

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 7:00pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, N Martineau, T Steer, J Chalmers, L Hebert, R Baxter & SCC J Spicer.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllrs WSC C Bull

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 4th October 2023 meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. Meeting open to the public two residents present.

A resident came to speak about her recent experience with flooding at her address in Bardwell Road. Fortunately, the waters did not breach her house, but it was a very worrying time for her. The flooding in Bardwell Road is still a major issue, although thankfully it has receded at the resident's property. The Clerk will contact local landowners to ascertain land ownership and look at options to clear the ditches and gullies in the area. Once this information has been established the Clerk will liaise with SCC highways to arrange a site visit as a matter of urgency. It was noted that some drivers are driving at speed through the flood. This is adding to the issue and is causing issues with anyone trying to walk in the area as well as continuing to potentially cause damage to adjacent properties. Information and advice on flooding will be displayed on the noticeboards, website, and Facebook. Hard copies of this information will also be available, on request, for those who would like it in that format. The Parish Council would like to formally extend their gratitude to local resident Kathy Cummings, who was, and is continuing to be a great help to the resident who was threatened by the recent flood. Kathy is a great asset to the village and is a friend and support to many local residents.

Action Cllr Steer/ Clerk

As the new custodian of the Emergency Plan Cllr N Martineau will liaise with local residents to ascertain who has access to a tractor, which could be useful in the event that a vehicle becomes stuck in flood water.

Action Cllr N Martineau

Further concerns have been raised about anti-social behaviour in Hopton Road. This is a matter that should be being dealt with by Havebury Housing. The Parish Council are happy to try and assist with the situation if it were felt to be helpful.

5. Report from County Councillor: J Spicer

To discuss options for funding for traffic calming measures.

The new warning signage for Bardwell Road and Coney Weston Road is on order. It was agreed that the Parish Council would go ahead and order the gateway for Bardwell Road and arrange to have it installed. This will involve applying for a licence. Cllr Spicer will pay a grant towards the cost of the gateway.

Action Clerk

Mill Road, the option to move the 20's plenty sign is still under review. Cllr Spicer has asked for a list of damaged signage in the village as she has been granted some money to address these matters. The Clerk has been provided with some information regarding replacement signs, which might be more cost effective, she will pass this on to Cllr Spicer for information. Cllr Steer will provide a list of signage for consideration.

Action Cllr Steer/Clerk

6. Report from WS Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull was unable to attend the meeting.

7. Chairman's reports

7.1 To receive report on new policing model.

Tuesday 17 October

6.30 pm – The Clerk and I attended Suffolk Constabulary Forum – **Redesigning the Local Policing Operating Model to Keep Suffolk Safe**

Aims: Officers to be where needed; Public safety; Criminals brought to justice

With the Suffolk Police, the new Chief Constable, Rachel Kearton, Crime Commissioner -Tim Passmore at new Police and Fire Station HQ in Stowmarket. Changes come into effect December 2023. Councillors from parish, local and county council present.

New Model -Three parts

Community Policing Teams 50 new areas/80 Community Officers in specific areas

Response Investigation Teams set up with more officers for both emergency and non-emergency calls as well as high-volume crime.

County Partnership and Prevention Hub -co-ordinating frontline policing across Suffolk -Anti-social/ hate crime/ children and young people and Neighbourhood Policing

Tim Passmore - the arguments for ensuring the Suffolk Constabulary has sufficient resources are well rehearsed. Very concerned the county does not receive an equitable financial settlement from the Home Office. Committed to achieve fairer funding for Suffolk. Council tax precept for policing went up this year - gave an extra £3.9 million to help cope with increased demands. Will be monitored quarterly c.f. his website. Total policing budget this year £168.4 million.

7.2 To provide report on anti-social behaviour.

Thursday 5 October

Anti-social behaviour report from 3 Bishops Croft to myself. A huge 'Bang' on the front door. David and Diane Ellis saw no-one when they looked. They have a lot of family health issues at present and need their rest! I reported it online to Suffolk Police that evening.

Friday 6 October

6.53am - An acknowledgement received and the link to report it locally which I did

3.30pm - I received news that it was being investigated / within 48 hours should get a reply

Sunday 8th October

3.30pm – report in the system. Inform PC Andrews Pearce as he was involved last year. Patrols will be conducted as and when time allows.

Thursday 26th October

Young boy, black cycle/ pal knocking on doors for jobs. Going into people's front drives and gardens. Chat re - privacy and suggested playing up meadow. Unaware of location!

7.3 Other matters

Friday 20 October

Flood from sewage drain near Church Gardens reported on Anglian Water website.

Friday 27 October

10.15-12.15 Met Janice Chalmers and reviewed Vision and relevant elements of Neighbourhood Plan

8. Clerk's Report

8.1 To discuss complaint received regarding cars parked on Bishops Croft.

Reports have been received about cars parking at the entrance to Bishops Croft, as you come in off Church Road. Photographic evidence is required so that information can be sent on to the police so that they can send out advisory notes. Repeat offenders will be given a fixed penalty notice. Cllr Steer has put the following words of advice on Facebook regarding parking in a considerate and safe manner. "Drivers have a duty to park their vehicles responsibly and in a way that does not cause an obstruction to other road users, this includes parking on pavements which can obstruct pedestrians and cause difficulties for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs."

