

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 7:30pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present

Cllrs: C Hammond, J Chalmers, L Hebert, Y Martin, N Martineau, SCC C J Spicer & WSC C Bull.

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Hammond nominated Cllr Chalmers for the position of Chairman, Cllr Martineau seconded this nomination. Cllr Chalmers accepted the position.

2. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Chalmers completed the declaration of acceptance form.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Chalmers nominated Cllr Hammond for the position of Vice Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Hebert. Cllr Hammond accepted the position of Vice Chair.

4. Apologies for absence

The Parish council accepted and agreed the reason for apologies for the absence received from Cllr R Baxter.

5. To elect Council Officers and Representatives to outside bodies

Cllr Chalmers was confirmed as the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee.

6. Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

6.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. Cllr Hebert declared an interest in item 17.1 on the agenda.

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 - - the meeting of the minutes of the Wednesday 3rd April 2024 were agreed and approved as a correct record

8. Meeting open to the public

Stephany Hunter, headteacher of Barningham Primary School, came to give an update on the school. It is known that pupil numbers have a direct impact on schools' budgets. Barningham school, along with many Primary schools, has struggled with reception numbers for some time now and this has a knock-on effect as pupils progress through the school. It was understood that some parents keep their children at the school that offers a younger year's provision as, by the time their child is ready to move up, they have already formed connections and made friends that would potentially mean moving schools is less desirable. Currently this means local children have been going to other schools, that offer an early year's provision, and then they are staying there rather than moving back to Barningham. In a bid to address this and to be able offer places at the school from three years old, the school is going to open a nursery class from this September. There has been a lot of work to get to this stage, but the school is confident that by adding this provision they will be able to secure their future and make sure that the school remains a vital part of the Barningham community.

9. Report from County Councillor: J Spicer

Cllr Spicer began by apologising for missing the last two meetings. The issue with the flooding in Bardwell Road was discussed and it was agreed that we need to get to the bottom of why this area has suddenly been affected so badly. To that end both Cllr Spicer and the Clerk will continue to pursue the matter with SCC Highways Drainage team.

Action Cllr Spicer/Clerk

Cllr Spicer has approved and paid for the bend warning signs for Bardwell and Coney Weston Road. Cllr Chalmers will provide Cllr Spicer with a list of requirements regarding replacement 30mph stickers, as well as deregulation signs that may need refreshing. **Action Cllr Chalmers**
Cllr Spicer asked what information we had received from SCC regarding the current devolution deal being consulted on. The Clerk reported that no official correspondence was received via SCC. The Clerk will follow up on this. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Spicer provided the following annual report:

I would like to thank the chairman, members and clerk of the Parish Council for inviting me to attend their meetings over the last year. I am fortunate to be able to work closely with Carol Bull as we try to navigate the different responsibilities of our two councils.

The county council has had a challenging year as we meet our statutory responsibilities caring for vulnerable older people, those with disabilities, children, special education and young people. About 79% of our total annual expenditure is on these services which are provided 365 days a year.

This year we have had to make difficult decisions over the level of council tax, and we are making some significant savings involving service cuts and reducing staff numbers. Meanwhile we continue to ensure we have adequate budgets for the fire and rescue service, highways, trading standards, the environment and climate change, school support and libraries. The total budget for 2024-25 is an increase of 8.6% to £752.8million.

Since October 2023 the council has had a new contract for highway services with Milestone and we are cautiously pleased with how repairs and resurfacing is progressing.

We are currently consulting on the proposal from Government for a "Devolution Deal" for Suffolk which will bring investment in Suffolk of £480million over the next 30 years. In return for this new money and devolved decision making we will be required to have a directly elected leader of the county council from May 2025.

The big concern for Barningham in the last year has been the flooding at Bardwell Road. This first started last October but reached serious levels after Christmas. This has resulted in property damage, considerable inconvenience, many stranded cars and eventually a road closure. I am relieved that SCC highways took your problem very seriously and many visits were made over several weeks to pump away water and clear the ditches. But it now needs SCC drainage experts to investigate the cause and come up with a plan. We are waiting for this to happen.

I have been working with the parish council on improvements to the entrance to the village from Bardwell and Coney Weston. New signage is now on order, and we are looking at other traffic calming options including a "gateway".

