

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 at 7:00pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs J Chalmers - Chair, R Baxter, S Baker, Y Martin, L Hebert & Suffolk County Council (SCC) J Spicer.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted by the Councillors from Cllrs C Hammond, N Martineau & West Suffolk District Council (WSDC) Cllr Bull.

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 received.

2.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act. N/A

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th June 2025 were agreed, approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Meeting Open to the Public

It is requested that this item does not exceed 16 minutes and that any member of the public does not speak for any longer than 4 minutes.

There were 10 members of the public present. They had come to the meeting to discuss the outline planning permission for land off Hopton Road. The Chair spoke to those present to inform them that the Parish Councils view on this application was much the same as their view on the previous application put forward for this site. As previously discussed the Parish Council would only support an application of 37 homes on this site. This application is an increase of over 50%. The residents present shared the Parish Councils concerns regarding the number of homes being proposed and the ability of local services, mainly health care and the existing road network being able to cope with the additional homes. Concerns were also raised about the Mill Road being referred to in the following manner: 'Mill Road operates as a shared surface and there is signage to warn motorists of this arrangement' Residents, from Mill Road have for many years raised concerns about traffic and pedestrians sharing this space.

The incorrect information in the latest travel plan that does not reflect the current situation.

The footpath link through Lingwood, does not link up to an existing footpath, as there is no footpath at the top of Lingwood close.

Concerns over the visibility on to Hopton Road from proposed development were raised.

Residents with concerns were encouraged to submit their comments directly to West Suffolk District Council via their website at planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications

The full objection from the Parish Council is shown under item 13.1.

5. Report from Suffolk County Councillor (SCC): J Spicer

Cllr Spicer met with the Cllr Chalmers and Andrew Moore, SCC Engineer, to discuss options for traffic calming in Hepworth Road. The Engineer felt that there might be an option to use an existing 30mph repeater sign, with an extension to mount a Speed Indicator Device (SID) on. This will be investigated further. In order for any traffic calming measures to be considered we would need to carry out a traffic/speed count. This would cost in the region of £700. There is a possibility that this cost could be shared. Cllr Spicer will look into this option and we will revisit this at a future meeting. Cllr Spicer noted that we were going to be giving an update on the buses later in the meeting but commented that Cllr Chalmers had been very active in collecting data and producing information that had proven to be helpful in the creation of a new, fit for purpose, timetable.

6. Report from West Suffolk District Councillor (WSDC): C Bull

Cllr Bull was unable to attend the meeting and sent her apologies.

7. Chairman's Reports

7.1 To receive any update from the Support our Buses project.

The Chair has done a lot of work to produce a timetable, for the 73A service, which is fit for purpose. This has been submitted to the bus operator for submission to SCC and the Traffic Commissioner. The new timetable should be in place for the start of the September 2025 term. The Chair and Clerk attended a meeting with Cenex, an organisation working with SCC looking at public transport in our area. They outlined concerns regarding older people accessing healthcare providers. A local resident recently had to pay £50 for a taxi to enable them to attend a healthcare appointment in the neighbouring village of Stanton. The issues of social isolation and enabling young people to become economically active was also raised.

7.2 To receive any report from the Parish and Town Forum.

The Chair and Clerk attended the Town and Parish Conference, hosted by West Suffolk District Council (WSDC), held in Newmarket recently. There was a talk about the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) the impression given was that WSDC favoured a model over three areas. We raised concerns about the impact that the reorganisation may have on Parish Council and the time and financial implications associated with the proposal. There was also a presentation on transport and funding that is available from Suffolk County Council. This funding is currently being used to support the 73 and 73A, following our successful bid. It was confirmed that this funding is being provided for another year. Under the devolution plans mentioned above, we may well be joined together with Norfolk moving forward. Cllr Chalmers thanked the presenter, Simon Barnet for all the help and support he has given so far regarding our bid for the 73 and 73A services.

7.2 To receive update on site meeting with SCC to discuss traffic calming options, Hepworth Road.

As discussed under item 5 the Chair met with Joanna Spicer and an engineer from SCC to discuss traffic calming measures for Hepworth Road. The next step is to arrange for a traffic survey to be carried out. The funding for this is under consideration and will be included on the next agenda.

8. Clerk's Report

8.1 To confirm defibrillator training with East Anglian Air Ambulance (EEAA)

The Chair has confirmed that we can use the pub for the defibrillator training and that this will take place on Saturday 27th September 10:00 – 11:00. This session will be open to the residents of the village and will be free of charge, although donations to the EEAA would be appreciated from anyone wishing to make one.

