

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7:00pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, N Martineau, J Chalmers, L Hebert, R Baxter & WSC C Bull

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Cllrs T Steer & SCC J Spicer.

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

- 2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None.
- 2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests. None.
- 2.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act. None.

**3. Minutes** - The minutes of the Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **4. Meeting open to the public** residents present.

The Parish Council discussed the issue with flooding in Bårdwell Road. SCC have been out and removed a tanker and a half of water from the road. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful, and the flood was back within 24 hours. Andrew Moore, SCC Highways Community Liaison Engineer, was on site for five hours last Friday, to try and eliminate the blockages which leads to the pond at College Farm. Following this he was able to confirm that the issue of drainage is not the pond, as the pipe runs are clear there. He thinks the issue might be at the gates of White House farm where a gully is, but at the moment he is not able to confirm this as it is in the flood water. One of his main concerns is that even removing the bulk of the flood water may not stop it flooding, as most of the water is draining off farmland overflowing the ditch. Andrew Moore has been in discussions with the drainage team and another order, to jet the pipes and gullies, has been raised and should be actioned within the next 5 days. The investigation is hampered by both the overgrown vegetation as well as the flood water. It is important to note that, although important to local residents, Bardwell Road is not a priority highway and there are currently hundreds of roads and properties in the region requiring action in relation to flooding, so it is unlikely that this will be a quick fix. That said Andrew Moore is working extremely hard, sometimes on his own time, to try and find a solution to the problem. The Parish Council would like to extend their thanks to him for his ongoing dedication and commitment to this issue. The Parish council are also working hard to act as a liaison between the residents of Barningham and Suffolk County Council, who are the only authority who can address the issue of flooding on the highway. Residents can help by making sure their ditches are clear and ensure incidents of flooding are reported on the Suffolk County Council website at [ww.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue](http://ww.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/report-a-highways-issue). Helpful information, regarding help with flooding issues can be found on the Suffolk County Council website, in addition a summary of information is available on the Parish Council website [Barningham.onesuffolk.net](http://Barningham.onesuffolk.net). In a bid to keep residents updated on any plans and progress the Parish Council will try to provide regular updates on the Parish Council website and Facebook pages. The Parish Council would also like to extend, again, their gratitude to Kathy Cummings, for her ongoing updates and the support she extends to local residents.

It was reported that a West Suffolk bin lorry went through the flood at great speed. Cllr Bull will follow this up with West Suffolk Council. It is politely requested that all vehicles travel through the flood at a slow speed. It is recommended that drivers should drive through flooded areas slowly and with caution, there may be unseen obstacles and issues obscured by the flood water. This is not to mention that driving fast through the flood waters is causing damage to adjacent property as well as making it dangerous and unpleasant for pedestrians using the road. Concerns were raised about the road being dangerous if we experience freezing weather conditions and the flood water freezes. The Clerk will investigate an option to install a grit bin near the junction with Drouts Lane.

**Action Clerk**

Kathy Cummings shared some funding information, from Havebury Housing partnership, for the Parish Councils consideration.

**Action Clerk**

## 5. Report from County Councillor: J Spicer

Cllr Spicer was unable to attend the meeting but has been heavily involved in helping to deal with the flooding situation in Bardwell Road. She is in regular contact with the Clerk and the highways Engineer and will continue to do all she can to help resolve the situation. The signage for Bardwell and Coney Weston Road, traffic calming, is on order.

## 6. Report from WS Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull reported that the 100%, means tested, council tax reduction offered last year, is being recommended to be extended again this year by the Cabinet. It was noted that the number of rough sleepers in West Suffolk has reduced from 36 last year to 4 this year. Information on how to help anyone who is a rough sleeper can be found at [thestreetlink.org.uk](http://thestreetlink.org.uk). A new report out for West Suffolk Council owned Barley Homes (Group) Ltd shows growing success, new development and income for the authority. The Barley Homes business plan which will be shows an income of £2.3 million over five years for the authority. Barley Homes has now also bought land and submitted plans for houses in Rougham, this development of 13 homes will include 4 affordable homes. West Suffolk Council has reached an advanced stage in its preparation of the Regulation 19 West Suffolk Local Plan. The plan sets out the spatial strategy for the district to 2040. Consultation on the plan is expected to commence on 30 January 2024 and will be open for representations for six weeks. Where a neighbourhood plan plans to meet its housing need, the minimum housing requirement for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2040 for each designated neighbourhood was provided. For Barningham this was a minimum of 37 homes. Although this figure was shown as a minimum figure it was considered very unlikely that we would be asked to provide more homes than this.

## 7. Chairman's reports

### 7.1 To receive report SALC Conference

The chairman and Clerk attended the recent SALC conference. They both found this to be a very informative and enjoyable event. Cllr Hammond has produced a summary of the event which is available on request.