Joanna Spicer, County Councillor, Joanna.spicer@suffolk.gov.uk

10. Report from WS Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull has shared some information regarding some home heating help for East Suffolk residents, it would seem that some residents in our area would be included in this scheme. There is going to be a big orthopaedic centre built at Colchester, some concerns about this provision, including the potential impact it could have on the existing orthopaedic provision at the West Suffolk Hospital as well as the transport implications for accessing this provision for those residents who live in this part of the county.

Cllr Bull provided the following annual report:

This year has been a very different year from my perspective as there has been a change of administration following the District Council elections in May last year and this has resulted in me no longer being a Cabinet Member and at the heart of things. It is very difficult to take a back seat as it were. Our new Administration is made up of a coalition of Labour and Independent councillors and one Lib Democrat and one Green. A large percentage of these are first time councillors which has had it challenges in relation to their expectations and understanding of the role but working relationships are being developed for both councillors and officers.

I have however retained my seat on the Development Control and Licensing Committees as well as the Grant Working Party although I no longer chair the latter. I am also now on the Environmental and Sustainability Working group.

Development Control is a monthly, generally a full day, commitment plus occasional site visits and masses of reading. One application that has been of great interest locally has been the Jaynic application at Shepherds Grove in Stanton for a vehicle recycling plant. This attracted enormous opposition from Hepworth and many other local villages partly because of the additional traffic pressure on the A143. Against officer recommendation for approval, it was rejected at Committee and is now likely to go to appeal.

The Licensing Committee generally meets quarterly and recently reviewed the West Suffolk Council's Hackney Carriage Fares Consultation for 2024 and is also consulting on our Street Trading Policy. In addition to this there are frequent meetings of licensing sub-committees to consider licensing applications which cannot be decided by officers because for example there are objections or where there have been breaches.

The *Grant Working Party* is responsible for the allocation of grants from the Community Chest Funding which the Council establish each year to support community groups, charities and voluntary organisations across West Suffolk. This year the committee considered 96 applications and just over £465,000 has been allocated to a wide variety of organisations to set up projects. These cover such things as: helping to reduce social isolation; supporting victims of sexual abuse and violence; teaching life skills; advice on managing money and tackling debt and support for food banks. We cannot fund all the applications we receive but where organisations are not successful we offer information and support in seeking funding elsewhere.

The purpose of the *Environmental and Sustainability Working Group* is to review the progress that West Suffolk Council has made in delivering its action plan and move to Net Zero and to make recommendations to Cabinet in relation to protecting and enhancing the environment in the future. The reverse vending machines mentioned later are an example of an initiative suggested by this group.

The Council's strategic priorities going forward are now:

- The provision of affordable available decent homes;
- Environment resilience;
- Sustainable growth;
- The development of thriving communities.

To highlight a few of the things that have been achieved in relation to these strategies over the last year I would mention:

Flood Recovery Grant - Like other authorities in Suffolk, and with the assistance of ARP and Suffolk County Council, we have paid 32 of the Government's flood recovery grants to households badly affected by Storm Babet. The grant provided a cash payment of £500 each and an exemption from Council Tax for three months.

Local Plan – We are now at the third consultation stage of the plan prior to it being submitted to the Secretary of State. A planning inspector will then be appointed to hold an examination in public. It has been a long rigorous process but hopefully once adopted will enable us to provide appropriate housing in the appropriate places in the future.

Street Trading Policy - Street Trading covers a wide range of outdoor retail and catering activities undertaken in public streets. It includes flower sellers, ice-cream vendors, fancy goods, souvenir stalls and a variety of hot and cold catering activities such as burger vans. The Council is due to review its street trading licensing policy but before it does, it wants to hear from street traders, businesses, events organisers, town and parish councils, residents and other stakeholders on some of the issues which could potentially be covered and addressed in the new policy. The new policy will be formed with the new strategic priority of sustainable growth in mind.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – This is a central pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. West Suffolk Council has been allocated £1,943,467 over three years through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Capital Sports Fund – £14,700 from its UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been allocated by the Council to increase participation and further enhance activity. Grants of between £200 and £1,000 are available to organisations across West Suffolk. Applications are now being processed and successful bidders will be notified shortly.

Environmental Resilience – The council has developed a broad action plan to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2030 and work has already been completed to decarbonise a number of buildings using the £1.4 million secured from the Governments' Decarbonisation Fund. It also continues the commitment to the £9 million investment for our Net Zero Emissions by 2030 journey and proposes an additional £2.75 million into the fund which will be utilised to improve the energy efficiency and incorporate renewable energy (electricity and/or heat) into council buildings; electric vehicle fleet (EV) investment to replace small vehicles on fleet with EVs when replacement falls due and expansion of our West Suffolk Solar for Business scheme.