8.2 To receive report from SCC regarding damaged sign, Hepworth Road.

The Clerk has again reported the leaning 'Not suitable for HGV's' at the junction with Hepworth Road and the B1111. We have been informed that it does not meet SCC criteria for intervention, but SCC will continue to monitor it as part of their routine inspections.

8.3 To review and update Risk Assessment Document. (circulated)

The updated Risk Assessment Document was reviewed, agreed and adopted. The Councillors thanked Cllr Hebert and the Clerk for their work on this. **Action Clerk**

8.4 To discuss option to hold next Annual Parish meeting in March or April moving forward.

Traditionally we hold the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting on the same evening in May. The Annual Parish Meeting must be held between 1st March and 1st June. Following discussion it was agreed that we should move the Annual Parish Meeting to either March or April moving forward. This is to allow sufficient time at the Annual Parish Council meeting, which must be held in May, for all the items on the agenda to be transacted without running over time. **Action Clerk**

9 Finance

9.1 The following payments were approved:

Admin	Various	£444.21
Bin emptying	West Suffolk District Council	£53.00
Admin	Various	£1,762.50
Grass cutting	Countryside, conservation and tree services	£725.28

Cllr Baker carried out the review of the documents at the meeting.
The schedule of payments agreed and signed.

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

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

9.3 To note update to accounts information year end 31 March 2025.

There are two items in the July 2024 minutes that are incorrect. An amount for the SALC audit, is recorded again, after being in the June 2024 Minutes, and an amount for a box and lock was recorded but not paid until March 2025, where it was recorded again, at a slightly different (correct) amount.

In the August 2024 minutes we had incorrectly added up the administration. It was short by £73.17. due to a previously incorrect calculation for the pension contribution that was later rectified. The figures recorded for administration were incorrect in the October 2024 minutes. All these matters were addressed in the internal audit with SALC the correct amounts were submitted in the end of year figures with all accounts correct and balancing. The introduction of a schedule of payments, to be agreed and signed at each meeting will ensure this situation does not happen again in the future.

9.4 To confirm submission of AGAR to external Auditor and to note actions taken to meet Publication - Transparency Code requirements.

The Clerk has sent all the required documents to PKF Littlejohn, and all requirements under the Transparency code have been met, by uploading the required information to the Parish Council website.

10. Village Matters

10.1 To receive any update on VAS, to include update on purchase of new device.

We are still waiting for the device to be delivered. It was agreed that in future we would try and only place orders with companies that accept purchase orders. The Clerk will continue to chase up the delivery of this item.

Action Clerk

10.2 To note purchase of dog/litter bin for Sandy Lane Footpath.

It was agreed at the previous meeting that we would purchase a dog litter bin, from Broxap for £79.00 for the footpath at Sandy Lane. However it was discovered that the delivery cost would be £40, giving a total of £139. The Clerk has found a local company, Recycling Bins direct, who will deliver for free and are happy to arrange a purchase order. Although the cost of the bin is higher at £105.60, the overall cost of the bin will be less. The Clerk will order the bin, the caretaker has agreed to install it.

Action Caretaker/Clerk

10.3 To receive any report from Barningham Primary School.

No report received.

10.4 To receive any report from the Village Hall.

The Village Hall are meeting next week, so at this time there was no report to receive.

10.5 To receive any update on the Emergency Plan review. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the October meeting.
Action Cllrs Hebert/Martineau/Clerk

11. Disability Audit 11.1 To receive any update on progress.

Work is still being undertaken on the document with Cllrs Baker and Martin looking at options for potential tactile or large print notices. A meeting with the church is still to be arranged. The Clerk will make sure that Cllrs Baker and Martin have the contact details for the church to facilitate this.

Action Cllrs Baker/Martin/Clerk

12. Neighbourhood Plan 12.1 To receive any update
There was no update this month.

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

13.1 DC/25/0963/OUT | Outline planning application - (means of main vehicular access from Hopton Road to be considered) for up to 60 dwellings | Land South Of Hopton Road Barningham Suffolk

The Councillors discussed the above application and, taking in to account the concerns raised in the public forum, following further discussion it was agreed that we should submit the following

Objection:

