

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11 September 2024 at 7:00pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs J Chalmers, C Hammond, B Baxter, Y Martin, N Martineau, S Baker & WSDC Cllr Bull.

1. Apologies for Absence

The Parish Council accepted and agreed the reason for apologies for the absence from Cllr L Hebert & SCC Cllr 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 meeting of the minutes of the Wednesday 7th August 2024 were agreed and approved as a correct record.

4. Meeting Open to the Public Two members of the public present.

It is requested that this item does not exceed 16 minutes, and that any member of the public does not speak for any longer than 4 minutes.

A resident of the village came to speak to the Parish Council about permission to publish an inclosures 1798 plan map. He is writing a biography about five men who were successively rectors of Barningham and Coney Weston and about their rectory and he would like to use the map as an illustration in his book. The Chairman agreed to bring item 8.3 up the agenda so that this could be discussed in the public forum. Suffolk Archives had informed the resident that the map in question belongs to Barningham Parish Council. The Parish Council were unaware of this but were happy for the map to be used regardless.

Reports of children riding bikes on the roads, at dusk with no lights on, have been received. Also, on a number of occasions recently motorbikes have been taken on to the Cricket Meadow.

Anyone finding people riding motorbikes on the cricket Meadow should report this matter to the police as they do not have permission to do so. We will include a piece in our magazine article to alert parents that this behaviour is happening, and to ask them to discuss with their children the dangers of riding on roads at night without lights. We will also make it clear that anyone caught riding motorbikes on the cricket Meadow will be reported to the police. **Action Cllr Baker**

5. Report from Suffolk County Councillor: J Spicer

Cllr Spicer sent her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting. The following report was submitted:

Bus crisis – The PC will report, (See under item 7.1)

Flood investigation on Bardwell Road – SCC carried out a camera inspection of the drains and The Parish Council have Cllr Spicers copy of what they did, which was to inspect with camera and clear any debris. We are hopeful this has helped but we will have to wait until it rains heavily to see.

Bollards. The damage bollards on the B1111 have been replaced. The Parish Council extended their thanks to Cllr Spicer for her help with this.

Mill Lane – It was considered that additional signage on Mill Road would not be helpful as there is already a number of signs there and these were considered to be adequate. The Parish Council are continuing to pursue the option to mount the VAS, on an existing post, to both act as a deterrent and to collect speed data. **Action Clerk/Cllr Chambers**

A1088 closure – Cllr Spicer asked for any feedback we had received regarding the closure. At the time of the meeting no feedback had been received.

6. Report from West Suffolk Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull reported that there had been a spate of fly tipping in the area. A number of tyres have been dumped in Fen Street. Cllr Bull recommended that we remain vigilant for any further instances, particularly around Aggies Piece. There will be a new recycling and bin collection regime, beginning in 2025 for businesses and 2026 for residents. This will bring West Suffolk in line with other Councils across the Country. We will have 5 bins of various size, moving forward. The inclusion of roadside glass collection in this new model could have a considerable impact on organisations that currently benefit from funds received from having bottle banks on their land.

7. Chairman's Reports

7.1 To receive a report on the meeting regarding the reduction of bus service, including response from Connecting Communities.

The Chairman, local resident Julie Surridge and Clerk attended the first task group meeting held in Bardwell on Monday. The bus service, provided by Simonds stopped operating on the 2nd of September. This means that Barningham has seen a reduction in services with 337 and 338 being withdrawn. The new 73 route only offers a morning service in to Bury and is only temporary. There is an urgent application for funding, being submitted by the task group, for a new permanent solution as the temporary bus, currently serving Barningham. This service is only being run until the end of December. Members of the task force have been tasked with various tasks and have been asked to feed back to the group in the next two weeks. Cllr Chambers travelled on the bus to record the number of people using the service. There are separate issues with the bus that provides transport to post 16 education settings. Julie Surridge is following up on this. The information gathered will be fed back to the task force group, The next meeting is being held on Monday 30th September.

There is an issue with cars being parked in Bardwell Road near the school as the new route comes along here. The cars make it very difficult for the bus to turn in to Church Road. Julie Surridge will speak to the school about this. It would appear that Connecting Communities are not able to provide a regular service as they simply don't have the capacity to do so.

7.2 BBC make a difference award. To acknowledge award made to local resident Local resident Kathy Cummings has been awarded the BBC Radio Make A difference Carers Award. We feel this is well deserved as Kathy does a great deal for many of the residents in the village. Congratulations and appreciation were extended to Kathy

Clerk's Report

8.1 To confirm change of email and website to .Gov website addresses. This matter is in hand.

8.2 To discuss options to attend Chief and PCC host meetings.

The Clerk was hoping to attend one of the PCC meetings. Unfortunately, none of the dates were suitable.

