

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th July 2022 at 7:30 pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, J Chalmers, T Steer, S Kenyon & D Cllr Bull

1. Co-option of New Parish Councillor

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs W Martineau, B Baxter & SCC Joanna Spicer.

3. 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.

4. Minutes – The minutes of the Wednesday 11th May 2022 Annual Parish Council meeting were agreed and approved as a correct record.

5. Meeting open to the public 4 present

No matters were raised by the public.

6. Report from County Councillor: J Spicer

Cllr Spicer was unable to attend the meeting.

7. Report from WS Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull confirmed the location, discussed at our last meeting, of the proposal for solar panels near to Bardwell. This area has not been fenced as previously thought. With regards the current boundary review it was noted that there was no consensus as yet as to whether some properties, along the Bardwell Road, will be included in a different parishes area or if they will remain within the Stanton Parish boundary. See also under item 8.2.6

8. Progress reports. For information, from:

8.1 Chairman

The Chairman had no report to make.

8.2 Clerk:

8.2.1 Update on railing painting, Church Road.

Steve Wilson, the village caretaker has re-painted the railings along the raised path in Church Road. These look much better. The Councillors were grateful to Steve for undertaking this work.

8.2.2 Update on request for clothing bank at the shop.

The Clerk reported that the shop would be happy to site a clothing bank in their car park. They did ask for reassurance about emptying the bin as they do not want there to be a situation with the bank overflowing and their car park becoming a dumping ground for black bags. The Clerk has been in contact with the bank providers to ask them to confirm that the bank would be emptied promptly when full. She also asked what are the next steps would be.

8.2.3 To discuss quote for works to village sign base.

A local bricklayer has taken a look at the village sign base and has quoted to repair it and return to its original state, for a cost of £180.00. It was agreed to go ahead with this to complete the refurbishment of the sign.

Action Clerk

8.2.4 To confirm date to meet tree contractor to discuss various works in the village. The Clerk has arranged to meet with Peter Kerry to discuss various tree works in the village on Friday 22nd July, time to be confirmed. Once the time has been confirmed the Clerk will let the Councillors know so they can attend if they wish to do so. **Action Clerk**

8.2.5 New residents welcome letter, to discuss progress. This matter is still in hand. Cllr Steer will put something on Facebook to let new residents know the letter is available. If possible we will ask residents who are selling their houses to take a welcome letter and leave it in the house for the new resident. **Action Cllr Steer/Baxter**

8.2.6 To confirm submission to West Suffolk Council regarding boundary review in Bardwell Road. It was agreed that there was no real benefit in including these properties in our Parish. It was agreed that the residents should be the ones who should make the decision regarding which parish their property sits in.

8.2.7 Report of weeds, Millfield Road. After being contacted by a resident in Millfield Road the Clerk reported there are a great number of weeds growing in the gutters on Millfield Road. Suffolk County Council responded that their staff have visited the location of our report and assessed the issue we reported. They believe that at this time it does not warrant remedial action. However, they will continue to monitor the location as part of their routine inspections, and if the matter worsens significantly, they will take action. It was noted that there is a desire for councils to become more environmentally friendly with a move away from using weed killer. This is something the Parish Council supports and is mindful to as well, so we can understand the problem. Unfortunately there does not seem to be a practical solution to the issue of weeds that has been found so far. We were told that SCC and WSC are looking at alternatives, such as burning the weeds away but this has brought its own issues with melting surfaces etc. The Parish council are hopeful that an environmentally friendly solution can be found soon.

A resident has contacted the Clerk about overhanging hedges on Coney Weston Road. The Clerk has reported this to Suffolk County Council.

9. Finance.

9.1 The following accounts were approved/noted.

Administration	Payment	Various	£1,827.19
Grass cutting	Payment	R H Landscapes	£628.80
Railings paint	Payment	Steve Wilson	£52.28
Mapping software	Payment	Parish online	£45.00
Gate	Payment	Chase Timber Products Ltd	£538.28
Administration	Payment	Various	£1,820.16
Drop in flyers	Payment	community workshop ltd	£40.50
Grass cutting	Payment	R H Landscapes	£628.80
interest	Receipt	interest	£1.66
Grant 2 years	Payment	Barningham Village Hall	£1,000.00

9.2 Bank reconciliation and budget report

The Clerk provided an up to date bank reconciliation, budget report and schedule of payments for the councillor information.

10 Jubilee Event

10.1 To receive feedback following the event.

The events over the weekend and the torch relay went really well. A big thankyou to the team that organised everything. Although only 4 gardens were open this was felt to be something that would be good to make a regular event, perhaps combined with a tea at the Village Hall? Cllr Martineau reported that there were some funds left over from the event. It was agreed to split these between the Church, Village Hall and the School.

11. Aggies Piece

11.1 To receive any update.

As mentioned previously the Clerk is meeting with Peter Kerry to discuss tree works in the village, this will include a trip to Aggies Piece and a discussion about new trees to be planted. These trees will be sourced from the Sicon Charity.

A request for the meadow to be cut and cleared has been made. The Clerk will pay for this as she will have the hay from there.

12. Caretakers report Circulated.

It has been a long time since my last report and events have been dominated by the painting of the railing along the elevated path. Not being a professional this took a lot of hours to achieve but I have skipped two litter rounds in an effort to offset the time and I will wait until later in the year to determine how much overtime was involved. I do not expect it to be more than ten hours.

