

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 August 2021 at 7:00 pm held in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: T Steer, R Baxter, S Kenyon, W Martineau, B. Cllr Bull & C Cllr Spicer.
In the absence of Cllr Hammond, Cllr Martineau chaired the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllrs: C Hammond, S Lusher & R Baxter

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

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

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

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

3. **Minutes** -- Minutes of the Wednesday 7th July 2021 zoom meeting were agreed and approved as a correct record.

4. **Meeting open to the public**

A resident has asked the Clerk if there was any possibility of some land for allotments in the village. They suggested that the land, adjacent to Cherry Tree Cottage may be suitable. It is unlikely that the Parish Council could raise enough funds to purchase this land, unless it was through S106 coming off the back of development and potentially it would need to be a large development to deliver this. The Parish Council have a duty to consider providing allotments if six or more electors of the parish make the request in writing. To this end a piece will be put in the village magazine to ask if anyone would like to pursue this matter. A number of requests and suggestions have been received following the recent consultation on sites for development in the village. It was noted that none of the requests made had been for allotments.

Action Cllr Kenyon

5. **Report from County Councillor:** J Spicer

Cllr Spicer will investigate the issue of parking at the shop with an officer from Suffolk County Highways. Re-painting the white lines, indicating the parking spaces, will be an option that will be explored. Cllr Spicer will keep the Parish Council updated of progress.

Suffolk County Council are running an 'anti-idling' campaign encouraging drivers to turn off their engines when stationary. This is particularly important when waiting outside schools.

Action Cllr Spicer

6. **Report from WS Councillor:** C Bull

Update of WS Bin collections

Many of you will have seen the news of the national issue of shortages in workforces both in the private and public sector due to COVID. In addition, many businesses and councils have had issues with recruiting and retaining HGV and HCV drivers. This is at a time with summer holidays and of course people can also have illnesses and absences not related to COVID-19. All have caused a shortage of agency staff too, as nationally, businesses and organisations are looking to quickly fill these vacancies. Indeed, some Councils have already started to reduce or stop some main bin collection rounds due to all these factors.

As you are aware, these operational staff have been carrying out pretty challenging roles during the pandemic in often very difficult circumstances – and often filling in or carrying out extra duties to meet our various demands.

Here in West Suffolk, we have been monitoring and managing the situation where we have seen a number of staff ill, including quarantining due to COVID, as well as on annual leave. Our usual short-term gaps in capacity are typically filled by agency staff but these are currently very scarce indeed. At the moment the situation remains challenging, and our capacity is stretched but we have managed to keep bulk bin collections going (recycling, general and garden waste) However, there have been occasions where teams have gone out after their own rounds to

help others. That said, we have sometimes had to delay or suspend the delivery of replacement bins and bulky collections and informed affected residents accordingly.

We are of course keeping this situation under constant review and working with our staff on the best possible solutions, often on a daily basis due to capacity, but this is frankly becoming more challenging. If this changes further, I will do my best to keep you informed.

Streetlight in Sandy Lane.

There is some confusion over the light on the footpath, off Sandy Lane. It was reported that a new light had been installed, but this is not the case. Cllr Bull will continue to chase this matter.

Action Cllr Bull

7. Progress reports. For information, from:

7.1 Chairman

There was no report from the Chairman.

7.2 Clerk:

7.2.1 Parking at the shop

As reported under item 5, Cllr Spicer will investigate the issue of parking at the shop with an officer from Suffolk County Highways.

7.2.2 Ixworth PC, task force monitoring local developments

The Clerk has been contacted by Ixworth Parish Council to see if we would like to become a member of a task force that is being set up to monitor development along the A143 from BSE. The Parish Council would be happy to be kept in touch.

8. Finance.

8.1 The following accounts were approved for payment:

	Admin	£1,965.11
R H Landscapes	grass Cutting	£612.00
Countryside, conservation and tree services	Miscellaneous Payments	£275.00
Countryside, conservation and tree services	Aggies	£375.00

8.2 Bank reconciliation and budget report

The Clerk provided a bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and a budget report.

8.3 Confirmation of reserved matters

We have been informed that KF Littlejohn will be raising the following 'except for' matters (qualifications) on our AGAR Part 3, subject to sign off by an engagement lead:

The smaller authority has disclosed that it made proper provision during the year 2020/21 for the exercise of public rights, by answering 'Yes' to Section 1, Assertion 4. However, as was reported last year, we are aware that it failed to do this and therefore should have answered 'No' to this assertion. It has also disclosed that it took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit, by answering 'Yes' to Section 1, Assertion 7, which, on the basis of the above, is not correct. This in fact relates to an issue in the previous year and as such will not carry a fee or an issue with this years accounts.

9 Jubilee Event

9.1 Update on arrangements

Brigid Martineau is organising a hog roast. The Clerk is organising Morris Dancers, both for Friday 3rd June. The possibility of open gardens and a trail sale for the Saturday was discussed. Sunday would potentially see a church service. It was agreed that this should be an event hosted by the Parish Council, this would ensure it is covered by insurance. It was proposed that a working party is set up, Cllr Steer and the Clerk volunteered to be involved. The Clerk will see if Cllr Hammond would also like to be involved as well. Cllr Steer is trying to arrange a Battle of Britain fly past. He needed an approximation of numbers for the day, it was guesstimated that they will be around 500 people at the event.

Action Cllr Steer/Clerk

10. Neighbourhood Plan

10.1 Summary of survey comments arrangements for delivery.

The summary has gone off for printing. As soon as they are ready they will be delivered to all the residents in the parish. The Clerk will ensure the corresponding information is available to view on the website. The working party are meeting on the 11th August to discuss next steps.

Action All/Clerk

11. Speed devices

The speed device will be deployed to the post on Pound Corner this weekend.

Action Cllr Steer

12. Aggies Piece

The path through Aggies Piece has been cleared. The hay on the meadow should be cut and removed shortly.

13. Caretakers report Circulated.

I applied weed-killer to the elevated path opposite the shop again this month then scraped and swept it. I am still routinely sweeping Sandy Lane and the entrance to the School. At the Cricket Meadow I have cut back the brambles at the entrance and also the shrubs encroaching on the litter bins. The seat on the zip wire completely disintegrated and was removed.

I have weeded the War Memorial and lopped the tree branches overhanging one of the benches in the Lawn Cemetery. I will see to the brambles overhanging the rear row of graves here next.

14. Play area /Cricket Meadow

14.1 Update on zip wire swing

The zip wire seat was delivered to the village Hall, which was quite ridiculous. The Clerk has asked HAGs, on three occasions now, to look in to the possibility that our seats haven't been vandalised but the problem is in fact one of manufacture. A reply has finally been received saying that the seats of the older design you had did suffer the issues with splitting. The Clerk has requested a refund for the faulty seats that have been sent out and reassurance that the replacement seat is of the new design.

A new bin for the cricket meadow has been ordered. The Clerk will arrange for installation once it has been received.

Action Clerk

15. Churchyard/Cemetery

15.1 Grave levelling,

The grave belonging to the late M Heagney has not settled. It was understood that we are responsible for having the work done to rectify the matter. The Clerk is seeking a price from our grass contractor to carry out the work.

Action Clerk

15.2 Lych-gate repair/replacement.

Cllr Bull has asked for a price for a new gate to see if she is able to help with funding.

Action Clerk

16. Planning

None received.

17. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

None received

18. Correspondence for information

None received

19. Date of next meeting Wednesday 1st September 2021 7pm