

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 at 7:00pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs J Chalmers, C Hammond, Y Martin, N Martineau, Cllr L Hebert & S Baker

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

The Parish Council accepted and agreed the reason for apologies for the absence from Cllr R Baxter, WSDC Cllr Bull & SCC Cllr J Spicer.

### **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 meeting for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were agreed and approved as a correct record.

**4. Meeting Open to the Public.** No members of the public present.

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

Cllr Spicer was unable to attend the meeting, she asked that Cllr Chalmers gave an update following the Save Our Buses meeting held on Monday.

**6. Report from West Suffolk Councillor: C Bull.** Cllr Bull was unable to attend the meeting as she was unwell.

### **7. Chairman's Reports**

**7.1** To receive a report on the meeting regarding the reduction of bus service, including parking at the school.

Cllr Chalmers attended the Save our Buses Task Group meeting, held in Bardwell, on Monday. There have been safeguarding issues raised regarding students going to Thurston Community College being left for over an hour to wait for the bus home. Cllr J Spicer, working with SCC has arranged for an extra bus to be put on to address this. The feedback received on Facebook has been very positive regarding this. We are very grateful to Cllr Spicer who was instrumental in making this happen. There were discussions about other services, funded by SCC that served Pakenham and Great Barton on Wednesdays. The group is in the process of preparing a bid for funding to support a service moving forward. There is still the issue of what provision will be available from the end December until April, when the grant funding will be available. The Task Group are talking to Simonds about this. The next Task Group meeting is on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Cllr Chalmers and the Clerk plan to attend.

**Action Cllr Chalmers/Clerk**

It was noted that cars parking in Bardwell Road can make it very difficult for the bus, which now comes down Bardwell Road, to turn into Church Road. The Clerk will write to the school to ask if staff and parents can avoid parking in the area near the junction, in particular.

**Action Clerk**

Connecting Communities Rural Transport Survey.

Connecting Communities are currently running a survey on transport in our area. The Councillors were asked to look at the survey, with the aim being that we put together a joint response to be discussed at the November meeting.

**Action All**

### **8. Clerk's Report**

The Clerk had no additional report to make this month.

## 9. Finance

The following were noted/approved for payment.

Description	Type	customer	Total
New lid, postage	Payment	Morelock signs	-£16.80
External audit	Payment	PKF Littlejohn	-£252.00
Administration	Payment	Various	-£2,014.80

Cllr Hammond carried out the additional accounts checks at this meeting.

### 9.2 Bank reconciliation, schedule of payments, and budget report.

The Clerk provided a bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and budget report for the Councillors information.

## 10. Village Matters

### 10.2 To receive any update on VAS.

A replacement lid has been ordered for one of the speed devices. The device cannot be used, in the rain, until this has been received.

The Clerk has made a request for the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) device to come to the village. An ANPR device can go up on a normal SID post if the current SID has been removed beforehand. The Clerk will liaise with Malcolm Chalmers about a suitable location for this to be placed.

### 10.3 To confirm timeframe for works to the bench at Bishops Croft entrance.

Unfortunately, there is likely to be a delay with the concreting in of the bench, if we rely on our contractor to carry out the work. This is because the job, that they were going to have the spare concrete from, has been delayed. It was agreed that we would discuss this job with the new village caretaker, to see if this is something he is able to undertake. The Clerk will write to the resident, who has a memorial plaque on the bench, with apologies for the delay.

**Action Clerk**

### 10.4 To receive any report from the Village Hall.

The Village Hall had a meeting, which Cllr Chalmers was unable to attend. There appears to be a bit of confusion over what the recent donation that the Parish Council made, towards hosting an event, was used for. Cllr Chalmers requested the minutes were amended to ensure clarity. It was agreed that we should investigate the introduction of a Grants Policy, to avoid any confusion moving forward.

**Action Cllr Hebert/ Clerk**

## 11. The Royal George

The Parish Council are very pleased to report that the Royal George has new tenants. They are local to the village and have great plans to have the pub open seven days a week very soon. They have been doing a lot of work to tidy the place up, with the help of a number of local residents, which is really good to see. They are set to open on 11<sup>th</sup> October. The Parish Council wish them luck and will continue to support the venture in any way they are able.

## 12. Neighbourhood Plan

The Consultant is still working on the responses to the recent consultation. The Clerk confirmed that we still have funds of £1,132 remaining from the Neighbourhood Planning Locality Budget.

## 13.Planning (to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted)

13.1 DC/24/1105/OUT Outline planning application - (means of main vehicular access from Hopton Road to be considered) for up to 40 dwellings, land south of Hopton Road. To receive feedback from extraordinary meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September and agree comments for submission to West Suffolk Council to support objection.

