Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 14th October 2026 at 7:00pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs J Chalmers - Chair, L Hebert, C Hammond, Y Martin, N Martineau & West Suffolk District Council (WSDC) Councillor C Bull.

1. Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received, and the reasons given were accepted and approved by the Councillors from: Cllr T Bayliss and Suffolk County Council Councillor (SCC) H Richardson.

Sonia Knight had tendered her resignation prior to the meeting. The Clerk has contacted WSDC to notify them of this, and a notice advertising the vacancy has been displayed on both the Village noticeboard and the Parish Council website.

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. N/A

3. Minutes
The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on Wednesday 2nd September 2026, were agreed, approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Meeting Open to the Public. 3 Members of the public present.
Mike Millet came to the meeting to discuss the Remembrance Day arrangements and the Poppy Appeal. Cllr Martineau offered to help with the Poppy Appeal in his area of the village. Remembrance Week commences on 24th October. There will be a Remembrance Service held on 8th November, with the laying of the wreaths. The Chair, Janice Chalmers, will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. The School will attend a service on 11th October.
Bobby Baxter came to the meeting to discuss the Village Conservation Group. 7 members of the group met on 26th September and worked hard at removing old tree protectors and ivy. They only managed to remove half of what they wanted to, so they will return on Saturday 14th November to continue with this important work. It was noted that the owl box had come down. Bobby and her husband Adam have cleaned the box and they will re-felt the roof. The Clerk will ask Peter Kerry to liaise with Bobby and Adam about getting the box put back up. Bobby requested that, the re-wilding of green areas in the village, go on the agenda for discussion at the December meeting. She will, in the meantime, chase up the officer at WSDC, for advice. Cllr Bull has some information that might be helpful, which she will pass on to Bobby via the Clerk. **Action Clerk**
Despite making initial contact, the horologist has not been back in touch to arrange a time to visit and service the clock. Adam Baxter will chase this appointment and copy the Clerk in.
The Parish Council wanted to record that they are very appreciative of the work that both Bobby and Adam Baxter do for the village.

5. Report from Suffolk County Councillor (SCC): H Richardson
To include SCC Corporate Strategy 2026–30 and to receive any update on Local Government Review (LGR) and Devolution.
Cllr Richardson was unable to attend the meeting; he sent an SCC report, which is available upon request.

6. Report from West Suffolk District Councillor (WSDC): C Bull
To receive any update on LGR and Devolution.
Cllr Bull is hoping to be in a position to provide an update on the LGR, Devolution and the way forward in November. The planning application for Old Hall is still pending. The planning application for a self-build in Hopton Road is pending following a holding objection from SCC. The first consultation on the WSDC Call for Sites will be held in January 2027. The planning application

for four poultry breeder sheds in Thelnetham had been granted. It was understood a meeting will be held to discuss this decision.

7. Chairman's Reports
The Chairman had no additional reports to make.

8. Clerk's Report
8.1 To confirm information for WSDC Facilities Matrix.
The Clerk has been contacted to confirm the WSDC audit of settlement services and facilities as correct. It was agreed that the matrix provided an accurate summary of services and facilities.

8.2 To note correspondence received regarding fly-tipping.
The Clerk has been copied in on correspondence regarding some fly-tipping on Sandy Lane between Barningham and the Coney Weston American Memorial crossroads. On inspection, it was determined that it was on private property. This means that it is the landowners' responsibility to have it removed. The Clerk will contact WSDC to ensure the landowner has been contacted regarding this. **Action Clerk**

9. Finance/Compliance
9.1 To approve/note the following:

Hedge trimming	Payment	Countryside, conservation & tree services	-£660.00
Grass cutting	Payment	Countryside, conservation and tree services	-£349.27
RBL Donation wreath	Payment	Royal British Legion	-£50.00
Salary/office etc	Payment	Various	-£2,359.25
Swings and wet pour repair	Payment	ESP	-£7,938.00
G & B Butcher	Receipt	Bierton and woods	£100.00
Clothing bank	Receipt	Alford Storage	£10.00
Lodge Inscription	Receipt	Bierton and woods	£35.00
Chapman Memorial	Receipt	Bartrum	£100.00
Vatcher Memorial	Receipt	Bierton and woods	£100.00

9.2 Bank reconciliation, budget report – Schedule of payments.
The above documents were reviewed by all Councillors. The bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and a physical check of the accounts were carried out by Cllr Hebert at the meeting. The Chair approved the schedule of payments at the meeting.

