

Minutes of Barningham Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th May at 7:30pm in Barningham Village Hall.

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

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Baxter nominated Cllr Hammond for the position of chairman, this was seconded by Cllr

2. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Hammond completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

3. Councillors Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Those Councillors present completed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office

4. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Greenwood nominated Cllr Martineau for the position of vice chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Hammond.

5. Apologies for absence Cllr A Woodward

6. To elect Council Officers to outside bodies

Cllr Lusher agreed to be the Parish Councils representative on the Village Hall Committee.

7 Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

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

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

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

8. Minutes - The minutes of the Wednesday 3rd April 2019 meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

9 Meeting open to the public

John Atkins, a resident of the parish, offered to help with the speed watch group once it is operational again. PC Fox will look into the current criteria regarding training to use the speed gun and how long the training is valid for.

10. Report from County Councillor: J Spicer

Barningham 2019

I would like to thank Carol Hammond and all the Parish Councillors very much for their welcome to me at meetings. Vicki Gay has been an excellent clerk and I thank her for keeping me in touch with issues in Barningham. I believe that Carol Bull and I have an effective partnership covering the services provided to you here in Barningham with the services provided by our Councils. I welcome the new West Suffolk Council which has my full support At the County Council I took on a new role a year ago as Chairman of the Audit Committee which has responsibility for all aspects of governance as well as financial responsibility. I also play a role in the constitutional side of the Council. I am chairman of the West Suffolk Community Safety Partnership. This involves bringing together local authorities, the Police, the NHS, Probation and the voluntary sector in establishing joint community safety plans. In May last year the Council elected a new Leader, Matthew Hicks, who as my full support. The new Deputy Leader is Councillor Mary Evans from Clare and I am really pleased with how she has tackled her role as Cabinet member for Highways and Transport. Improvements are now visible. We also have a new Chief Executive, Nicola Beach, who joined us from Essex County Council.

You may have read in the press about "unitary" councils again being discussed. As with previous reviews I would very much support the principal to save money and create efficiencies – but I am not sure the time is right. But there is a review of county council division boundaries

under way and I suspect my current division of 16 villages and over 8,000 people may increase.

The County Council has had to continue the relentless search for savings with the continuing cut in our grant from Government and with some reluctance we have again put up the Council tax this year. We have made more than £260 million savings since 2011 and some of the changes have been tough. This year our budget, which excludes money going direct to schools, is around £520 million

The biggest budget pressures continue to be adult care services and child protection. This represents 75% of our expenditure. It is interesting that whenever we do surveys although the people of Suffolk recognise the importance of our statutory duty to protect the vulnerable and elderly, they continue to suggest highways should be our highest priority.

Which leads me on to highways! The contract that SCC have with Keir is considered to be working better now and the programme for potholes using new technology is making progress. It is really important that the website reporting tool is used

Specifically this year in Barningham :

- I continue to keep a careful eye on the proposed development by Pigeon off Hepworth Road – but there has not really been any developments in the last year
- Changes have been agreed by SCC to the provision of school transport. This will mean that Barningham children will no longer get free transportation to Thurston Community College – only to Ixworth Free School. This only effect the new year 7 children from this September
- I have been pleased to give a grant of £500 to the village hall for their new garden development
- Following an alarming incident on Bonfire night with fireworks I was pleased at the response from Suffolk County Council who gave very helpful advice and information about the fireworks used
- Barningham School continues to flourish and applications for this coming September are excellent. I am proposing to give them a grant of £500 towards an outside classroom
- Another big issue on the horizon that will impact on several villages is the possibility of a significant development on the Shepherds Grove Park, Stanton, involving in excess of 300 houses and new industrial units.

11. Report from WS. Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull reported that an officer from West Suffolk is liaising with SCC about the position for the new streetlight in Bishops Croft.

It doesn't seem anytime at all since the last Parish Meeting. Time seems to have rushed by but then again there has been such a lot going on locally and at the Council with the amalgamation of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council and as the Portfolio Holder for Future Governance I have been very heavily involved and it was not without its interesting moments. However we are now there and St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath Councils no longer exist.

As of Monday 1st April we became the West Suffolk Council and the first full meeting of the new council will be on 22 May and then we can return to some semblance of normality after the elections. I am sure some of you may wonder what this change means to you as residents of West Suffolk. Although it has been a complex process the reason behind it is very simple. It is to ensure that as a council we are prepared for the future and are able to maintain our services to the community and wherever possible to improve them, all this despite the huge funding cuts we experience from Government.