The Clerk working with our planning consultant has prepared the following objection to the above application:

The Barningham Parish Council **object** to this application for the following reasons:

1. The development being proposed is on land currently outside of the settlement boundary. Barningham Parish Council do not support applications for development outside of the settlement boundary.
2. The application is for up to 40 houses on a section of land identified on the site shown. This application only incorporates part of the site being suggest by West Suffolk Council for inclusion in their local plan. Other documents in the proposal indicates a further 20 houses, on land adjacent to the identified site. This land, in its entirety, is the site being proposed by West Suffolk Council for inclusion in their Local Plan. This would indicate that there will potentially be a proposal for 60 houses over both sites. The maximum number of houses the Parish Council support would be 37 houses, across the two sites. (The one site being proposed by WSC). Barningham Parish Council do not support 40 houses on this one site.
3. The density being proposed is more appropriate for an urban area rather than a rural area. Barningham Parish Council do not support this level of density.
4. Public transport information provided is inaccurate and the Parish Council raised concerns about the transport and access arrangements, both pedestrian and cycle to and from the site identified in this application. Therefore, we object to the application until these concerns can be addressed.

In addition to the above, at a public meeting, the following concerns/objections were raised by the 28 Barningham residents in attendance.

5. The development proposed would not provide enough off-road parking.
6. Concerns were raised about the increase in traffic the development will bring and the volume and speed of traffic on the B1111. Problems are already being experienced by residents trying to get out of Lingwood Close.
7. Concerns were raised about the current sewage and associated utilities being able to cope with the additional housing. These included concerns over surface water at the site and the potential to add to the issue of flooding on the B1111.
8. The construction noise that will be generated during the building phase will be disruptive to nearby residents.
9. The environmental impact the building would have on the site identified.

The Clerk will submit these comments to West Suffolk council.

**Action Clerk**

As the Clerk carried out the bulk of the work associated with the above objection, we have not incurred any costs at this time. We may however need to pay the consultant if the application is refused, and the applicant goes to appeal.

13.2 To receive any update on works to Old Hall, Coney Weston Road.

It was understood that the enforcement side of things are on hold as we believe the residents agent is in talks with West Suffolk Council planners in relation to formalising an application for works at the property.

13.3 DC/24/1210/FUL construction of a) four poultry breeder sheds, b) administration block, Cross Green Farm Hopton Road Thelnetham Suffolk.

The Parish Council had no comments to make regarding this application.

#### **14. Aggies Piece**

Peter Kerry has reported that some work had been done to the outside of Aggies, that had impacted the inside of Aggies. A tree had been pushed down, and other shrubs/ bushes pushed over/in. He has tidied this up.

There has been a report of some fly tipping in Green Lane. Cllr Chalmers will investigate this.

**Action Cllr Chalmers**

#### **15. Caretaker's Report**

In addition to my normal rounds this month I have hand-weeded the elevated path opposite the shop and trimmed the shrubs there with my shears. I also had to tackle the brambles overhanging the rear row of graves at the cemetery. I took my final bins-only week this month. The depositing of black bags of domestic waste in the litter bin opposite the pub is now becoming routine and I have started to find dog mess around the village for the first time in several years.

By the time of your meeting, I hope to have completed the handover to my successor as Village Caretaker. I would like to thank the Council and the Clerk for all the support I have received over the nearly nineteen years that you have employed me.

The Parish Council again thanked Steve Wilson for all his dedication and hard work over the years. They welcomed Dave Trigg and are confident that he will be an asset to the village.

#### **16. Play Area/Cricket Meadow**

16.1 To receive any update.

Once the new caretaker has settled into his new role, we will ask him to do a thorough inspection of both play areas and undertake any remedial repairs he is able to do.

**Action Clerk**

16.2 To discuss concerns raised over moles on the Cricket Meadow.

A resident had raised concerns about moles on the Cricket Meadow. On inspection it was not felt to be an issue at this time.

#### **17. Churchyard/Cemetery**

17.1 To receive an update on any cemetery matters.

No report this month.

17.2 to discuss works to chain around War Memorial

We have received a donation of £200 towards works to replace the chains and smarten up the area around the War Memorial. This donation is much appreciated. We will ask the new caretaker if he is able to carry out these works and have them completed in time for the Remembrance Day service.

**Action Clerk**

17.3 Arrangements for laying of Wreath at the Remembrance Day Service

It was agreed that we will make a donation, as last year, of £50 to the Royal British Legion. Cllr Chalmers will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

**Action Cllr Chalmers/Clerk**

#### **18. Biodiversity and Environment**

18.1 To receive any update.

The two local residents, who have previously expressed an interest in helping with the Wildlife Audit we are planning on undertaking next year, have signed themselves up for a Wildlife in the Community course, being run by Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The Parish Council appreciate this.

#### **19. Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda**

No additional reports this month.

## **20. Correspondence for Information**

No additional correspondence this month.

## **21. Date of Next Meeting**

Budget working party meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 7pm, via Zoom. Parish Council Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> November in Barningham Village Hall.

## **22. 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:**

22.1 Personnel Issues.

22.2 Legal Issues. None