Action All

8.2 To give feedback on NSIPs event.

There was a lot of information discussed and it would seem not much support for local councils concerned with big infrastructure developments. Local Authorities play a different role in the NSIP process - acting more as a facilitator and enabler and not having any decision-making powers.

8.3 To discuss ideas from the time management training.

Although an enjoyable session the Clerk did not think that she gained any really helpful information to help with her time management. A suggestion to turn off emails when working on more complex matters will be actioned when appropriate.

8.4 To discuss option to purchase new computer equipment.

The Clerks current computer equipment will be out of date within the next year and will not be able to receive any updates. In addition to this the storage is almost full so a new machine will need to be purchased in the near future. Following a consultation with a local IT specialist it was agreed to purchase a bespoke build machine at £440.00 + VAT / Delivered. In addition, it was agreed to take advantage of the migration service at a further £125 + VAT. These costs will be shared with the Clerks other Parish Councils. The associated costs have already been factored into this year's budget. There are still ongoing issues with the Wi-Fi and phone line at the Clerk's address, this matter is in hand.

Action Clerk

8.5 To confirm attendance at SALC conference.

The Chair and Clerk will attend the SALC Conference on 29th November.

8.6 Suffolk Care Services Directory – to discuss requirement for spare copies.

It was agreed that, unless the new version of the directory is very different from the current edition, we would not want any more at this time. The Clerk has requested a copy for comparison.

9. Finance.

9.1 The following accounts were approved for payment.

Balliwick IT	Office	£75.00
Steve Wilson	Maintenance	£11.99
Various	Administration	£1,421.63
SALC	Training	£18.00
SALC	Training	£72.00
Various	Administration	£538.92

9.2 Bank reconciliation and budget report.

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

9.3 To discuss issue with Barclays bank.

The Clerk is continuing to experience issues with Barclays bank, which is taking her time to resolve. Once the situation is rectified the Clerk will write to Barclays to request some compensation for the wasted time and inconvenience.

9.4 To discuss the 2024/25 budget and agree Precept if appropriate.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to precept for £40,000 for next year which would represent an increase of £14.94, 15.04% per annum, just under £1.25p per month per household on a band D property. It was felt this increase was essential as the costs for goods and services have increased significantly over recent years and as such it was a necessary decision to ensure we are able to meet our financial obligations going forward.

10 Village matters.

10.1 To discuss recent flooding in the village, to include a discussion about purchasing equipment. Sandbags.

It was agreed that the purchase of sandbags would not be an option for the Parish Council. This was following advice from SCC. This was for several reasons: including, that due to health concerns, regarding the retention of potentially contaminated water, the safety of the bags could not be guaranteed; they do not always provide protection during flooding; water can get into houses through many routes, not just doorways. There was also the logistics of storing and moving the bags. The Parish Council do not have anywhere in the village that they could store them, and they did not feel that they would be in a position to deploy them in an emergency. SCC recommend a much better option is the use of temporary flood protection for your home. Some of the options are listed below: Floodboards: These fix to frames around windows and doors. They can be washed, stored, and used again. Airbrick covers: These can stop flood water coming in through your airbricks. Non-return valves: These can be fitted on drains, water inlet and outlet pipes. As mentioned previously flooding information and advice will be displayed on the noticeboards, website, and Facebook. Hard copies of this information will also be available, on request, for those who would like it in that format.

10.2 To receive update of traffic calming measures, to include information regarding replacement 30mph stickers.

See under item 5, Report from County Councillor: J Spicer

10.3 To received information about concerns raised in Sandy Lane (Nth) regarding speeding. Cllr Steer is still to pull down any data collected from the VAS positioned on the triangle at Pound Corner before any further decisions are made. If the data indicates a problem with speed in that area, we will look at potential sites for a new post to hold the VAS. **Action Cllr Steer**

10.4 To confirm works to bench, St Andrews Close.

Cllr Steer has made the report to the bench. The Councillors thanked him for this.

10.5 Update on bench replacement, Bishops Croft.

The bench is now with the contractor and it is awaiting installation.

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

This leaning sign was reported and came back as no problem. The Clerk has spoken to a SCC officer, and they are going to have a look and see what can be done to address this issue.

Action Clerk

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

The Clerk has sent an email to Stanton Parish Council, asking for information about the new VAS on the A143, but so far has had no reply. On driving past, they look like they are Elancity devices.

10.8 To confirm arrangements for laying of the Remembrance Day wreath.

The wreath for the Remembrance Day service has been received, as discussed previously Cllr Steer will lay it, on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day service.