The period started with excessive litter in the Play Area including the smashed remains of large plastic toys and an owl decoy. I also had the tricky task of releasing a mouse from our new pole-mounted litter bin at the Cricket Meadow. It ended with the discovery of Nazi graffiti on the table tennis table at the Cricket Meadow.

There has been a small amount of footpath edging in Sandy Lane during the period and I had to cut back the shrubs along the elevated path with shears to give room to pedestrians while I was painting. In the Lychgate Cemetery I have cut the tree which grows out of one of the graves down to ground level; I do this from time to time. On the Cricket Meadow I have had to cut back the brambles around the old litter bin and lop some branches which were growing towards the run of the zip wire. Someone had interfered with the anti-bird spikes on the swing unit in the Play Area; I replaced some and adjusted the others but most of them were snapped off within days.

13. Play area /Cricket Meadow to receive any update.

13.1 To include quote for works to roundabout and wet pour.

A quote has been received to repair the roundabout – £350

Wet pour, swings £1800 other area £2170

The Clerk asked if there was any way would could do away with the wood edging, perhaps taper the wet pour at the edge. She was informed that it is best to have the timber edge. It gives the wet pour something to adhere to, so it doesn't lift. If it tapers it into soft ground, it will end up lifting unless we have a concrete foundation to glue it to.

It was agreed to go ahead with both the roundabout and wet pour repairs.

Action Clerk

13.2 To discuss anti-social behaviour, including offensive graffiti.

Cllr Chalmers removed the offensive graffiti from the table tennis table on the Cricket Meadow.

The Clerk has enquired if the caretaker needs any special equipment to remove the remainder of the graffiti.

Action Clerk/Caretaker

The caretaker is trying to source a particular screw to carry out a repair in the play area. The Clerk will send details to Cllrs Steer and Bull to see if they are able to help.

Action Clerk/Cllrs Steer/Bull

14. Churchyard/Cemetery

14.1 To discuss issues with existing memorials.

Cllr Chalmers and the Clerk met, twice, firstly just with residents and then with the grass contractors and residents, to discuss concerns raised about grass cutting and chips to stones in the lawn cemetery. It was suggested that we visit Honington Cemetery as the residents felt that this was an example of a well-kept cemetery. Cllr Chalmers and the Clerk did this and they both felt, that apart from the stones being set out in a more uniform manner, in part due to the fact that the Cemetery also has military graves that the standard of grass cutting was on a par with our cemetery. It was acknowledged that it would be very difficult to brush off any grass cuttings from memorials and it was also not possible to discern if any stone chips were caused by the grass contractors. Conflicting advice was received regarding the possible origin of any chips. Going forward it was proposed and agreed that the grass contractors would not cut the grass around both the Kerry and Page graves and that the responsibility for this would fall to the family of those graves. It was understood that the stonemason, who provided the grave for the Page family had carried out a repair for the family, free of charge. It was suggested that we change the name of the Cemetery, to remove the word 'Lawn' as this could potentially give the impression of a more manicured area. Going forward it will now be known as Barningham Cemetery. **Action Clerk**
It was reported that the bench opposite the church needs some repair. Cllr Steer will look at this.

Action Cllr Steer

The tree, near the bench is obscuring the school sign. The Clerk will report this.

Action Clerk

14.2 To note interment of the late Kieron Buxton. Noted.

15. Neighbourhood Plan.

15.1 To discuss outcome of drop in event.

There was a reasonable turn out for the drop in event, with 49 people coming along. The questionnaire response yielded 79 responses in total. Over 82% of those who responded felt that 50 houses would be too many. The Parish Council agreed with this as 50 houses would be a big increase for the village. There seemed to be less support for a new hall but more support for additional green space. Improved pedestrian links to the village and traffic calming measures at the entrance to the village were also supported. A copy of all the information gathered will be made available on the Parish Council website. It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan group would not be allocating a site but would instead concentrate on the structure of the plan

15.2 To discuss submission in response to West Suffolk Councils Local Plan consultation.

As noted above the Parish Council felt that 50 new houses was too big an allocation for Barningham. The ability of the existing infrastructure to be able to cope with additional homes was also discussed. However it was acknowledged that these concerns were not just an issue for Barningham alone but part of a much bigger picture and potentially not something within our control. A number of the matters in the consultation document were incorrect, this included details about the bus service and errors with road names. There were also questions raised about the reason for Bardwell being downgraded to a lower category and therefore being allocated less housing. The information for this change was not available at the meeting. It was therefore agreed that a separate meeting would be held to pull together the above concerns, taking on board information about the proposed change in criteria for Bardwell, so informed comments could be submitted to West Suffolk prior to their deadline of Tuesday 26th July.

16. Planning

None received.

17. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

Cllr Steer reported that the speed camera is now back and working properly. Cllr Steer has been investigating a possible site for a new post in Hepworth Road. Unfortunately this site was not suitable. He will put a request on Facebook to see if anyone in Hepworth Road is able to offer a suitable location.

Action Cllr Steer

18. Correspondence for information

18.1 Statement of Licensing Policy – Consultation, West Suffolk council. noted

19. Date of next meeting 3rd August 2022

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.