Having mentioned the elections I have to say that many people used their vote to protest, quite understandably, at the situation at Westminster and abandoned their traditional party to vote for independents. This means that the new council has a far greater number of independent councillors than previously although the Conservatives have retained their majority. However traditionally as a council we have always tried to work together for our communities and having met a lot of our new councillors I am very optimistic and look forward to the future.

May I say I have enjoyed attending Parish Council meetings and thank councillors and indeed the public who attend for always making me feel very welcome.

I was pleased, with councillors from adjoining wards, to contribute towards Ixworth Surgery's Patient transport service which extends to their Barningham patients and to provide other funding from my locality budget towards a number of village projects including the annual Fete, fencing for the village hall and the silhouettes for the church for the First World War remembrance celebrations. The church service was particularly moving and I felt very privileged to be asked to read a poem. I was also very touched to be asked to join the Parish Council at their Christmas meal at the White Horse where a good time was had by all! I very much look forward to continuing as your ward councillor and working with you all in the future and want to remind everyone that if they don't catch up with me at Parish Council Meetings then I am always available on the telephone or by e-mail

12. Report from Police

45 offences in Barningham area in the last twelve months. Offences range from Burglary dwellings to theft from Motor vehicle and Criminal damage as well as domestic related investigations.

2 Burglary Dwellings

2 Business burglaries

7 Assaults

3 Thefts

3 sexual offences

Speeding Complaints are common within the area. Suffolk Police have expanded their safety camera team recently which means that there is more enforcement by these than there has been in the past. These provide a good deterrent as well as the obvious enforcement that they are able to do. Ken Ruston one of the rural PCSOS is one of the officers and has a good knowledge of the speeding related issues within the rural area. Areas can be surveyed if complaints are received.

Local SNT has been reorganized and runs from Bury St Edmunds with a sub office which is still at Ixworth, this is not open to the public but is used by officers for paperwork to avoid them having to go all the way back to Bury St Edmunds.

Bury ST Edmunds SNT now consists of 3 PCSO's and one PC who complete the partnership work as well as three teams of Police Officers lead by sgts who deal with lower grade crimes as well as the ASB related matters within the community. These officers work between 8am and midnight enabling them to tackle issues at a variety of hours.

Response officers are on duty 24 hours covering emergency calls.

13. Progress reports. For information, from:

13.1. Chairman

Unfortunately, the Keep Barningham Beautiful event was hit with bad weather so we did not get any members of the public attending. It was thought that holding the event in the morning next year may suit residents more. Those who did attend, mainly Parish Councillors, Village Hall members and their families did some work in the Hall, down at Aggies Piece as well as collecting a number of bags of rubbish in the village.

Another very busy and interesting year for the Parish Council with some pleasing achievements as well as quite a few projects still ongoing. Again, we had the strong support of our County and Local councillors, also very busy, during the process of the forming the new West Suffolk Council into 2019.

In May 2018 the Parish Council chair and vice chair were elected and roles allocated to the parish councillors. The year began on a positive and proud note, when Eddie Sier, one of our councillors, who has worked very hard in Barningham for many years in various roles, was awarded The Scroll of Honour Award by the borough, for his community work. He has sadly retired now.

However, we welcomed a new councillor in September as well as a new member of the public to our Neighbourhood Plan Working Party. Both very welcome.

Our councillors and efficient clerk, keep us informed about relevant new initiatives and legislation in our county and how they can assist us with our local needs, be it financial or through other support. This year they have:

Updated us on the 5-7 year plan for School Transport and investigated changes in transport. All the pupils in our area got free transport. Changes are due September 2019. New pupils and ones new to the area have to 'opt-in'

investigated the changes and cuts to public transport to and from Barningham

Shared the new Data protection Act and its relevance to the parish council

Financed new streetlights (Bishops Croft path light) and bollards on the B1111

Financed new safety road markings outside the school and got the more dangerous potholes filled in. e.g. Drouts Lane

Liaised with Highways about the damaged SID pole by shop to be repaired, and leading to extra posts on Millfield Green by B1111/ Bardwell Rd

We have achieved quite a lot this year, even though sometimes it seems to take forever with long gaps between.

