

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 at 7:00 pm Via Zoom.

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, W Martineau, S Lusher, A Woodward, T Steer, R Baxter, S, Kenyon, C Cllr Spicer & B. Cllr Bull.

1. **Apologies for absence.** None received.

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

3.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.

3.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.

3.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act.

3. **Minutes** - Minutes of Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 zoom meeting were agreed and approved as a correct record.

4. **Meeting open to the public**

Flooding was the main topic of discussion in the public forum. Barningham has suffered it's fair share of severe flooding, following the exceptional amount of rain we have seen over the last few weeks, especially in Bardwell Road and at Aggies Piece. (The issue off Aggies is covered later in the minutes) It was asked if Suffolk County Council had a plan going forward to address the increasing issue of flooding in the region. It was acknowledge that, due to climate change, this situation is only going to get worse. Cllr Spicer responded by saying that she was not aware of any plan. Currently SCC only respond to emergencies, with priority being given to floods in dwellings. Regarding this Cllr Spicer asked that any flooding must be reported to SCC. There is a system of jetting and clearing and an ongoing programme of works which tackles areas with severe problems. A significant amount of work was carried out in Bardwell Road in recent years under this programme. It was agreed that, if not SCC, then the Parish council had to try and be more proactive to flooding rather than reactive. It was recognised that this is a national problem, that would need to get the Environmental Agency working with farmers to clear the network of ditches that help to elevate the situation. On a smaller scale the Parish Council could start by trying to get local landowners to be aware of their responsibilities and clear their ditches. This matter will go on the next agenda for further discussion and will be included as a topic in the upcoming newsletter.

**Action Cllr Baxter/Clerk**

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

As mentioned above the topic of Flooding was discussed. Cllr Spicer told the Parish Council that we could keep the flood warning boards for use in the future. Cllr Woodward will store them when they are not in use. Cllr Spicer reported that the 'not suitable for HGV' signs would not be erected before March. The issues in Mill Road will have to go on hold until things, around the school, return to normal. There seems to be no clear answer to the problem there. Ixworth surgery have done all over 80's, over 75's and care homes Covid vaccines and are more than catching up..

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

Cllr Bull apologised to the resident who has been having issues with communicating with West Suffolk over their recent Local plan sites allocation. It is understood that no one has been back in contact. Cllr Bull will chase this again. The resident thanked Cllr Bull for her help with this matter.

Cllr Bull is attending a flood risk management meeting and she will ask where we can go for advice and assistance. Cllr Bull can contribute £1000 towards the cost of our new defibrillator.

## **7. Progress reports. For information, from:**

### **7.1 Chairman**

The Chairman had no separate report to make.

### **7.2 Clerk:**

#### **7.2.1 Highway matters.**

Flooding in the village.

This matter was discussed under item 4 and will go on as an agenda item for the next meeting

## **8. Finance.**

8.1 The following accounts were approved for payment:

Admin		£1,676.75
Countryside, conservation and tree services	Improvements	£650.00

8.2 Bank reconciliation and accounts update.

The Clerk provided details of the transaction for approval, an up to date bank reconciliations and a budget report.

**9 Councillors Roles.** The following roles within the Council were discussed and confirmed.

**Chairman** Carol Hammond

**Vice Chairman** William Martineau

**Highways** – Grit bins Pot holes, road signs, etc.: Sharon Lusher

**Transport** - Bus Times, community transport – Anton Woodward

**Storage** – Anton Woodward

**Communication**- Village magazine, 6 monthly newsletters etc.: Bobby Baxter

**Web site** –Sue Kenyon

**VAS/Speedwatch** – Tony Steer

**Community Affairs** — village hall: - Sharon Lusher

**Social media** - All

**Legal**- William Martineau

**Police Liaison** – Carol Hammond

**Cemeteries:** Bobby Baxter

**Environment**- footpaths, trees, Aggies: - Sharon Lusher

### **WORKING PARTIES**

**Emergency Plan:** Bobby Baxter, lead, All Councillors

**Policies** – Review of and implementation of documents, Standing orders, risk assessment etc.

**All Councillors**

**Employment & Finance** All Councillors

**Neighbourhood plan:** Carol Hammond & Tony Steer

## **10. Neighbourhood Plan**

Update on Neighbourhood Plan sites consultation documents.

The consultation document is nearly completed and will be sent out by the middle of February.

## **11. Speed devices**

Update on new device.

A quote has been received for the new device. The Clerk will place an order. **Action Clerk**

## **12. Aggies Piece**

To discuss damaged caused by flooding at Aggies Piece.

A great deal of damaged has been done by flood water at Aggies Piece. This has occurred because someone has opened up the verge leading into Aggies with a piece of heavy machinery. Not only has the machinery done damaged to the verge, the subsequent flood has also damaged the area. The drainage system in that area was not designed to direct water into Aggies. The unauthorised work has left Aggies completely under water. We are unsure how this will drain away. The Clerk has been in contact with our insurance company and is awaiting advice. We may need to employ the services of an expert to address the situation.

**Action Clerk**

## **13. Caretakers report Circulated.**

I swept the pavements along the B1111 this month because the grit thrown up by the surface dressing of the highway was becoming an issue for pedestrians. Unfortunately the road sweeper had been sent out just days earlier so much of the grit will come back. I will repeat the sweeping as required and certainly before the next booked run by the sweeper if that can be determined.

With the reduced capacity at the school I have been able to make a start on scraping the mulch from the layby opposite the Royal George. I have also spent some time inspecting the damage to the roadside at Aggie's Piece as well as photographing the flood and describing the problem to C Cllr Spicer.

## **14. Play area /Cricket Meadow**

Complaints have been received about the amount of dog mess in the village, especially on the Cricket meadow. There are four dog litter bins on the cricket meadow and it was agreed to see if any of these could be relocated. A bin at Millfield and at Aggies would be welcomed. We need to accept that there may be an increase in collections costs if we re-locate or provide new bins. Cllr Hammond has some anti dog mess signs and will see if she can find some suitable locations to put these up. Something about dog fouling will be included in the newsletter.

**Action Cllr Hammond/Baxter/Clerk**

## **15. Churchyard/Cemetery**

### **15.1 Condition of Lych gate gate.**

Due to the problems with flooding we need to address it was agreed to put this item on hold for the time being.

## **16. Planning**

None received.

## **17. Councillors reports and items for future agenda**

### **17.1 Newsletter, contents and options for delivery.**

The importance of the newsletter was discussed. As we are under a full lockdown we are not currently allowed to hand deliver the newsletter. The Clerk is sourcing a price for printing and delivery. It was anticipated to be around £350. A firm quote will be sought.

Contents for the newsletter would include: Flooding and clearing ditches, Fly tipping, dog mess plus anything else that the councillors considered of interest to the village.

**Action All/Cllr Baxter/Clerk**

It was requested that we purchase some more speed limit bin stickers. The Clerk will organise this.

**Action Clerk**

It was suggested, that in a bid to reach a wider audience, that we record and make available for viewing, at a later date the Parish Council meetings.

**Action Clerk**

**18. Correspondence for information**

None received.

**19. Date of next meeting** 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

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

20.1 Personnel Issues. None.

20.2 Legal Issues. None.