

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

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, T Steer, R Baxter, S Kenyon & C Cllr Spicer

1. **Apologies for absence**.. Cllrs W Martineau, S Lusher, & B. Cllr Bull

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 5th May 2021 zoom meeting were agreed and approved as a correct record.

4. **Meeting open to the public**

Bridgette Martineau came to discuss dates for the jubilee event next year. We will be having an extra bank holiday in June. This means Thursday 2nd June and Friday 3rd of June are Bank Holidays. It was agreed that we will hold a village event starting on Friday 3rd June and continuing over the weekend. Mrs Martineau will book the Gislingham Band for lunch time on Friday the 3rd of June. Other ideas were discussed, these included a hog roast on the cricket meadow, tickets for this will be priced at a nominal amount. The Clerk will see if she can arrange some Morris Dancers. Having open gardens and a garage trail was also suggested. A piece will go in the next magazine asking for ideas and volunteers. **Action Clerk**

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

Cllr Spicer had received an email about larger traffic causing damage to overhanging trees and verges along the B1111 as you enter the village from the Stanton direction. Concerns were also raised about 'a number of close shaves'. Unfortunately this is an issues that effects a great many roads in the county and as such would be a very big project to undertake. The Parish Council do a lot of work trying to address speeding traffic in the village and it is this that is felt to potentially offer some solution to the problem. Cllr Spicer felt that this issue was not a priority at this time. It was agreed that the "unsuitable for HGVs" sign on Hepworth Road are now in a better positioned. The changes to speed limit on A143 at Stanton now all agreed

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

Cllr Bull was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report:

May I remind you that I have a fresh Locality Budget for the year from 1 April 2021?

West Suffolk Hospital Trust are running a consultation / engagement with the pubic in relation to the proposed new hospital at Hardwick Manor. I have sent through fuller details but would encourage people to have their say. Weekly e-mails will be going out to advise parishes of grass cutting schedules so you aware of when they are coming to you. Hopefully you will find this helpful.

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

7.1 Chairman

Since we last met in May the following has happened:

2 June – Another dog incident on field was reported to the Parish Council.

7 June – There was a misunderstanding over phone film of incident with young people and man. We need to be cautious how we view such material.

8 June – The Chairman agreed to represent the PC and Stanton Surgery on Ixworth Association

The damaged hip swing equipment on meadow was reported by the village caretaker.

9 June The newsletters were delivered from the printers, ready for distribution. These were sorted and volunteers rounds worked out (The chairman did two)

A notice was received about plant growth locally via e mail from West Suffolk Council re their cutting programme

Webpage events, news updates

18 June – Members of the Parish Council and a representative from the School met with PC Lee Andrews –Pearce to discuss anti-social problems in the village. We went to meadow afterwards to see the scene. Future action discussed and how it is important to monitor and report incidents, including a record of date and times of incidents, this can be used as evidence

30 June – The Chairman and Clerk met with Peter Kerry and surveyed Aggie's Piece, the Churchyard, cemeteries, village hall area and path re- tree, shrub and hedge-cutting. These all need cutting.

5 July –The zip-wire seat was showing signs of damage and was removed and brought to the Chairman's by the village caretaker.

7.2 Clerks report

7.2.1 Update on insurance renewal

Unfortunately we are tied into a long term agreement with our current provider and we cannot get out of it. The LTA ends in 2023 and it was agreed to look at again at changing then. The comparison, carried out by Cllr Kenyon showed that the other provider did offer a comparable product at a reduced price, this was also the Clerks opinion.

7.2.2 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies

There is a review of Parliamentary constituencies, this puts Barningham in a much larger ward. The number of constituencies in the Eastern region will increase from 58 to 61. There is an increase in the number of constituencies but our area will see a decrease in representation as we will become part of a bigger area. The interactive maps shows us in a huge area with a reduction in MPs representing us. It was agreed that the Clerk will send the consultation details to the Councillors and they will hold a zoom meeting to discuss any submission they may want to make.

Action All

7.2.3 Emergency Plan

The Clerk has been provided with a template for a simple Emergency plan, linking with local communities, This will be circulated and put on the next agenda for discussion.

Action All

7.2.4 Parking at the shop

A complaint has been received about parking at the shop. Some work was done, around 15 years ago, by SCC to mark at parking spaces at the shop and the PC had discussions with the shop. It was agreed that we would revisit this issue with SCC and the shop.

Action Clerk

7.2.5 Tree and hedge trimming update

The Chairman and Clerk met with Peter Kerry to discuss various issues in the village. Work in the following areas was agreed:

The cemetery and car park hedges, including strimming the church car park

The 'coppiced bank' opposite the church.

The 'elevated path' opposite the Spar shop.

The two bushes at the entrance to Church Road, the opposite corner to the Spar shop, one of which has a litter bin disappearing into it.