The following have been achieved and many are ongoing for the next year too

The chairman and clerk have attended various forums and courses to keep up to date with current relevant national and local community initiatives, such as Parish Forums, Suffolk Village Cinemas, Neighbourhood Planning, Crime Prevention and local policing, County Lines, Community Energy

The village Emergency Plan, after over 2 years work, was completed by one of our councillors. It is in the Village Hall.

In November there was excellent work done by a resident and her team at the church for the 100-year Remembrance WW1. The school attended and the council expressed its thanks in a letter to the team.

A new SID sign with faces, is now on the B1111 thanks to one of our councillors. Further new speed signs posts are due in the future.

The biggest challenge this year has been getting the Character Assessment for The Neighbourhood Plan, including the housing survey and Green Spaces survey ready for the consultant. A big thank you to all who braved the weather and gave time to help with this as well as attending the meetings. Obviously, an ongoing process as we work through the stages involved. To prepare for the next public meeting.

A new Village Hall Committee was set up May 2018. Good liaison with the team is ongoing and the Parish council has funded some improvements to update and modernise the hall e.g. new fencing for the garden. Various events have been arranged during the year for the community as well as the weekly activities that take place to raise funds e.g. Halloween Party, Fish and Chip Supper and Bingo

Green space maintenance continues – Aggie's Piece has been reviewed with an Environmental and Tree expert with a view to a 5-year plan, assisted by an aerial view of the area. Suffolk Wildlife Trust agreed to do a survey after the nesting period/ a new grass cutting contractor was appointed

Safety maintenance was carried out on some of the equipment on the small play area and on the Cricket Meadow.

There is always more to do, and we are grateful to all of you for your time and contributions, whenever you give them. We were all re-elected uncontested in May this year. Onwards and upwards!

14.2 Clerk:

13.2.1 Highway matters.

There has been some teething problems with the new grass cutting contractors, a couple of areas were being missed but this issue has been sorted now.

13.2.1.1 Highways, self help training.

The Clerk and the Chairman are going to attend some SCC highways self help training on Wednesday.
Action Chairman/Clerk

13.2.2 Defibrillator

The Clerk has been told that she needs to contact Blakemore Retail about the permission we are seeking, she has done this and is awaiting a reply.
Action Clerk

13.2.3 New streetlight for Bishops Croft

Cllr Bull reported that an officer from West Suffolk is liaising with SCC about the position for the new streetlight in Bishops Croft.

14. Finance.

14.1 To consider payments. To include:

14.1.1 Administration. 14.1.2 Vertas 14.1.3 CC &TS Aggies

14.2 End of Year Accounts

The internal audit for the year was completed by the internal auditor. Section 1 followed by section 2 was agreed and approved by the Council. The Clerk will send off the relevant documents and ensure we are compliant with any transparency code obligations.
Action Clerk

14.3 Accounts Software

The Clerk has begun the free trial with the account's software. There have been a few issues but they are being dealt with. She is hopeful that she will be able to provide the councillors with a report at the next meeting.
Action Clerk

14.5 VAT Claim

The Clerk is preparing an online VAT claim.
Action Clerk

15. Review and agree policies/documents to include:

The following documents were reviewed and agreed.

15.1 Financial Regulation

15.2 Standing Orders

15.3 Cemetery Regulations

15.4 Financial Risk Assessment

15.5 Risk Assessment

16. Village Hall

• **COMMITTEE NEWS**

- Carol Weaver appointed Chair.
- Jill Abersteen appointed representative of the Art Group.
- Tony Green appointed representative of the Bowling club.
- Julie Chapman appointed village representative.
- John Pagram stepped down as village representative.
- AGM to be held 7.00pm 15/5/19.

• **NEW INCENTIVES**

- A youth and children's school club at the Hall was advertised but unfortunately there was little response, so it was unable to go ahead.
- The Village Hall Face book page set up last year has had a fair amount of interest and is used to promote events and pass on information.
- Craft Stalls were encouraged to come to sell their produce at two events held and it is hoped they will come to future events, although unfortunately the last one was not profitable for them as it wasn't well attended.

- **EVENTS HELD AT THE HALL**

- Coffee morning in July 18, well attended.
- Afternoon Fish, Chip and Bingo, Sept 18, well attended.
- Halloween Party, Oct 18, well attended.
- Christmas Coffee morning well attended.
- Evening Fish, Chip and Bingo, March 19, well attended.
- Spring Coffee morning April 19 not well attended.

