

**Present:** Cllrs: A Woodward, W Martineau, S Lusher, A Steer. C. Cllr J Spicer & B. Cllr Bull. Cllr Martineau chaired the meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence.** Cllrs C Hammond, N Greenwood, R Baxter

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**4. Meeting open to the public**

No comments made.

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

It is looking likely that the bus, running weekly to Norwich, operated by Norse, is going to stop. This is despite input from both Cllr Spicer and Norfolk County Council. There are still communication problems with Suffolk Highways, Cllr Spicer is hoping these will be resolved soon. There has been a change of Cabinet Member from Mary Evans to Andrew Reid. The problem of County Lines was discussed as sadly a young man from Bury St Edmunds was involved in a tragic event as the result of his involvement.

**6. Report from West Suffolk Councillor:** C Bull

Cllr Bull provided some advice from West Suffolk regarding litter picking.

**7. Report from Barningham Primary School**

There are currently 97 pupils on role with a capacity for 105 pupils.

The older children have recently taken part in the Kingswood Activity Residential at West Runton, Norfolk. This is an expected part of the National Curriculum, teaching leadership, communication and team working skills. The children experience den building, go-karts, zip-wire, archery and other activities – and they love it! Our Y3 and Y4 children attend swimming lessons at the Diss Swimming Pool. Being able to swim 25m is now an expectation of all pupils leaving primary school. The school was grateful for a generous local charity donation to assist two pupils to attend Kingswood, ensuring that every child can attend and not prevented by challenging home circumstances. The children are preparing to take part in an Indian Dance Afternoon to bring their project on India to life.

At Harvest the whole school celebrated the festival at St Andrew's Church. We collected donations for the Foodbank in Bury St Edmunds and our gifts were greater than last year: Struggling parents understanding the difficulties of others in need. We will be hosting our New to EYFS in September 2020 on Monday 11 November. We have been oversubscribed for the past two years, ensuring the financial stability of the school in the village.

On a quieter note, I decided that this will be my final year as Head Teacher at Barningham CEVC Primary School as I shall be retiring. The Governing Body are working closely with Suffolk County Council and the Diocese to recruit a new Head Teacher for September 2020. The governing body is still looking for a new governor to represent the local community.

## 8.1 Chairman

### 8.1.2 SPS, Landscape Training update.

The Chairman and Clerk attended some landscape training. It was a very informative presentation that looked in detail at the landscaping attached to new developments. Often a developer's plan will not truly reflect the realities of what can be planted. By drilling down into the plans, at an early stage, more realistic goals can be set, with potentially better, forest scale trees and shrubbery being used rather than typical small, ornamental type trees. Also the ongoing maintenance plan can be agreed upon.

### 8.1.2 County lines, update following presentation.

Although an interesting, and entertaining session, looking at the problems associated with County Lines, it did not really provide much of an update on the current state of play.

### 8.1.3 Sink on Cricket Meadow.

A sink was taken to the cricket meadow and smashed up. Cllr Hammond cleaned up all the pieces.

### 8.1.4 Wreath

The Chairman is unable to lay the Remembrance Day wreath, Cllr Steer will do it instead.

## 8.2 Clerk:

Highway matters. Winter awareness from SCC.

SCC are still promoting community involvement in winter work, the Clerk contacted SCC as he wants to know how this sits with Chapter 8 etc.? Surely this constitutes works on the highways? She was told, at the meeting with Mary Evans and Mark Stevens, that anyone working on the highways needs Chapter 8 traffic management training. However, she is having difficulty seeing how spreading grit differs from, for instance, cleaning a sign? If anything you could argue that gritting in winter conditions, poor light, visibility and icy roads, is potentially more dangerous than carrying out works in better weather condition. We have spent months trying to comply with SCC requirements, fielding complaints when the grass wasn't being cut as our contractor wasn't Chapter 8 trained, at that time, explaining to everyone that we were not allowed to work on the highways without this training only to then receive the contradictory advice from SCC in their Winter Preparedness campaign. The clerk received the following response, which seems quite ridiculous, she will continue to pursue the issue. *"Anyone applying grit from either the County Council's / parish / town councils' or third parties' grit bins to Suffolk's footways and roads would be acting in an entirely different way from those undertaking work such as sign cleaning, vegetation clearance or footway skirting. The individuals carrying out the types of Community Self-Help work that fall under the scheme will be focusing their attention on their activity, rather than on passing pedestrian or vehicular traffic – so the presence of separate traffic management is required. Those spreading grit will, by contrast, be specifically conscious of passing traffic – they would apply common sense and time such spreading once that traffic is clear rather than throwing it at passing people or vehicles!"*

### 8.2.2 Defibrillator. Awareness sessions.

Due to problems with hiring the hall during the week it was agreed to swap the training times with Market Weston. The week night training will now be held at Market Weston, on a Wednesday and the Saturday afternoon training will be held in Barningham. The dates are still to be confirmed by the trainer. It was agreed that we would wait until we had discussed the pro and cons of providing the cabinet code on key rings, before placing any orders.