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

- The site is allocated in Policy AP42 of the West Suffolk Local Plan which is recommended for adoption by West Suffolk Council when it meets on 15 July 2025. This application is proposing a near 50% increase in the number of dwellings from 37 to up to 60. This size of development would be contrary to the Local Plan and the District Council's assessed capacity for growth in Barningham. Paragraph 4.3.43 of the new Local Plan states "Each local service centre's capacity to support planned and additional growth has been carefully assessed according to its individual opportunities and constraints, resulting in a different apportionment of the overall district's future growth needs." The proposal would be contrary to that assessment. The density of the proposed development for up to 60 dwellings would be better suited to a more urban area. Barningham is a small rural settlement and this size of development could impact significantly on the character of the village.
- There have been a number of occasions recently where residents living opposite the proposed development site have experienced damage to their property from flooding due to runoff from the field. The flood risk assessment carried out by the applicant states that there will be increased surface runoff from the proposed development. The site currently comprises 100% permeable land which will not be the case following development. We are concerned that the proposed drainage systems will not be adequate particularly in the north eastern corner of the site and that the flooding issues will be exacerbated. Whilst the flood risk assessment front cover is dated February 2025 the general notes inside the document are dated July 2024. Given the increasing incidence of extreme weather we would expect potential developers to make greater efforts to use the most up to date information rather than reusing data previously submitted.
- We have concerns about the visibility splays, provision for dropped kerbs, pavement provision and ditch piping as highlighted in the previous application for this site. We note a holding objection was held previously by SCC until these matters were addressed. These issues do not seem to have been addressed in this application. Residents have expressed their concern about visibility for vehicles turning into and out of the proposed access. They

say that the visibility for the existing entrance into Lingwood Close is poor and another access close by will add to the difficulties they already experience.

- We note that the Travel Plan is dated January 25 but the information used was collected well before then. The bus situation changed significantly at the start of September 2024 and this has not been updated. There is reference to travel cards being offered as an incentive but it is not clear if this has been discussed with the new bus operator. The lack of attention to detail regarding public transport in this document is of particular concern.
- Residents have attended meetings and expressed a number of views to the Parish Council. These include concerns about the environment and the impact on the very varied and valuable flora and fauna of the site and its surroundings. There is a real worry about the capacity of the existing infrastructure to support this size of development, particularly when looked at in conjunction with a number of other proposals in the surrounding areas. The increase in traffic and the pressure on already overstretched doctors and other healthcare provision is of huge and justified concern. A development of up to 60 dwellings may well result in over 120 cars making at least 2 journeys a day along the B1111. This is a B road which has no footpath along it outside of the village and is not really suitable for cycling along for normal commuting purposes. Residents often express concerns regarding traffic, in particular speeding and the heavy and sizeable nature of agricultural vehicles. The applicant has mentioned Mill Road as a shared space for vehicles and pedestrians. This route has been discussed at Parish Council meetings for some years as residents often raise their concerns about the amount and type of vehicles using it. It has also been pointed out that Lingwood Road has no footpaths so this would not be shown as being a suitable pedestrian route for access to and from Hopton Road.
- Section 4 of the Planning Statement summarises the engagement carried out with the key stakeholders back in August 2024. It has a sub section describing a meeting held with the Headteacher of Barningham School which, it said, was broadly supportive of the application. There is no mention of the response from Barningham Parish Council although it does appear in section 4 of The Statement of Community Involvement. This response from the Parish Council raised a number of concerns regarding the consultation process. Despite this, the conclusion says, "The Applicant has undertaken a thorough process of pre-application engagement with the local community in Barningham" and that this has been "meaningful". There has been no engagement since August 2024, particularly in relation to the current proposal, and we would challenge the assertion that the consultation was meaningful.

13.2 DC/25/0865/HH | Householder planning application - detached cart lodge (following demolition of existing building) | Caius Cottage Bardwell Road Barningham Suffolk IP31 1DF. The Parish Council had **No Objection** to the above application.

13.1 DC/25/0723/HH Householder planning application & DC/25/0724/LB Application for listed building consent - a. single storey rear extension b. alterations to dwelling fenestration including insertion of 1no door to replace window to rear elevation, insert bifold doors to side elevation, and insert 1no Juliette balcony to first floor rear elevation c. internal alterations to second floor d. detached cart lodge e. 1.5 storey outbuilding (following demolition of existing outbuilding) f. alterations to access including hardstanding and new boundary wall and gate (following demolition of existing boundary wall) | Old Hall Coney Weston Road Barningham.

It was noted that this planning application has been **Withdrawn**. The Parish Council has been informed that the Planning Enforcement Team will be opening a further enforcement case as it

was understood that works have been carried out that may require planning permission. We will ask for a report from the enforcement team and continue to monitor the situation. **Action Clerk**

14. Aggies Piece, Biodiversity and Environment

14.1 To receive any report from the Biodiversity and Environment group.

Cllr Baxter has been speaking with Kathy Smith, from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWLT) as it is looking unlikely that the wetland project will proceed at this time as more input is required, from the Norfolk Rivers Trust (NRT). Cllr Baxter has tried to engage with the Officer from the NRT, who was heading up the project, but, despite many attempts, has been unsuccessful. SWT will try to engage with NRT regarding the project. It was agreed that, in order to retain our SWLT registration as a 'County Wildlife Site' the meadow needs to be cut and cleared. Cllr Baxter will try to find someone locally who can do this for us. A resident, who was at the meeting, and the Clerk will also see if they are able to find someone locally who might be able to help. **Action Cllr Baxter/ Clerk**