I am pleased to say West Suffolk has become the first council in the country to get behind an initiative to increase recycling and support local businesses. The council has teamed up with Love Newmarket Business Improvement District (BID), The Guineas Shopping Centre, Abbeycroft Leisure, Eastern Education Group, Our Bury St Edmunds BID and Trovr to deliver four reverse vending machines. Trovr reverse vending machines use a smartphone app to incentivise recycling through points-based rewards which can then be spent in local businesses. The goal is to increase recycling rates and reduce litter. The new reverse recycling machines can be found outside The Guineas Shopping Centre, Newmarket Leisure Centre, and West Suffolk College. A fourth machine will be installed in Bury St Edmunds town centre once a site has been secured. This is part of our Strategic Priority for environmental resilience and if successful then more sites will be looked at across West Suffolk

Grass Cutting Review - The Council owns or is responsible for a significant amount of public open space in the district amounting to over 500 hectares and the service has been facing some significant, coinciding challenges over recent years hence the need for review. Town and Parish councils were consulted as part of this. As a result of this review a number of changes have been implemented including updating some machinery and employing additional staff.

Finance

All that has been achieved and is planned for the future is the result of prudent and efficient financial management which has enabled us once again to deliver a balanced budget, something many other councils are struggling to achieve. This allows us to maintain our standards of service.

- 4.3 million black and blue household waste bins emptied;
- 2495 determined planning applications;
- 839 food safety inspection carried out;
- 236 West Suffolk households assisted with adaptations to their homes through disabled facilities grants at a cost of £1,879,394.

The budget for 2004/2005 includes:

- Local Council Tax Support Scheme continuing with a maximum reduction of 100%;
- The introduction in 2025 of a second home premium in relation to council tax;
- Changes to the long term empty property premium on council tax.

On a less positive note very soon into the new administration a decision was taken to not progress the Western Way Hub development which would have provided among other things a new swimming pool to replace the existing one which is in urgent need of significant renovation being over 40 years old. At the present time we do not have a time schedule for when this will be carried out or how long it will take. Additionally the Bury St Edmunds Archives which SCC had

agreed to move to the hub as its present building is no longer viable is now in need of a new home and may be relocated to Ipswich.

I cannot finish this report without mentioning West Stow Anglo- Saxon village which is run by the council. The council recently organised a tour of the village for representatives from the American Air bases and members of the council. I had not been there for many, many years and did not realise how it has been developed by the Council and what it now has to offer and moreover what an important archaeological site it is. So much so that it receives significant outside funding for various projects it undertakes. As well as the reconstructed houses in the village there is an excellent museum, a lovely coffee shop and wonderful walking opportunities with or without a dog. They hold regular events there and host tours for schools. I would urge you all to pay it a visit one day and get involved - they are always looking for volunteers.

Finally, may I thank all members of the Parish council for all the work they do on behalf of the village and its residents and remind you that my Locality Budget is now open for this year!

11. Progress reports. For information, from:

11.1 Chairman:

The Clerk provided the following Annual report.

Another very busy year for Barningham Parish Council, working for our village community, as always, in co-operation with our Suffolk and West Suffolk Councillors, Joanna Spicer and Carol Bull respectively. Extra thanks to our team, some still in full-time work. We are really appreciative of your contributions.

It turned into one of our busiest years within a few months due to the weather and its effects on our environment.

The Green and Natural Village Areas

Work schedules were planned with our Tree Contractor, Peter Kerry and his team regarding Aggie's Piece, the work needed on trees, hedges and relevant greens in the village. Currently there is a problem in the Churchyard regarding a poisoned tree which is under review ,being the West Suffolk Council's responsibility.

Liaison with the Norfolk Rivers Trust continues regarding the future for Aggie's Piece, its drainage and the best use to make of the area which has poor drainage in and around. It was explored further to try to map out where the current drains are and who is responsible for them. The ditches and hedges ownership at Aggie's still need clarification. Councillor Baxter and myself have had two meetings there with The Suffolk Highways representative and Norfolk Trust Team. The work is ongoing.

This all became even more relevant from September onwards with the bad weather worsening the local flooding especially in Bardwell Rd. Many meetings were had with the County Highways, all Councillors, local residents and landowners to try to find the solution, reduce risks and identify the problem areas.