Action Cllr Steer

10.9 Coffee caravan, to discuss winter arrangements.

The Coffee Caravan would like to continue to come to the village over the winter and use the Village Hall. The Village Hall are happy for this to happen. It was agreed that the Parish council would cover any associated heating and electricity costs. Cllr Chalmers will liaise between the Village Hall and the Coffee Caravan to make the access arrangements. **Action Cllr Chalmers**

10.10 Suffolk on board. -service-improvement-plan-plus-where-should-the-money-be-spent.

Do we want to be involved?

Suffolk county council have been granted £1.8million to spend each year in 2023/24 and 2024/25 on enhancements to the current passenger transport network. Some of this will be going to the bus companies in order to support existing services, and some will be going into design work on Bus Priority schemes to get them ready for delivery when they are able to secure capital funding. With the remainder of the grant, they want to support new or improved services at a local level where demand can be proven. The Parish Council were not aware of any improvements that were required in the Parish at this time.

11. Aggies Piece

11.1 To discuss date to meet to discuss the wetland project.

Cassie Chanin and Sam Hurst from Norfolk Rivers Trust are meeting with Cllr Baxter at 3pm on 10 November to discuss the project at Aggies furthers. The Chair will also attend the meeting.

Action Cllr Baxter

11.2 To discuss damage to Aggies following the recent flooding.

Concerns had been raised that the recent damage at Aggies Piece was due to a deliberate act. After further investigations it was agreed that the damage was in fact due to the volume of water entering Aggies, via the previously opened channel.

12. Caretakers report Circulated.

With the proper onset of autumn I have been cutting back more brambles, sweeping beech hedge debris and wielding my toy hedge trimmer in the Sandy Lane footpath. Following the rather comprehensive reports by our new play equipment inspector I have also tried to tackle some of the issues which are within my competence:

In the Play Area I have replaced a bolt cover and am currently researching a supply of spares for further similar work; I have removed graffiti from the equipment using my newly-acquired, somewhat larger, bottle of nail polish remover; I have added a further layer of foam to the buffer on the small gate; I have begun the process of cleaning the mildew from the coloured equipment.

On the Cricket Meadow I have removed graffiti from the equipment; I have removed the cable ties from the broken bin and replaced them with a length of cord; I have touched up the rusted parts of the equipment with silver metal paint; I have trimmed the hedge behind the basket swing; I have tried several methods of removing the paint from the instruction sheet beside the exercise equipment but all are either ineffective or damage the written instructions.

The Clerk had contacted Hags about a replacement instruction sheet as it is not included in the original quote. It was agreed that at a cost of just under £120, we should further explore graffiti removing solutions. Cllr Chalmers shared some information that was helpful. The Clerk will discuss this option with the Caretaker.

Action Clerk/Caretaker

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

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

This matter is in hand with the delivery date being arrange directly with Peter Kerry.

13.2 To receive update on issues with scramble net anchor.

This matter is still in hand with Cllr Steer.

Action Cllr Steer

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

The caretaker has asked for some caps, to cover fixing heads, to be ordered. The Clerk is in discussions about the delivery price and the individual price, as it is not the same as the online price. It was agreed to over order to ensure we have enough for future use.

Action Clerk/Caretaker

14. Churchyard/Cemetery

14.1 Update on works to Cemetery, to discuss progress.

The Clerk circulated the updated regulations for consideration. Cllr Chalmers and the Clerk will do some work to finalise the regulations. It was agreed a receptacle will be placed in the cemetery, for storing items removed from grave spaces and the regulations would be enforced fully from the New Year.

Action Cllr Chalmers/Clerk

14.2 To receive update on Lychgate replacement.

There have been some problems with the hardware on the new gate, this matter is in hand with the contractor.

14.3 To discuss offer for works to small lychgate gate.

A resident has offered to oil the small Lychgate gate in the better weather. It was agreed that we will pay for the oil.

15. Neighbourhood Plan.

15.1 To further discuss the draft plan ahead of submission for consultation.

Cllrs Chalmers and Hammond have done some work on the plan, the Councillors were happy with these additions. It was suggested that clarification about the site, being suggested by West Suffolk should be included. The Clerk will send through the amended plan and ask for the above matter and maps to be inserted, by the consultant, so that the document can be circulated again, among the Councillors, before a final sign off.

Action Clerk

16. Planning. to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted.

16.1 To note withdrawal of application by Copart at shepherds Grove, Stanton. Noted.

16.2 To discuss clarity of comments in the minutes.

The Councillors felt that the current way of displaying comments from the Parish Council was clear and that no changes were needed to be made.

17. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

17.1 To confirm Councillor Training.

Cllr Baxter's training dates were confirmed.

17.2 Newsletter

It was agreed that Cllrs Hammond and Chalmers would do some work to produce a newsletter. Some information about the precept increase and some flooding advice will be included.

Action Cllrs Hammond/Chalmers

18. Correspondence for information.

18.1 Community networking events and community energy projects, The Voluntary Network. Noted.

19. Date of next meeting 6th December 7pm 2023 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. To discuss Clerks expenses.

The Clerks pay award was noted and it was agreed to pay £1 an hour towards the Clerk using her home as an office.

20.2 Legal Issues.