8.3 To receive request for permission to publish inclosure 1798 plan.

As discussed in the public forum, the Parish Council are happy for the map to be used.

8.4 To confirm date and attendance of West Suffolk Area Forum, 8th October at Haverhill.

The next West Suffolk Parish and Town Forum will be held on 8 October 2024 at Haverhill Arts Centre. The Chairman and Clerk are planning to attend.

8.5 To confirm intention to attend Streetlight briefing and Introduction to Rural and Community-Led Housing. The Clerk has signed up for both of these free events.

9. Finance

The following were noted/approved for payment.

Administration	Payment	Various	-£ 2,078.87
Grass cutting	Payment	CCT services	-£1,070.40
Clothing bank	Receipt	Alford Storage	£16.00
interest	Receipt	Barclays	£ 46.89
transfer	Transfer		-£ 20,000.00
transfer	Transfer		£ 20,000.00

Lid for VAS	Payment Morelock Signs	-£16.80
External audit	PKF Littlejohn	-£252.00

Cllr Baker carried out the additional accounts checks at this meeting.

9.2 Bank reconciliation, schedule of payments, and budget report.

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

9.3 To agree date for working party meeting to discuss accounts/budget (dates circulated)

A date of 23rd October 7pm was agreed for the accounts-budget working party meeting. **Action All**

9.4 To confirm receipt of Notice of Conclusion of Audit from PKF Littlejohn and compliance with obligations under the Transparency code. The external audit has been successfully concluded, with no matters outstanding. The Clerk will ensure all information required is available on the website. **Action Clerk**

10. Village Matters

10.1 To receive any update on the flooding issues in Bardwell Road.

As discussed under Item 5 a camera was put down the drains and a significant amount of rubbish was cleared. There were no faults found. Hopefully this has helped. We will continue to monitor the situation. The Clerk will speak to Andrew Moore about the ditch near Bramble Cottage to find out if any progress has been made there. **Action Clerk**

10.2 To receive any update on VAS.

A resident in Hepworth Road has suggested a suitable location to site a new VAS post. The Chairman and Clerk will arrange a site meeting, with the resident, to look at his suggestion. **Action Chairman/Clerk**

10.3 To confirm timeframe for works to the bench at Bishops Croft entrance.

The contractor hopes to complete this work in the next few weeks. He is doing it alongside another job to reduce the cost of both the work and the materials.

10.4 To receive any report from the Village Hall.

The Village Hall are having their meeting tomorrow so there was no report to receive at this time.

10.5 To acknowledge replacement of bollards on the B1111.

As discussed under item 5, this work has been completed.

10.6 To receive update on the option of 'Quiet Lane' for Mill Road.

Unfortunately, Suffolk Preservation Society are not currently promoting Quiet Lanes, so we are unable to pursue this as an option for Mill Road at this time. We are however still looking for a suitable location to mount our VAS in the Road. See also under item 5.

10.7 To receive feedback on issues with fallen fruit on pavement B1111

SCC were unable to help with this issue. If it continues to be an problem, we will write to the resident who owns the tree.

11. The Royal George

11.1 To receive any report from Martin McCleary.

Martin McCleary has been informed, via a local resident, that the brewery has found a willing new tenant to take on The George. He has tried on several occasions to call the agents, but to no avail. He has also emailed them for confirmation, but again, to no avail. He has paused his efforts at this stage, until such a time that he can confirm or deny the rumour, or find ourselves with the new tenant/s at the end of this month or next. He has got a leaflet designed and ready to get 500 of them printed for distribution, should the rumours be untrue. With the idea that we get these leaflets to the surrounding villages, to try and target some additional funding. We are currently around the £45,000 speculative amount and need a further £30,000 as a minimum. We are tantalisingly close and with a small nudge and some luck, he thinks it is still feasible that we could acquire the pub as a community - should the need still be there upon confirmation of any new tenants or not. He is still hoping that we do have new tenants taking on the George and that they will be fully supported by the community and the pub remains the asset it is, in our wonderful village. Martin would also

like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has liked/shared/commented or messaged him via the Facebook page and for all the emails and conversations he has had with everyone in the community, the support has been very much appreciated and welcomed. The Parish Council welcomed the idea of a new tenant and extended their gratitude for all the work Martin has done.

12. Neighbourhood Plan

12.1 To receive feedback from the drop-in session and consultation and to confirm date for extraordinary meeting to discuss response and next steps. Provisionally agreed as 18th September. We are still waiting for some responses to come in and as such it was agreed that we would include this on the agenda at the meeting we will hold on the 18th September to discuss the planning application below.

