

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th July 2018 at 7:30pm in Barningham Village Hall.

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

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Martineau chaired the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence** Cllrs: M Dolman, C Hammond, S Lusher & C. Cllr J Spicer

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

Cllr Baxter declared an interest in 20.1 on the agenda. She left the meeting during the discussion.

3. **Minutes** - The minutes of the Wednesday 6th June 2018 meeting was agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. **Meeting open to the public** 1 Member present.

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

Cllr Spicer sent her apologies and the following report: The School transport changes will proceed but in a different way to what was originally suggested. Changes will be over 5-7 years and we will not be proceeding with the proposal to use nearest school if outside of Suffolk. She would be happy to discuss this further at the PC meeting in September when things will be clearer.

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

Cllr Bull has been trying to sort out the issues with the trees on Bishops Croft. Residents have been told that all the trees on Bishops Croft are going to be removed, over the next two years and replaced with fir trees. This contradicts the information that Cllr Bull had been given about the fir trees replacing deciduous so allow variety. The path is already dark, and the fir trees will only add to this problem. Cllr Bull will speak again to Mark Walsh about this issue and if possible arrange a site meeting.

The Boundary Commission's recommendations in the boundary review would see no changes to the Barningham ward. The Clerk will write to support this recommendation.

Action Clerk/Cllr Bull

7. **Report from Police**

7.1 Suffolk Constabulary Funded PCSOs

Over the last few months the Constabulary has been undertaking a review of how they manage the way in which Police and Community Support Officers are provided to districts, towns, parishes and other organisations. The Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable have reaffirmed their commitment to the continued provision of 'funded' PCSOs and as such have written to see if we would be interested in working with them to fund a PCSO and they would welcome notification of any intention to seek a funded PCSO by Friday 17th August.

Although it was noted how beneficial it was to have PCSO in the village and the relationships formed were valuable to both the Parish Council and the residents, concerns were raised about the fact that this is a service we are already paying for, through our Council Tax. Therefore, it was felt that we should be receiving it anyway. Furthermore we would like to know how much a PCSO would cost opposed to a Police Constable. Cllr Greenwood will try to attend the Police 'your say' meeting next week to raise these issues with the Police Commissioner. The item will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Action Cllr Greenwood

7.2 Your Police Your Say' meetings

As mentioned above Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore is encouraging St Edmundsbury residents to come along to a public meeting to talk about crime in the district in the last of his 'Your Police Your Say' meetings this year.

The meeting will be held at the Newbury Community Centre, St Olaves Road, Howards Estate, Bury St Edmunds IP32 6RW on Thursday 12th July at 7pm.

The PCC will be joined by Assistant Chief Constable, Simon Megicks. Cllr Greenwood will try to attend.

Action Cllr Greenwood

7.3 Volunteers sought

Members of the public are being invited to support Suffolk Constabulary by becoming the "eyes and ears" of their communities as part of a new initiative.

The Local Policing Volunteer pilot scheme, which was originally launched across six towns and villages including, in Bungay, Beccles, Woodbridge, Eye, Stanton and Long Melford in April, has now been opened up to the whole county and has already attracted early interest but spaces remain for further dedicated individuals.

As part of the non-uniform role, volunteers become accessible points of contact for their communities and help Suffolk Constabulary to detect crime by promoting effective communication and the prompt reporting of suspicious and criminal activity in each area.

Volunteers are not expected to become involved in any incident where conflict or threat exists and will have no power of arrest or detention. They are there to report anything suspicious or unusual directly to the police. They will receive full induction training and have access to their local police station to attend appropriate briefings.

Local Policing Volunteers are an important element of our police family, which includes police officers, PCSOs, police staff and the Specials.

Local Policing Volunteers:

- must be aged over 18 years
- don't have an upper age limit
- can work up to a maximum of 20 hours per week and hours are mutually agreed locally
- are not required to wear a uniform
- will be covered by public liability insurance wherever they undertake their volunteering duties

Anyone interested in becoming a Local Policing Volunteer will undergo a training package, be given a tabard and have a direct point of contact with police, as well as be included in regular meetings. The supportive role is also designed to work alongside usual activities and at no point requires participants to directly get involved in tackling crime.

Volunteers will need to undergo and pass security checks at the appropriate level for the role, although no medical assessment is required.

To gain further information regarding any of the constabulary's volunteering roles, visit www.suffolk.pnn.police.uk/joinus or email specialsandvolunteers@suffolk.pnn.police.uk or phone on 01473 613589.

The Parish Council did not feel that this was any different from the existing Neighbour Hood scheme already in practice.

8. Progress reports. For information, from:

8.1. Chairman

No report made.

8.2 Clerk:

8.2.1 Highway matters. Including purchase of another SID & adhesive speed signs. A meeting is being held to discuss the options on in early August.

8.2.2. Sign for cricket meadow & Aggies Piece
These are in hand.

Action Clerk

8.2.3. Streetlight and Bollards B1111
The Streetlight is on!

The bollards will be installed on Saturday 14th July, if not before.