### 7.2 To provide report on anti-social behaviour.

There appeared to be little antisocial behaviour in the village at this time. With the new policing model becoming operational it was asked that we find out what plans there are for the new officer, assigned to Barningham, to liaise with the Parish Council and attend future Parish Council meetings.

**Action Clerk**

## 8. Clerk's Report

### 8.1 To discuss fit villages project.

Active Suffolk currently deliver the Fit Villages project across Suffolk, and they are looking for new projects in villages across West Suffolk. Fit Villages is a well-established and popular project that is now entering its thirteenth year. It plays a vital role supporting Active Suffolk's vision to inspire more people across Suffolk to get active, improving their health and wellbeing. The funding will be used to continue setting up more physical activity sessions for adults aged over 55 by using local facilities such as community centres, village halls, libraries and playing fields.

If you would like to register an interest in having a Fit Village in your area please contact [fitvillages@activesuffolk.org](mailto:fitvillages@activesuffolk.org) This information will be included in the next newsletter. **Action Clerk**

### 8.2 to discuss options for separate email accounts.

It is recommended that Parish Councillors hold separate email addresses for Parish Council business. You can have a separate, dedicated email address, free of charge through outlook etc. A .gov address can be purchased for an annual subscription. The logistics of this was discussed for those who access emails through their work equipment. Many companies do not allow external emails to be used. This can create issues for those Councillors who use work equipment to engage with Parish Council matters. Many councillors only have work provided equipment and therefore can not have a dedicated email address. The Clerk will raise this issue SALC for advice.

**Action Clerk**

## 9. Finance.

9.1 The following accounts were approved for payment.

Description	Supplier / customer	
ink and laminated pouches	Carol Hammond	-£58.57
Sandy Lane hedge	Countryside, conservation and tree services	-£420.00
Lawn Cemetery	Countryside, conservation and tree services	-£180.00
Administration	Various	£2,669.65
Lychgate	D Bavington Lowe	-£2,950.00
TAX	HMR&C	-£563.81
Data Protection	Ico	-£40.00

9.2 Bank reconciliation and budget report.

The Clerk provided a schedule of payments and bank reconciliation for information.

9.3 Confirmation of submission of Precept request.

The Clerk has submitted our Precept request to West Suffolk and received confirmation of its safe receipt.

## 10 Village matters.

10.1 To discuss recent flooding in Bardwell Road.

See under item 4.

10.2 To receive update of traffic calming measures, Bardwell Road.

In order to complete the application to SCC for the new gateway we need to confirm the size of the gate. The verge needs to be measured to confirm the size of gate we can install. We also need to engage with a contractor with NRSWA accreditation and find out more details before SCC will receive an application for consideration. There is a cost implication with the licence so we need to check if the gate will fit before committing to any additional expense and taking the project any further. The Clerk is continuing to work on this with the help of Cllr Steer. **Action Cllr Steer/Clerk**  
As recorded under item 5, the signage for Bardwell Road and Coney Weston Road is on order.

10.3 To received information about concerns raised in Sandy Lane (Nth) regarding speeding.

Cllr Steer was unable to attend the meeting.

10.4 Update on bench replacement, Bishops Croft.

As reported at the last meeting, the bench is currently with the contractor, awaiting better weather before installing.

10.5 To receive an update on damaged post, Church Road.

We would need to install a new post, to accommodate the VAS on Church Road. The Clerk will ask for a quote when seeking a price for the gateway work above. The Clerk will investigate whether funding from Havebury could be used for this project. **Action Clerk**

10.6 To receive information on new VAS's on A143 at Stanton.

The devices at Stanton were confirmed as Elancity devices. The Clerk will seek a quote and further information to information decision going forward. **Action Clerk**

10.7 Church clock, thank you.

The Parish Council extended their gratitude to Cllr Baxter and her husband Adam for ensuring that the clock struck at the correct time for the Remembrance Day service. Unfortunately, the chime was reported as not working at the moment. Cllr Baxter will investigate this. **Action Cllr Baxter**

## **11. Aggies Piece**

11.1 To receive update following meeting to discuss the wetland project.

Cllrs Baxter and Hamond met with Sam Hurst and Cassie Chanin from the Norfolk Rivers Trust. Some progress was made with identifying drains, but further clarification and advice is needed from SCC highways regarding access and ownership. An email to this end has been sent to Andrew Moore. It is likely that an application, to re-route the stream, will need to be submitted to the Environment Agency. Sam Hurst and Cassie Chanin will help with this application. Cllr Baxter will continue to pursue this project and the parish Council extended their gratitude to her for this.

**Action Cllr Baxter**

11.2 To note fly tipping at Aggies.

There has been some fly tipping near the entrance to Aggies Piece. Both Cllrs Baxter and Chalmers were instrumental in arranging for West Suffolk Council to collect the rubbish.