13. Planning (to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted)

13.1 DC/24/1105/OUT Outline planning application - (means of main vehicular access from Hopton Road to be considered) for up to 40 dwellings, Land South Of Hopton Road. To agree date of extraordinary meeting to discuss the above application. Provisionally agreed as 18th September. The Clerk has secured an extension of time and as such this application will be discussed fully at the meeting to be held on Wednesday 18th September.

13.2 DC/24/1023/LB Application for listed building consent - replacement of existing windows and doors, Barningham Hall Barns, Midsummer Barn Coney Weston Road. **The Parish Council raised no objection to this application.**

13.3 C/24/1042/FUL Planning application - one dwelling and annexe, Land Adjacent Carwood Hopton Road. The following object will be submitted to West Suffolk Council:

Barningham Parish Council does not support applications for development outside of the settlement boundary. Concerns were raised that if this development were to be approved that it could potentially set a precedent and lead to ribbon development. The Parish Council believe that this application does not comply with Policy DM27, Housing in the Countryside and therefore taking in to account the above, Barningham Parish Council object to this application.

14. Aggies Piece

14.1 To receive an update on the Aggies Piece wetland project.

Cllr Baxter has both emailed and left messages at the Rivers Trust, but at the time of the meeting has had no response. We are still hopeful that the project will go ahead, and Cllr Baxter will continue to pursue this matter.

Action Cllr Baxter

15. Caretaker's Report

15.1 This has been a relatively straightforward month; in addition to the usual brambles I have tidied up the debris at the fallen bollards on the B1111 and swept the yellow fruit falling onto the pavement near Lingwood Close. The foam pad had disappeared from the gate at the Play Area, so I have glued on a new one. I have now taken three of my 'bins-only' weeks.

15.2 To formally agree the employment of new Caretaker.

Following the interview, of two candidates, a decision was made to employ Dave Trigg as the new Caretaker for the village. Both candidates were very good, and it was a difficult decision to make. Dave will work alongside the outgoing caretaker initially, starting on the 1st October. We are sure he will be an asset to the village. He has a tough act to follow and the Council are going to miss Steve Wilson who has worked in the village for over 19 years. We all wish Steve well in his retirement.

16. Play Area/Cricket Meadow

16.1 To receive any update.

As discussed under item 4 there has been a problem with motorbikes being ridden on the Cricket Meadow. It was suggested a kissing gate might be installed. However we do not want to make things difficult for people with pushchairs. It was agreed that the Clerk will speak to the West

Suffolk Council Play area Manager to see if they could make any alternative suggestions to stop access to meadow by motorised vehicles. **Action Clerk**
It was agreed that we will ask the new caretaker to look at the equipment, in both play areas, to see what remedial repairs he would be able to undertake. **Action Clerk**

17. Churchyard/Cemetery

17.1 To receive an update on any cemetery.

The burial of the cremated remains for the late Linda Warner and the late Stacy Warner took place on Friday 6th September at 2pm. The Clerk had some issues with the paperwork, this has now been resolved.

18. Biodiversity and Environment

18.1 To receive any update. Cllr Baxter shared an updated policy.

Cllr Baxter has completed work on the Biodiversity and Environment policy. The Council thanked her for the work she has put into this. We will include this policy in work we would like to undertake next year, carrying out a wildlife audit. Two residents in the village have expressed an interest in being involved in a project of this nature. The Clerk will contact them to let them know we are looking at doing an audit next year. **Action Clerk**

19. Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda

Cllr Baxter will send details for payment of the Parish Council mobile phone to the Clerk for payment at the next meeting. **Action Cllr Baxter/Clerk**

The church clock is now running to time. This is down to work carried out by Cllr Baxter and her husband, the Parish Council extended thanks to them both for their continued commitment to keeping the clock running. It was thought that a contributing factor to the clock 'slipping' was an excess of oil that was used during its last service. It was agreed that in future any works undertaken to the clock must be supervised by either Cllr Baxter or her husband. To this end access to the clock tower key will not be given without permission from the Parish Council.

20. Correspondence for Information

20.1 To note register of EOI for Keep The Heat, thermal project. Noted.

20.2 Norfolk Museums Service, information on the Heritage Collective. Circulated.

20.3 WSC, notification of annual canvass process to update the electoral register. Noted.

21. Date of Next Meeting

The next parish Council meeting will be an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting, to be held on Wednesday 18th September 7.00pm. The next regular meeting will be held on 2nd October 7.00pm 2024, both in Barningham Village Hall.

22. Exclusion of the Public and Press

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

22.1 Personnel Issues. To discuss potential increase in Clerks hours.

The Clerks workload has crept up over the years and she is finding it difficult to complete all the work within the 15 hours per week allocated. It was agreed that the hours will be increased by 1.5 hours per week to 16.5 hours per week with immediate effect. All in agreement.

22.2 Legal Issues. None