Our Village Caretaker, Steve Wilson, is a valued team member and helps to identify problems in the village, such as trim overgrown hedges where appropriate, as well as litter problems, tidying up generally where social areas have unsafe litter left, such as broken bottles. He does relevant repairs where possible and reports regularly on his finds.

For information regarding Community Support available to those who need it plus a social chat, with refreshments, the Rural Coffee Caravan attends Barningham when possible and will be found either at the village hall or near the village sign green.

There were reports from August 2023 and on a few other occasions since, of Anti-social Behaviour in the village. The church which is usually open for most of each day was shut for a while due to litter, the organ and sound system being interfered with as well as the candles available for prayer and the Visitors Book scribbled in. All was reported as before and the Church open hours revised during school holiday time. Work has been done to update the Cemetery Regulations so that they meet currently expected Eco-friendly targets including the sensitive management of Memorial Wreaths etc. A couple of serious incidents in the village were dealt with by the Police.

There was a Defibrillator Training Session held in June 2023 which was attended fairly well. This month there has been a maintenance update done on it done by the staff at the Spar as the Parish Council share this responsibility with Blakemore.

The Neighbourhood Plan is in its final draft having had a couple of reviews in August last year and February this year due to changing of the timescale and content areas in The Local Plan. When meetings were not possible they were done by Zoom with the team and consultant to amend, set the focus and personalise. Meetings were held to put the amendments in place. There is a new Chief Constable and there will be new officer teams policing 50 new areas. The aim is for a public meeting as soon as possible.

In October and November, the Chairman, Clerk and a PC member attended two very important conferences. In October was The Suffolk Constabulary Forum to explain the complete reorganisation of Suffolk Police due in December 2023. The theme was 'To Redesign The Local Police Operational Model To Keep Suffolk Safe.' Each area will have the same team all the time so they really know the local area and the problems.

In November the Chairman and Clerk went to the SALC Conference with another clerk in Ipswich. Themes were Climate, Towns and Net Zero. The Head of Planning and Environment firm Birketts stated there will be a new National Development Management Policy starting from December 2023 - Levelling Up/ Regeneration and Biodiversity. Design Codes will be mandatory, Neighbourhood Plans should be simpler.

Highway maintenance will be run by the biggest company in the UK – MILESTONE. A new Dragon Patcher machine will be available for roads.

2024 - January - there was contact with the Police requesting clarity regarding an Armed Police Unit present at night in a domestic garden.

A local family who sadly lost their teenage son in a car accident locally in February are liaising with the Parish Council regarding memorial ideas on Bishops Croft.

Another local family, who also lost their son in a car accident have made a donation for the upkeep of the cemetery.

In March, after many years of hard work and service to the Parish Council Anthony Steer resigned. We are sorry to lose him but wish him all the best for the future.

Great news, after having two vacancies on our council we are happy to welcome a new member, Yvonne Martin, who has lived here for a few years and wish to get more involved and joined us for recently for the Keep Barningham Beautiful Litter Pick on 20th April. Some families came too.

There was very little litter which was good. Great refreshments thanks to our clerk.

11.1.1 To receive update on Defibrillator status.

As mentioned in the Chairman's annual report, this month there has been a maintenance update done on the defibrillator by the staff at the Spar. The Parish Council share this responsibility with Blakemore.

11.1.2

SSL for website and current website issues

There has been some issues with access to our website recently. It was agreed that we should set up a SSL certificate. This would keep user data secure, verify ownership of the website, prevent attackers from creating a fake version of the site, and convey trust to users.

Action Clerk

12. Clerk:

12.1 Update on Keep Barningham Beautiful event.

The event was well attended this year with 22 people coming along, including some new families and Peter Kerry and his gang. There was some positive feedback on Facebook, which was nice to receive. Although Cllr Martineau was unable to attend the event he, and some family members, did do some litter picking in Bardwell Road.

12.2 To receive information about free portrait of the king.

This has been received and delivered to the Village Hall. The Village Hall were pleased with this addition.