- **CHANGES TO REGULAR ACTIVITIES**

- The Karate classes finished due to poor attendance figures.
- Yoga classes finished due to poor attendance figures.
- The long running circuit training and fitness classes finished due to poor attendance.
- Tuesday Evening whist sessions are struggling with numbers at present, it is hoped an advertising campaign in progress at the moment may encourage new members.
- There is the possibility a new keep-fit class may commence on Thursday mornings.

- **FINANCIAL**

- Rate rebate awarded for 2019.
- The Parish Council, BSE Council and Suffolk County Council each awarded a £500 grant to help towards the cost of renovations to the garden.

- **WORK ON THE HALL**

- Fire Alarm repairs.
- Plumbing repairs.
- 1-year Emergency lighting and fire alarm inspection.
- Post Box erected.
- Garden area enlarged and re-fenced.
- Extensive garden groundwork carried out.
- Security code lock fitted on the garden gate.
- Outside water tap fitted.
- Retractable hose pipe fitted to outside wall.
- New Curtains made for the main hall.
- Clean up off the hall and grounds.

- **ONGOING**

- Painting of the hall, lobby and disabled toilet. *
- Fitting of new curtains. *
- Garden to be grass seeded and some plants put in.
- Garden Patio to be laid.
- ***NB. These may have been completed before the AGM**

17. Speed watch and SID

There is a bit of confusion over the position of the post in Bardwell Road. Cllr Steer is investigating this.

Action Cllr Steer

18. Neighbourhood Plan

We have finally had permission back from all landowners for access to their land to carry out a wildlife audit with Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The Clerk is arranging a date with Suffolk wildlife Trust to do the audit for meeting. The Clerk has completed the end of year grant report for the Groundworks grant.

19. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

There has been a lorry parked on the green at Bishops Croft. The green is an area for the enjoyment of all and as such parking in this manner is not acceptable. Cllr Bull will investigate this matter. **Action Cllr Bull**

The tree, next to 1 Millfield has fallen across the verge. We are unsure who is responsible for this. The Clerk and Cllr Lusher will investigate. **Action Cllr Lusher\Clerk**

Several complaints have been received about overgrown hedges, particularly along Mill Road and on Pound Corner. As we are aware this is not the right time to cut back hedges. The Clerk understands that we are now able to send out letters, opposed to SCC doing it, to landowners. She will investigate this. **Action Clerk**

The pothole in Jerrold Close still hasn't been repaired. Further potholes in Droughts Lane also need reporting. The Clerk will report these **Action Clerk**

Complaints have been received about dogs barking continually in the village. Unfortunately there is no action that the Parish Council can take apart from asking residents to consider their neighbours if they have animals and recommend that, if after trying to address the problem directly with their neighbour, a log of the noise should be kept should and contact made with West Suffolk Council.

20. Aggies Piece

Firstly, Cllr Greenwood wanted to thank those who went down to Aggies on the Keep Barningham Beautiful day to help clear and tidy up. It has been suggested that, on the years that we don't have a village fete, we hold a picnic at Aggie's Piece. The Clerk will discuss this idea with SWT as we would not want to do anything that could have a negative impact on the wildlife there. **Action Clerk**

21. Caretakers report Circulated

There has been little extra work undertaken in this period apart from repairing the broom again. I met the Play Area Inspector and was able to discover the background to some of his concerns and introduce him to the history of the equipment; he also had some maintenance advice for me. There was one bins-only week when I went away for a few days.

22. Play area reports

The Clerk has requested a quote from Playdale to repair the rotten posts on the swing set in the play area.

23. Churchyard/Cemetery

Following request last month for information, the cards holding details of the graves in the Churchyard and no longer held in the church, it is believed that they are now with the records office.

Details of the bench that is being commissioned for the Lawn Cemetery have been received. There was a mixed reaction from the Councillors and the clerk has been asked to seek further information. They would like to know if a coloured coating could be added, if the planters could be topped off if not in use and if a photograph of a similar piece is available. **Action Clerk**

24. Planning Matters

24.1 DC/19/0717/HH Householder Planning Application - (i) Proposed two storey rear extension (ii) Proposed single storey side extension

Rose Cottage Stanton Road Barningham IP31 1BS. Mr & Mrs R Vansittant

No comment

25. Correspondence for information
None received

26. Date of next meeting: 5th June 2009

27. 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

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