### 8.2.3 New streetlight for Bishops Croft, to note.

#### 8.2.4 Over hanging hedges

The hedge in Mill Road has been cut back, the hedge in Church Road has been reported.

#### 8.2.5 Dog incident, Cricket Meadow

The Clerk has been advised that there is little or no enforcement that can be made to insist that all dogs are kept on a lead. She has been advised that it would be better to use existing law, the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and this is more easily enforceable.

Under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, section 3 Dogs must not be allowed to be 'dangerously out of control', which means injuring someone or making someone fear they may be injured. This applies to any breed or type of dog.

Owners (or the person in charge of the dog at the time) who allow their pets to hurt a person face punishments of up to three years in prison for injury, or 14 years for death, an unlimited fine, disqualification from owning pets, and having their dog destroyed. It is also an offence to allow a dog to injure a registered assistance dog.

In cases where no injury is caused, owners can still go to prison for six months, be fined up to £5,000, be banned from owning pets and have their dog destroyed.

Having a dog on a lead does not mean it is under control, as was evidenced in the news article provided by another resident who had his dogs attacked.

It was understood that the dog, who carried out the attack, is still walked in the village. We are still waiting to see what the police are going to do about the situation.

#### 8.2.6 Bottle Bank, to discuss shop carpark as potential site.

The Clerk has discussed the possibility of having a bottle bank in the shop carpark. The Manager of the shop thought this was a good idea but would need to get permission from their head office. The Clerk will write to the nearby residents to inform them of our proposal.

**Action Clerk**

#### 8.2.7 Streetlight, Sandy Lane footpath.

This has been reported as is showing as having an 'active fault'

#### 8.2.8 SALC, planning conference.

Cllr Steer and Clerk are attending SALC's Shaping Suffolk Conference. Their annual conference offers the potential to put local councils (parish and town) in Suffolk at the heart of building stronger communities and a sustainable future by developing further dialogues with all stakeholders in the complex world of planning. The aspiration for SALC is that by bringing the three tiers of local government together they can continue constructive conversations about where development and growth is happening. A landmark event providing not only advice and guidance but a chance to start to work together to make better places to live.

#### 8.2.8 Request for donation Ixworth patient association. Noted

### 9. Finance.

9.1 The following payments were approved and signed off by two signatories

Administration		£1,654.45
Survey Monkey	Neighbourhood plan	£35.00
T Steer	Software	£70.18
R H Landscapes	grass Cutting	£480.00
Vertas	Playing field	£558.37

## **9.2 Bank reconciliation**

The Clerk provided the Councillors with a bank reconciliation, income and expenditure account details and a budget report.

## **9.3 Budget 2020/21**

Following discussion it was agreed to precept for £34, 465. This represents a £15.00 increase on last year but at 0%. The Clerk will submit the paperwork to West Suffolk Council.

**Action Clerk**

## **10. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England**

SCC Boundary review.

This matter will be discussed once a proposal has been put forward.

## **11. Village Hall**

The hall has two new classes, circuit training and Aikido.

## **12. Neighbourhood Plan**

### **12.1 Update on the plan**

Work on structuring the plan continues with some work being done which needs some statistics and factual information added. The group will continue to work on this. Work is continuing on the history information. We would like to be in a position to hold a drop in event early next year. We would also like to consider making Barningham a dementia friendly village, this is something the Clerk will look into to be included in the plans aspirations. Ian Poole is still working on the character assessment, in particular identifying important views and noting the houses in the village that are not listed but are important to the village.

### **12.2 Draft Barningham Design Guide**

It was agreed to approve the document following the minor changes suggested, i.e. the replacement of the word commons with green spaces. The Clerk will then arrange for the Master planning package to be started. With this we will seek different options for all the sites identified. To include just housing and housing with room for a community building. The community building does not need to be built at this stage but the land could be made available for its future development.

### **12.3 The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)**

The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (or SHELAA) is an assessment of land for housing and economic development. The SHELAA is not an assessment of whether the sites will be allocated in the future West Suffolk Local Plan nor does inclusion in the SHELAA imply or grant any planning permission. The document or previous call for sites process holds NO weight in decision making. West Suffolk is seeking views on the factual information submitted. In accordance with government guidance, they are seeking views on the draft SHELAA report and in particular: The suitability, availability and achievability (including viability\*) of specific sites featured within the draft report (whether or not they are included or deferred at this stage) the constraints – are these (reasons for deferral of specific sites) still appropriate/relevant? \* for a site to be considered deliverable, the NPPF requires development to be economically viable and to this end, we seek written commentary on the viability of the sites in which you have a particular interest, in addition to confirmation that the sites themselves are available at this time and if not, when they are anticipated to become available. There are some questions regarding this document that will be addressed when we meet with WS on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, see 12.5 below.