13. Finance

13.1 The Following accounts were approved for payment/noted.

Hedge opposite shop	Payment	Countryside, conservation and tree services	-£330.00
hedge and grass	Payment	Countryside, conservation and tree services	-£222.00
SALC Subscription	Payment	SALC	-£408.13
Admin various	Payment	Admin various	-£2,435.80
Clothing bank	Receipt	Alford Storage	£15.00
Burial	Receipt	Armstrongs Funeral	£220.00
Precept	Receipt	West Suffolk Council	£40,000.00

13.2 Bank reconciliation and budget report

The Clerk provided the councillors with a bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and a budget report for information.

13.3 End of Year Accounts

13.3.1 Review and agree Internal Audit report.

The accounts were found to be in good order and we received positive feedback overall and the Council were happy to accept the internal audit report. There were some suggestions made to reflect governance good practice, these included: a review of the Standing Orders to update procurement thresholds, a suggestion that we record evidence that we understand the role of internal audit, that we include a copy of the budget in minutes and adopt a general reserves policy. It was agreed that we would review the cemetery fees this year. We will revisit our publication requirements under publication scheme. Apologies will be recorded as accepted and agreed approved by the Councillors. It was further agreed that those who could, would set up a dedicated email address for Parish Council use only. This will be prefixed by Bnpc@outlook.com. The Clerk will do some work on all the above.

Action Clerk

13.3.2 To Agree Section 1 of AGAR, Annual Governance Statement for submission. This was agreed and signed ready for submission to the external Auditor, PKF Littlejohn.

Action Clerk

13.3.3 To Agree Section 2 of AGAR, Accounting Statements for submission. This was agreed and signed ready for submission to the external Auditor, PKF Littlejohn. The Clerk will ensure we are compliant with all our obligations under the Transparency Code.

Action Clerk

13.4 Current banking arrangements, to receive update on current status and to discuss option to change bank account, to include a report from Cllr Hebert.
This matter is in hand.

13.5 Pension return completed.

The Clerk has completed and submitted the end of year pension return.

14. village Matters

14.1 Emergency Plan

To review the emergency Plan. This matter is still in hand.

14.2 Bardwell Road and village flooding

To receive any update.

As discussed under item 9, the Clerk has made contact with the drainage team and it is waiting for a reply.

14.3 Traffic calming

14.3.1 To include update on Gateway for Bardwell Road.

The request to install the Bardwell Road Gateway was rejected due to the insufficient width of the verge at the location specified. To meet the criteria for erecting a Gateway on a verge, there must be at least a 500mm sideways safety zone, from the outside edge of the Gateway to the carriageway edge, which cannot be achieved at the location proposed on our application.

Cllr Chalmers and the Clerk will arrange another site visit to look for an alternative location.

Action Cllr Chalmers/Clerk

14.3.2 To include update on new VAS post Sandy Lane north.

The Safety and Speed Management team have had a look at the location we have suggested.

They said as the vehicles we are trying to detect are coming from The Street round the bend, the shed and hedge of Northwood appears to block the line of sight of approaching vehicles. As such the actual forward visibility of the unit will be less than 80m as a consequence. The post needs to be a minimum of 800mm from the edge of the carriageway to enable a SI, when mounted, to be a minimum of 450mm clear of the carriageway to avoid being hit by passing vehicles. We will look again at siting the device on Pound Corner. We will write to residents who live in that area and ask them if they could avoid parking in front of the device, whilst it is in situ, so that we can have a clear line of sight to collect data.

Action Cllr Chalmers/Clerk

14.3.3 to include update on grit bin request, Bardwell Road.

Cllr Spicer is following this up.

14.3.4 to discuss options for memorial in Bishops Croft.

The Clerk has written to the parents of the late Lee Chapman regarding a request for a memorial.

The Parish council would be happy to place a memorial plaque, provided by the family, on the new bench that is going to replace the old bench at the entrance to Bishops Croft.

14.3.5 To receive update on 30mph replacement stickers.

Cllr Chalmers and the Clerk will work on this. See under item 9.
training

Action Cllr Chalmers/Clerk

14.3.6 To receive any update on VAS.

Malcolm Chalmers in continuing to look after the VAS devices. He needs to obtain a new lead and install an app to be able to download data. The Parish Council will refund any costs involved with this.

14.3.7 To receive any update on Chapter Eight Training.

Malcolm Chalmers successfully completed the chapter 8, Highways Self help training and so is now able to carry out tasks in the village. Some more dates have been offered for the training and so far, Peter Kerry has expressed an interest in attending. This matter is in hand.