## **12. Caretakers report Circulated.**

This month I have had some dealings with Playdale ensuring that we acquire the correct fittings for the play equipment. In the Play Area I have completed the cleaning of the coloured units. On the Cricket Meadow I have trimmed the branches which are growing towards the line of the zipwire, and I have done some testing of my water-based paint remover on the instruction board; early indications are good, but I have been overtaken by events.

More generally I have trimmed the shrubs at the elevated path, hand-weeded there and swept through. I have also swept the dangerous wet leaves in Church Road and Bishops Croft. I have removed the damaged liner from the litter bin at the corner of Church Road with the B1111, along with a lot of soil and a host of sleeping snails. I have drilled drain holes in the bin itself.

This all sounds like a very busy month but, unfortunately, I have had to carry out two bins-only weeks and one shortened week due to a family emergency.

## **13. Play area /Cricket Meadow to receive any update.**

13.1 To discuss extra work on brambles and bushes.

Steve Wilson has cut back the brambles behind the basket swing and also the branches which are starting to grow towards the run of the zip wire. He has suggested that it might be worth getting our contractor to do a one-off hack back, at least of the areas next to the equipment. The bin in the corner is close to disappearing. It was agreed to ask Peter Kerry to action the work required to cut the brambles and shrubs encroaching on the Cricket Meadow. He will be asked to liaise with Cllr Baxter regarding the amount of growth to be cut back.

**Action Cllr Baxter/Clerk**

13.2 To receive any update on damaged ladder/equipment on the cricket meadow.

This matter is in hand with HAGS and the contractor.

13.3 To receive any update on items included in the Play area report.

Steve Wilson is reporting that the wooden equipment in the Play Area is rapidly deteriorating and will need to be replaced in the not-too-distant future. We included £1000 in the next budget, but it was agreed that we will need to increase this amount next year, so we can start building a replacement budget.

The washer caps for the play equipment are on order with Playdale.

## **14. Churchyard/Cemetery**

14.1 Update on works to Cemetery, to confirm agreement of regulations.

The regulations were agreed, in principle, with the Clerk and Cllr Chalmers to finalise some of the more sensitive wording and will be publicised along with a notice highlighting some of the pertinent points in the regulations. We will need to purchase a container to store items that are removed from the graves.

**Action Cllr Chalmers/Clerk**

## **15. Neighbourhood Plan.**

15.1 To further discuss the draft plan ahead of submission for consultation and receive information from West Suffolk Local Plan and West Suffolk Designated Neighbourhood Plans.

The Clerk has submitted the draft plan to the Consultant. The consultant has been away and will get back to the Clerk within the next few days. Once the plan has been received back it will be circulated for signing off.

**Action All**

### **West Suffolk local Plan**

As discussed under Cllr Bulls report West Suffolk Council has reached an advanced stage in its preparation of the Regulation 19 West Suffolk Local Plan. The plan sets out the spatial strategy for the district to 2040. Consultation on the plan is expected to commence on 30 January 2024 and will be open for representations for six weeks. Where a neighbourhood plan plans to meet its housing need, the minimum housing requirement for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2040 for each designated neighbourhood was provided. For Barningham this was a minimum of 37 homes. Although this figure was shown as a minimum figure it was considered very unlikely that we would be asked to provide more homes than this.

**16. Planning.** to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted. None received.

## **17. Councillors reports and items for future agenda**

At the last meeting Cllr Martineau was tasked with finding someone who could provide a tractor to extract vehicles who may find themselves stuck in flood water. After taking advice on this matter, it became clear that, especially with newer model vehicles it was not always an option to tow vehicles out of flood water. It was therefore agreed that this is something that we should not engage in. It was however agreed that having some contact details of someone local with access to a tractor could be beneficial in clearing other debris from the highway in an emergency. Cllr Martineau will secure these details for future reference.

**Action Cllr Martineau.**

Cllrs Chalmers & Hebert attended some councillor Training recently. Unfortunately, they did not find the delivery of the training to be very helpful. The clerk will provide some feedback to SALC regarding this.

**Action Clerk**

The recent fish and chip bingo at the village hall was a big success and was very well attended. Unfortunately, although a very nice event the coffee morning was not so well supported. The Coffee caravan is continuing to come to the village, to the Village Hall, over winter. We were grateful to Brenda Last for opening up the hall for their last visit. It is looking likely that the bowls club at the village Hall may have to close due to a reduction in numbers.

Cllr Hammond attended the Christmas fayre at the school. This was a lovely event and very well attended.

## **18. Correspondence for information.**

None to note.

**19. Date of next meeting** 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 7pm in Barningham Village Hall.

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

20.1 Personnel Issues. None.

20.2 Legal Issues. None.