I have been sweeping and blowing there to keep the pavement safe. I have returned both of the Council's strimmer's with a view to having them repaired or certified as dead. The annual cutting back of the edges of the Sandy Lane footpath will begin soon.

The church and cemeteries have seen a lot of action. I have continued to rake the leaves in the Lychgate Cemetery. At the church I have freed the left-hand gate which was being restricted by waste soil dumped by the team who did the trenching in the churchyard; I have also dismembered the Christmas tree and fitted it into the brown bins. There are several mole-hills in the Lawn Cemetery and they are appearing faster than I can clear them; they are unusually widespread, and I am running out of places to put the soil. I have wiped the mildew from the Council noticeboard in the Lawn Cemetery as well as the one at St Andrew's Close.

17. Play area reports

No action to be taken at this time, although we need to monitor the wet pour and swing in the play area. We could potentially use the left over S106 money towards these repairs.

18. Churchyard/Cemetery

The Clerk is still trying to locate the memorial for Snelling which has been removed

19. Planning Matters

19.1 DC/18/0063/HH Householder Planning Application - 1no garage The Rowans Sandy Lane Barningham, Mr James Quinn. **No Objection**

19.2 DC/18/0071/FUL Planning application, 1no. dwelling with garage and access. 15 Hopton Road, Barningham, Mr G Hubbard. **No Objection**

20. Correspondence for information

20.1 Suffolk Preservation Society, Suffolk View. Circulated.

21. Date of next meeting: 7th March 2018 7:30 start

22. To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items: 22.1 Personnel Issues. None. 22.2 Legal Issues. None.