Action Clerk

15. Aggies Piece

15.1 To receive any update on wetland project.

Cllr Baxter has chased up the Aggie's project with Sam Hurst at NRT by email and telephone but had no updates, she will continue to follow this up.

Action Cllr Baxter

16. Caretakers report. Circulated.

Most activity occurred at the elevated path opposite the shop this month; I have hand-weeded, scraped up some of the moss, given the shrubs a trim and swept through. I also had to do some emergency surgery on a tree branch in the Lychgate Cemetery which had broken during the storm and fallen towards the pavement in Church Road. I gave the mats at the Cricket Meadow their top-up spray of weedkiller and removed the dumped water cooler bottle from Pound Corner to the tip.

I have also scraped the wet leaves from around the seat in the layby opposite the pub. There have been several occurrences of household waste being placed in the bins there lately.

17. Play area /Cricket Meadow to receive any update.

17.1 To discuss access options for future ditch works. Cllr Hebert declared an interest in this item but was involved in the discussion.

A meeting was held to discuss works to clear the ditches at the Cricket Meadow. It was agreed that there were two particular areas of concern that would need clearing ahead of winter. Cllrs Baxter, Hebert and Peter Kerry visited the site again and we are waiting for a price from Peter Kerry to clear the ditches. Cllr Hebert is looking at installing a new fence. It was felt that it was important that any works to achieve this would not damage or remove the existing vegetation. Peter Kerry has an idea for an alternative to the option Cllr Herbert has been looking at. The Clerk will pass on Cllr Hebert's email to Peter Kerry so that this can be discussed further. Next steps would be to meet with all parties involved in order to progress the project as soon as feasible.

17.2 to receive update on damaged equipment replacement.

Following a discussion it was agreed that as the price for Hags replacing the equipment would be comparable with a price from Peter Kerry, that Hags should carry out the replacement. Hags will look at their engineers' availability and hopefully carry out the works within the next four weeks, if the weather improves.

18. Churchyard/Cemetery

18.1 To discuss correspondence regarding tree in the Churchyard, for information.

The church has been in contact with WS regarding the tree in the churchyard.

18.2 To note donation from the family of the late Oscar Vatcher, and discussions re new bench.

The Clerk received a phone call from the family of the late Oscar Vatcher. They have made a donation towards the upkeep of the cemetery, will make sure this is ring fenced for that purpose. The Parish council were grateful to receive this donation. Mr Vatcher would like to replace the existing bench, near Oscar's grave. It was agreed that we would wait until a time that the bench was deteriorating, and Mr Vatcher will contact us so we can arrange for a replacement, which they will fund.

19. Neighbourhood Plan

The revised Plan and Character Assessment was received just prior to the meeting. It was agreed that a zoom working party meeting would be held to discuss next steps. **Action All**

20. Planning

To discuss approach by Wain Estates for meeting to discuss land off Hopton Road.

The Clerk was approached by Wain Estates and asked for a meeting, outside of the public meeting, to discuss the land, allocated in the Local Plan, off Hopton Road. After communicating with the Councillors, the Clerk responded to say that the Parish Council would be happy for them to come to a Parish Council meeting to discuss their proposals. They did not feel that it would be appropriate for the Parish Council to meet with them outside of a public meeting at this time. At the time of the meeting no reply to this suggestion had been received from Wain Estates.

DC/24/0031/HH 1 Hopton Road, dropped kerb, SCC a holding objection until full visibility splays are provided. Noted.

21. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

21.1 Newsletter, to receive any feedback on printing and delivery.

Unfortunately, due to the time frame we had to work in, our usual printers, Community Workshop, were not able to print the newsletter for us. We used an online printing company and were very

pleased with both the price and the quality. Feedback from residents indicated that they found the newsletter very helpful.

Cllr Baxter was unable to attend the meeting but sent in a report on the biodiversity training she had recently attended. She asked that biodiversity/environment becomes a regular agenda item and wanted to check that the Council were happy for her to work on a draft plan/policy. The Councillors would be very happy for Cllr Baxter to work on this policy and will make sure this becomes an agenda item moving forward.

It was reported that the Village Hall are hosting a Fish and Chip supper on Friday.

22. Correspondence for information

None received.

At the end of the meeting a resident, who had seen our request for an additional Councillor agreed to be Co-opted on to the Parish Council. The Clerk will liaise with them about this. **Action Clerk**

23. Date of next meeting Wednesday 5th June 2024

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

24.1 Personnel Issues. 24.2 Legal Issues