The Sandy Lane footpath – bushes and nettles one side, long grass the other.

Also some clearing works in Aggies Piece.

As with many businesses Peter is trying to catch up on work, following the Covid pandemic.

With this in mind major works at Aggies Piece will be put on hold.

8. Finance.

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Admin		£1,335.85
map app	Parish online	£40.50
Aggies and cricket meadow path	Tramar	£465.00
Grass cutting	R H Landscapes	£240.00
insurance	Came	£976.27
Admin		£1,396.09
newsletter	community workshop ltd	£42.00
Grass cutting	R H Landscapes	£612.00
Grass cutting	R H Landscapes	£612.00
Pension	SCC Pension	£301.98
Aggies and cricket meadow path	Tramar	£140.00
interest	interest	£0.55

8.3 Confirmation of AGAR submission

The Clerk has received confirmation from PKF Littleton that the AGAR for Barningham has been received.

9 Antisocial Behaviour

9.1 To discuss current issues in the village

Cllr Hammond, Martineau, Steer and the Clerk met with PC Lee Andrews-Pearce, Community Engagement Officer for Barningham. We discussed the recent increase in antisocial behaviour and actions that could be taken to tackle this. PC Andrews-Lee is going to put in place an action plan. The Parish are going to do all they can to encourage people to report incidents of antisocial behaviour, as if they are not reported then the serious nature of the matter is not fully realised by the police.

10. Neighbourhood Plan

10.1 Summary of survey comments

The Clerk has completed collating the comments for the individual sites. Work on the other comments is still to be completed. As soon as this is complete the Clerk will circulate the draft document prior to having it printed. The Parish Council felt that the Clerks suggestion that the next public event, to look again at the 5 sites, should potentially involve the landowners/developers.

Action Clerk

11. Speed devices

1.1 Update on new device, post and post repair

The new device is up and running, this brings the total devices for Barningham to three. They are currently all on the B1111 but Cllr Steer will shortly be moving one down to the new post on Pound Corner.

Action Cllr Steer

12. Aggies Piece

12.1 New home for Maple Tree

The Parish Council has been given a maple tree. Cllr Steer has re-potted this. It was agreed that he would look after it until a suitable place, at Aggies Piece, could be found in the autumn.

Action Cllr Steer

13. Caretakers report Circulated.

Since my last report the quantity of litter in the bins has increased sufficiently for me to recommence twice-weekly visits to empty them; I expect this to continue for the summer. The application of weed killer on the elevated path opposite the shop and on the matting of the Cricket Meadow goal unit was successful. The edging of the Sandy Lane footpath is complete for another year but I am having to sweep there more regularly following landscaping work by some of the residents.

The spell of rain led to explosive growth of the vegetation everywhere. I have been trying to keep the worst of the brambles at bay in Sandy Lane, and the coppiced bank opposite the church, with secateurs and I have twice trimmed the shrubs at the elevated path with my shears.

I have finished cleaning the equipment and the bench in the Play Area and installed spikes above the remaining swings to deter the birds. The hot weather led to the ropes on the roundabout shrinking again and causing the mechanism to seize up. The zip wire seat was replaced at the Cricket Meadow but immediately started to show cracks in its surface. The 'hip swing' unit there was reported as being in need of lubrication but had actually been damaged by vandals. I was able to ease the mechanism on the recumbent bike with a spray of oil. I have cleaned the mildew from the noticeboard at St Andrew's Close and twice swept Church Road and the entry to the Lych-gate Cemetery. I have had to lop low-hanging branches over the rear row of graves in the Lych-gate Cemetery again so that visitors can access them. There was one bins-only week during the period when I took a couple of days of holiday.

14. Play area /Cricket Meadow

14.1 Options for tackling issues with dogs on the Cricket Meadow

Concerns have been raised again about dogs not under control on the Cricket Meadow. The option of a fence was discussed but it was agreed that this would be a considerable expense for the Parish and not a viable option at this time. The Parish Council would urge anyone, who has experienced problems with an out of control dog on the Cricket Meadow, to report it to the police. This is a criminal matter and they need reports in order to build a case. Most dog owners are respectful of others and make sure their dogs are under control. Those who do break the law need to be reported so that action can be taken.

14.2 Damaged/vandalised equipment

Due to the deterioration of the new zip wire seat it is being questioned if previous seats have been vandalised or if it is a manufacturing problem. The Clerk will investigate this matter further. The damaged stepper is still operational and would cost £355.00 plus V.A.T to repair. As such it was agreed to leave it at this time.

15. Churchyard/Cemetery

Change to cemetery regulations to reflect environmental concerns

It was agreed to add the following wording to the Lawn Cemetery Regulations:

In a bid to help with the effects of climate change, we discourage use of artificial flowers in the Cemetery wherever possible.

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 4th August 2021