#### **12.4 West Suffolk Local Plan: 2019 sustainable settlements review.**

West Suffolk Council is in the early stages of preparing a new local plan for West Suffolk. One aspect of the new plan will be to review the currently adopted settlement categories and hierarchies in the former St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath areas. In order to do this work officers are currently preparing a sustainable settlements study as evidence to sit alongside the local plan. The purpose of this study is to understand which are the most sustainable settlements in the district through applying a set key sustainability criteria, such as the presence of shops, schools etc. This information will be used to help draft a new settlement hierarchy which will be subject to consultation in January 2020 as part of the Issues and Options consultation. For those settlements which have an identified settlement boundary, key sustainability criteria have been recorded and a matrix produced. West Suffolk are now inviting all parishes to comment on this matrix in respect of the factual accuracy of the sustainability criteria recorded for settlements in their parish. The Clerk has provided up to date data.

#### **12.5 Issues and options, meeting with West Suffolk**

West Suffolk Council is preparing a new Local Plan for West Suffolk and the first draft to formally be consulted on will be the Issues and Options draft. Public consultation on this document will commence in January 2020. They are currently preparing the evidence base which underpins the Local Plan, including the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) and a Sustainable Settlements Study which is looking at reviewing the current settlement categories and hierarchies across West Suffolk. They have invited members of the working party group to attend a meeting with planning policy officers at West Suffolk House to discuss the implications of the emerging evidence on our neighbourhood plan area. They would also appreciate a progress update on our neighbourhood plan and timescales for consultation and publication, as they would like to reflect this information in the Issues and Options Local Plan. Cllrs Hammond, Steer and the Clerk will be attending on 14th November.

**Action Cllrs Hammond/Steer/Clerk**

#### **12.6 Meeting with SCC to discuss progress**

The Chairman and Clerk will be meeting with Cllr Spicer and Cameron Chow, SCC planning who is taking the lead on neighbourhood plans, for an update on where we are with our plan. On 19<sup>th</sup> November 3pm in Ixworth.

**Action Cllr Hammond/Clerk**

### **13. Speedwatch/VAS**

#### **13.1 To discuss complaints received**

A number of complaints have been received about speeding in the village. We are still trying to get an additional post on Millfield for the VAS.

#### **13.1 To approve expenditure for the Barningham Speed watch website**

Cllr Steer requires some software for the Speedwatch website. This was approved. The site should be live by mid-November.

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

14.1 To include an update from Cllr Greenwood regarding BMX track on the Cricket Meadow. The young people who were going to come to the meeting were unwell. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

#### **14.2 Newsletter.**

A draft has been prepared and circulated for comments.

#### **14.3 Church Bells**

It was reported that the church bells are not chiming at the correct time. The Clerk will speak to Ian Jerrold about this.

**Action Clerk**

**15. Aggies Piece**

No report this month.

**16. Caretakers report**

16.1 This month has seen the return of leaf sweeping and the first scraping of the leaf mulch from the layby opposite the Royal George. I have lopped the brambles in the Lawn Cemetery and weeded and cleaned around the war memorial in time for Armistice Day. The loose fitting reported on the 'spring horse' in the Play Area turned out to be a broken rod and a replacement part has been ordered.

16.2 Change of bin collection day.

The change in bin collection days has caused a problem for the Caretaker. He will not be able to come to the village on a Sunday to put the bins out, two at the Church and one at the Lychgate Cemetery ready for collection on the Monday. Cllr Martineau will speak to the Church warden to ask if she can put the bins out.

**Action Cllr Martineau**

**17. Play area reports**

Noted

**18. Churchyard/Cemetery**

18.1 Request for memorial, the late J Woods. Noted.

18.2 Review of Cemetery Fees. This was deferred until all councillors are present.

**19. Planning Matters**

19.1 DC/19/1920/HH - Detached garage, Hawthorn House, Hepworth Road. Amended Application. No objection.

**20. Correspondence for information**

20.1 Broadleaf magazine. Circulated.

20.2 Suffolk Preservation Society magazine. Circulated

20.3 Came and Co, change of trading name, noted

**21. Date of next meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

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

22.1 Personnel Issues. Reduction in PC pension contribution. Noted

22.2 Legal Issues.