9.3 The Anonymous Correspondence document was reviewed and agreed.Anonymous Correspondence
This document was reviewed and agreed.

9.4 To agree Councillor to carry out Internal Audit Control review.
It was agreed that Cllr Martin would carry out the internal audit review with the Clerk.
Action Cllr Martin/Clerk

9.5 To agree transfer of Warm Spaces Grant.
It was agreed that the Warm Spaces Grant received from West Suffolk District Council, on behalf of the Village Hall, would be transferred to the Village Hall to simplify the administration of payments. **Action Clerk**

10. Village Matters
10.1 To receive any Highways update. No additional matters raised.
10.2 To receive Traffic Data update.
Following publication of the September speed data, two residents have contacted the Parish Council via Facebook to ask about progress on the traffic-calming measures for Hepworth Road. As previously reported, we have been unable to identify a suitable location for a Speed Indicator Device (SID). We have been exploring the possibility of introducing road markings, in consultation

with Suffolk County Council (SCC), to help reduce vehicle speeds along Hepworth Road. We are currently considering options for funding these works. The Parish Council's budget will be discussed at the November meeting, and the proposed traffic-calming measures will be included in those discussions and the associated budget planning. **Action Clerk**
The hedge along Bardwell Road has now been cut back, the Parish Council is grateful for the work undertaken. The Speed Indicator Device (SID) will be moved to the post there at the end of the month.

10.3 Church Clock, to receive any update.
See under item 4, meeting open to the public.

10.4 Grass Cutting Tender. To discuss requirements for 2027/28.
It was agreed that the Parish Council would invite tenders for the grass-cutting contract for 2027/28. The tender document will be reviewed to ensure that it includes all the work currently undertaken by the existing contractor. Councillors were asked to identify any local contractors who may be interested in submitting a tender. This item will be included on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion. **Action All**

11. Barningham Neighbourhood Plan
11.1 To note completion of plan, Referendum results.
The Neighbourhood Plan went to referendum in September and the residents of Barningham were asked, 'Do you want West Suffolk Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Barningham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?' The results of the Referendum were as follows:
Number cast in favour of a Yes 167, which is 84.3%
Number cast in favour of a No 31, which is 15.7%
Electorate: 763. Ballot Papers Issued: 198. Turnout: 26.0 %
It was therefore declared that more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan for Barningham.

11.2 To note intention of WSDC to 'make' the Barningham Neighbourhood Plan.
The Neighbourhood Plan was approved by West Suffolk Council on the 13 October 2026 and the plan has been formally 'made'. This means that the Barningham Neighbourhood Plan has become a statutory development plan document for West Suffolk, and the plan is a material consideration within the Barningham parish area for planning application purposes.

12. Planning (to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted)
12.2 Appeal 6010638 DC/25/0963/OUT Land South Of Hopton Road Barningham. Outline planning application – To note submission made to the Planning Inspectorate
The following submission was made to the Planning Inspectorate by Barningham Parish Council:
The Barningham Neighbourhood Plan referendum took place on 10 September 2026 with 84% of voters in favour of it being used to help decide planning applications. It is due to be adopted by West Suffolk Council in a few weeks. This document represents several years of work including multiple opportunities for community engagement and its importance should not be underestimated.
The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision and several objectives which have been prepared using the outcomes of lengthy community engagement. These also take account of the strategic policies of the West Suffolk Local Plan, not repeating but supplementing the policies by adding local detail and addressing locally specific matters.
The vision states:
"In 2041 Barningham will remain an attractive and desirable place to live where the character and distinctiveness of the village has been maintained. Growth has been at a rate which has reflected past growth and been supported by appropriate infrastructure."
Objective 1 is:
"Locate new development where it is well related to the existing built up area of the village minimising the loss of the best quality agricultural land and avoiding areas at risk from flooding."