8.2.5 Overgrown hedges

Currently, farmers and landowners are prevented from trimming hedges for six months, between 1 March and 1 September to protect nesting birds as part of EU legislation. However, local authorities, woodland, golf courses and private householders are not subject to the same restrictions as farmers. However, best practice from Natural England urges councils to leave hedges uncut during the bird nesting season. Although there is no law about cutting hedges there is laws regarding wild birds. All wild birds are protected. This includes their nests (whilst in use or being built) as well as any eggs the nest may contain. Under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), it is an offence to: 1. intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird; 2. intentionally damage, destroy or take the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built (nests of golden eagle, white tailed eagle and osprey are protected all year round); 3. intentionally destroy an egg of any wild bird; 4. intentionally or recklessly disturb certain wild birds or their dependent young while they are nesting (including disturbance of nesting young); Although no dates are legally stated between which hedges cannot be trimmed, cut, laid or coppiced, the main bird breeding season is recognised as being between 1 March and 31 July. Therefore, the risk of committing any of the above offences is increased between these dates. It is recommended that if any work is undertaken within these dates you should check the hedge for any signs of breeding activity first (such as observation from a distance using binoculars and direct searching of the hedge for nests). Only light trimming should be undertaken with any harder cutting back should be done outside of these dates.

8.2.6 Boundary Commission review

The Clerk attended a briefing on how the Boundary Commission prepare their draft recommendations for the West Suffolk Council wards. The consultation on this started yesterday and we are encouraged to comment as they can only base their result on comments received. If objections are received these need to be weighed against support. To this end the Clerk will make comments in support of the proposals put forward. **Action Clerk**

8.2.7 Community Energy and Neighbourhood Planning

The Clerk attended a Community Energy and Neighbourhood Planning event. There was some very helpful advice on renewable energy for the Neighbourhood Plan as well as information about Community Energy. Community energy may be something we could look at pursuing once we have completed the Neighbourhood Plan.

9. Finance.

9.1 The following accounts were approved, and the cheques signed by 2 signatories:

- 9.1.1 Administration £1707.50
- 9.1.2 CCT, Aggies and hedges £530
- 9.1.3 LCPAS, subs £100.00
- 9.1.4 Westcotec, brackets £120.00
- 9.1.5 A Griffin NHP questionnaire 1st prize £100
- 9.1.6 J Pearce NHP questionnaire 2nd prize £50
- 9.1.7 S Giles NHP questionnaire 3rd prize £20
- 9.1.8 Barningham Village Hall, hall hire £135

9.2 Signing arrangements, Barclays Bank

It was agreed that Tony Steer will be added next as a signatory. The Clerk will arrange the paperwork. **Action Clerk**

9.4 BACS transfers

Since the removal in 2014 of section 150(5) from the Local Government Act 1972, local councils have been able to make use of modern methods of making payments, such as internet banking.

However, it is imperative that proper processes are in place to ensure safe and efficient methods of payment for goods and services. It is recommended that: -

Any application to open an internet banking account in the name of the Council MUST be approved by resolution and the application form signed by at least two existing cheque signatories.

The Bank must be instructed that overdraft facilities are not authorised.

Forms or letters of authorisation to transfer sums to the internet account are to be signed by any two existing cheque signatories.

The Council appoints two Councillors (who are not cheque signatories) to verify the schedule of payments made from the internet banking account against sample invoices selected at random on a regular basis.

The Council advises its insurers and introduces such further safeguards, such as increased fidelity insurance, as may be required by the Insurers.

Hard copies of the bank statements to be sent to the Chairman monthly and made available for inspection at Council

Barclays informed the Clerk that they didn't offer BASC with our current community account. It was decided not to pursue this at this time.

10. Data Protection

There is a requirement to register our DPO with the iCO. The Clerk has done this.

11. Village Hall

The Village Hall committee are meeting next week and a fund-raising coffee morning on Thursday 12th July from 10am until noon. They are seeking quotes for the new fence at the back.

12. Speedwatch

The device is being moved regularly and seems to be effective.

13. Neighbourhood Watch

Nothing new to report this month.

14. Neighbourhood Plan

The group met and completed part of the Character assessment. They are meeting again on the 26th July.

15. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

The updated Emergency Plan is nearing completion.

16. Aggies Piece

The Clerk met with Pete Kerry, from CCT to discuss various aspects of tree/hedge work in the village. He has offered to come to the August meeting to discuss the ongoing maintenance at Aggies. The Parish Councillors would welcome his input. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements. The hay has been cut, baled and removed.

Action Clerk

17. Caretakers report

There has been quite a bit of cutting back of vegetation this month. I have done what I can in Sandy Lane with hand tools, cut brambles in the coppiced bank and Lychgate Cemetery and trimmed around the litter bin which is rapidly disappearing into the bush opposite the shop. These bushes and the shrubs along the elevated path would benefit from a good going-over with a proper hedge-trimmer.

I have had a go at cleaning the benches in the Lawn Cemetery. The roundabout in the Play Area has taken a lot more grease but still is not moving freely; I will try another squirt, but this may be an indication of a deeper problem. Sweeping in Church Road broke the broom again, so I had to perform another repair.

18. Play area reports

Steve Wilson has been working on the roundabout to try and stop it sticking.

19. Churchyard/Cemetery

It has been reported to the Parish Council that wood chips have been put on a grave space. Unfortunately, this is contrary to our cemetery regulations and will need to be rectified. The Clerk will write to the deed holder to ask them to re-instate the plat to its original condition.

Action Clerk

20. Planning Matters /

20.1 DC/18/0995/HH & DC/18/0996/LB Church Cottage Church Road Barningham. Garden room. **No objections.**

20.2 DC/18/1099/HH 55 Millfield Road Barningham (i) raising roof over garage to create habitable space including insertion of 2 Velux windows (i) external staircase. **No objections**

21. Correspondence for information

21.1 Broadleaf, Woodland Trust magazine.

22. Date of next meeting: 1st August 2018 7:30

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.