14.2 Carbon Footprint, to consider work to look at reducing our carbon footprint.

Cllr Baxter reported that West Suffolk Council declared a climate change and biodiversity emergency in 2019 and established a task force. The taskforce produced a road map of around 50 initiatives and each year publishes an environmental statement on progress. This includes carbon budgeting to measure progress. They feel that everyone has a responsibility to try and reduce their carbon footprint. It was agreed that as a Parish Council we should do what we can to reduce our carbon footprint. To this end Cllr Baxter would like the Councillors and Clerk to keep a record of hours worked, resources used and travel undertaken, for Parish business, so that that we can revisit in a years' time to see if we have managed a reduction in our carbon footprint. **Action All**

15. Caretaker's Report

15.1 To receive any update from the Caretaker.

The Caretaker provided a comprehensive report for June 2025 and the Councillors were pleased with all that he had accomplished.

It was asked if it would be possible for him to cut the vegetation, on the path opposite the shop, more regularly and if the sign at Aggie's could be oiled. A request to purchase a pressure washer was agreed up to the value of £150. Any purchase made will be ratified at the next meeting.

Action Caretaker

16. Play Area/Cricket Meadow

16.1 To receive any update.

The hedge on the Cricket Meadow will receive a hard cut back after September.

16.2 To note notifiable findings as a result of the recent Annual inspection of the Play Area.

There were a number of issues raised in the latest play area report. Some of these can be addressed by the Caretaker but there were some more complex matters, mainly regarding issues with the wooden posts and the wet pour surfacing. The Clerk will arrange to get some quotes, for the works that need to be done, and speak to the caretaker about the remedial works.

Action Clerk

17. Churchyard/Cemetery

17.2 To further agree arrangements for new bench as a memorial for the late Cythina Patel.

Mr Patel provided the Parish Council with information regarding the delivery and installation of the bench agreed at the last meeting. Mr Patel intends to install it approximately 12 m along from the existing newly refurbished wooden bench. This will place it in direct line of sight with his mum's grave. It will be anchored to the ground to prevent it blowing over. No concrete work is required. He expects installation to take place on 12th July. The Parish Council were happy with and approved these plans. The Clerk will contact Mr Patel to let him know this. In addition it was asked that Mr Patel lets the Clerk know once the work has been done.

Action Clerk

The Lychgate hedge will be cut at the end July-August, after the birds have finished nesting. The contractor will be asked to wait until September if at all possible.

Action Clerk

18. Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda

Cllr Baxter reminded those present that she is hosting a drop in session for the Barningham Conservation Group, which is looking for volunteers, with a love of the countryside to form a group, aiming to protect and enhance the natural environment in our village. This would involve mapping of ancient trees, hedgerows, and other plants / habitats / wildlife which we value, as well as maintenance and enhancement of our green spaces. The drop in will be held in the village hall on Saturday 26th July, 10-30 a.m. – 11.30 am. **Action Cllr Baxter**

The Strategic Employment Area Masterplan for land of the A143 at Shepherds Grove, Stanton and Hepworth has been received and circulated and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Action Clerk

A resident has contacted the Clerk regarding an issue with dead rats in the passage way from Hopton Road to the play area, and potentially in the play area. The Clerk has reported this matter to West Suffolk District Council and they have come back to say this is a matter for Havebury Housing and they have passed it on to them. The Caretaker has checked for rats in the play area, and was unable to find any, he will continue to keep an eye on the matter. **Action Caretaker**

19. Correspondence for Information

19.1 SCC One Suffolk proposals. intention to attend SCC LGR briefing.

The Clerk will attend the SCC briefing on the Local Government Re-organisation on Monday 7th July. 7-8pm. **Action Clerk**

19.2 East Suffolk NHS, The Future of Urgent Health and Care Services

There is currently a survey on the Future of Urgent Health and Care Services in our area. Urgent care is for an illness or injury that needs attention quickly but is not a life-threatening situation. Services that deliver urgent care include NHS 111, and the follow up services people are directed to, such as urgent treatment centres, GPs both in-hours and out-of-hours, dentists and pharmacies. The Clerk will send out the information to Councillors to consider. **Action Clerk**

20.Date of Next Meeting. Wednesday 6th August 2025, 7.00pm Barningham Village Hall

21.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:

21.1 Personnel Issues. None. 21.2 Legal Issues. None.