The West Suffolk Local Plan identifies Barningham as a “Local Service Centre” and allocates a site south of Hopton Road, wrapping around Lingwood Close, for around 37 homes. This is noted in the Neighbourhood Plan stating “The Neighbourhood Plan cannot change what is in the Local Plan and, given the lack of local support for additional housing, does not allocate additional housing sites for development.”
Maintaining and reinforcing the local character of the village are mentioned in the vision and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan. The proposed increase from 37 to 60 houses does not align with this. The density of the most recent and adjoining development, Lingwood Close, is 27 houses per hectare whilst this development is proposing 37 per hectare. Given that this site is on the very edge of the settlement boundary the impact when entering the village will be significant, changing the character and distinctiveness of the village. This is contrary to both the vision and objectives agreed by residents of Barningham and is not “well related to the existing built up area of the village”.
This site is not suitable for 60 houses.
Local Plan Policy SP5 states that:
“All major residential development of 50 homes or more located on greenfield sites should provide around 40 per cent green infrastructure within the site.”
The developers and landowners are having to use additional agricultural land in order to provide the suitable alternative natural greenspace (SANG). This land is outside the site allocated in the Local Plan and clearly demonstrates that 60 houses cannot be supported on this site.
The Local Plan allocation is quite clear (Policy AP42) that the allocated site should provide:
Fully accessible informal and formal open space and play space.
Green and blue infrastructure
This is meant to be within the boundary of allocated site, not by extending the development into the countryside. The developer has had to include additional land outside that allocated in the Local Plan in order to be policy compliant. This cannot be allowed.
Barningham is not against development as is clearly demonstrated in the Neighbourhood Plan. The village has set out how it sees growth over the next 15 years. Unfortunately, the applicant shows consideration of neither the vision nor the objectives, which are important to residents. The views of the village are clear in the Neighbourhood Plan and its importance must not be overlooked. This proposal is being ‘done to’ the village rather than ‘for the benefit of’ the village and is not supported by the residents.
This appeal for 60 houses clearly represents the overdevelopment of the allocation site. It is out of character with the village, is not supported by either the Local Plan or the Barningham Neighbourhood Plan and should therefore be refused.

12.3 DC/26/1468/EIASCO EIA Scoping - EIA Scoping Opinion under Regulation 6 (1) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017- hybrid application for employment development, associated infrastructure, access, parking and landscaping.
The Chair will attend the drop-in session, to be hosted by Hepworth Parish Council, to raise the Parish Council’s concerns about the development. These include the increase in traffic and the height of the buildings. Cllr Bull will follow up on the lack of notice about this meeting.

Action Chair

13. Aggies Piece, Biodiversity and Environment. To receive any updates
13.1 To discuss arrangements for reattachment of bird box.
See under item 4, meeting open to the public.

14 Caretaker's Report.
14.1 To receive any update from the Caretaker.
The Caretaker continues to work hard to maintain the village, undertaking regular litter collection and carrying out repairs as needed.

15 Play Area/Cricket Meadow: To receive any updates, to include:
15.1 To note play area repairs/new equipment.
The Clerk received three quotations for the wet-pour surface repairs and replacement swing set, as follows:

- Wicksteed: £8,787
- Sovereign: £23,889
- ESP Play: £7,938

As agreed at the September meeting, and to make use of the grant received from West Suffolk District Council (WSDC), it was decided to proceed with the most competitive quotation, taking into account the advice provided by WSDC during its site visit.
The Chair and Clerk reviewed the quotations and agreed to proceed with ESP Play, whose quotation was the lowest at £7,938. This decision was subsequently reported to the Councillors, and details of all three quotations were circulated for information.
In addition to offering the most competitive price, ESP Play had received positive reviews, and both the Chair and Clerk were satisfied with the standard of customer service provided. The Clerk will make arrangements for the work to be carried out as soon as possible. **Action Clerk**

16. Churchyard/Cemetery.
16.1 To receive any update.
There was no update for this meeting.

17. Correspondence for Discussion/Information
No additional correspondence received.

18. Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda
18.1 To note comments made regarding the Spar shop.
It was understood that the Spar shop is up for sale.

18.2 Emergency Briefing -Climate Crisis
A resident attended a local showing of the Emergency Briefing. This is a short film that was made by a team of experts with information and facts about the climate crisis. The film is being hosted all over the UK for the benefit of everyone and the resident wondered whether Barningham would consider hosting a showing in the village hall. The Clerk will suggest that they contact the Village Hall directly with this request. **Action Clerk**
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18.3 Defibrillators
Following some recent training the Clerk asked this item to be included on the next agenda.
Action Clerk
18.4 The Chair reported that there is some funding available towards oil costs. The criteria are, however, extremely strict. Further information is available upon request.

19. Date of Next Meeting. Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 4th November 2026, 7.00pm Barningham Village Hall.

Cllr Martineau informed the Council that he may arrive late for this meeting.

20. Exclusion of the Public and Press To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for the consideration of the following items:
20.1 Personnel Issues. None.
20.2 Legal Issues. None.

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