

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received, and the reason given accepted and approved by the Councillors from: Cllrs S Knight, T Bayliss & N Martineau.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026, were agreed, approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Meeting Open to the Public. 2 Members of the public present.

Bobby Baxter came to the meeting to give an update on the Conservations Groups activities. The group has met again and they have been looking at areas of grass in the village that could be left long, to encourage wildlife. They have contacted WSDC for advice, they are still waiting for a response. Cllr Bull will chase this up. The group is planning a day at Aggies Piece on 26<sup>th</sup> September, to carry out some works. The Chair thanked Bobby Baxter for organising for the meadow, at Aggies Piece, to be cut.

A complaint has been received regarding antisocial behaviour at Lychgate Cemetery. It has been reported that ball bearings are being fired into the cemetery, resulting in the death of birds, with ball bearings being found in a neighbouring gazebo. The Clerk advised the resident to report the matter to the police. The Parish Council will also bring the incident to the police's attention. The Village Caretaker will be asked to visit the cemetery and look for and remove any deceased birds.

**Action Clerk/Caretaker**

5. Report from Suffolk County Councillor (SCC): H Richardson

To receive any update on A143 roadworks.

The A143 Resilience Group met with Officers from SCC Highways, they will be meeting again in October. The road is going to be closed again, overnight tomorrow, for some final works to be carried out. There were doubts, from the Councillors, that this would permanently resolve the issues. Cllr Richardson met with the Chair, Clerk, Cllr Hebert and Andrew Moore from SCC Highways to look at some issues in the village. For a full report see under item 7.2. Cllr Richardson reported that SCC have produced a Vision Statement, which he will share when he is able.

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

Cllr Bull reported that the annual WSDC call for sites is now closed. This year some 328 sites have been put forward. WSDC will now look at all the sites, removing those that don't meet criteria, before carrying out a formal consultation in the future. Central Government has increased the number of homes WSDC need to provide. It was understood that the applicant, for works at Old Hall, has addressed some of the concerns raised by the Conservation Officer and the Parish Council. We will wait and see what happens. There are changes to some of the policies in the the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) This means household planning applications, under ten properties will be determined by officers only. We will need to make sure that any responses we make to the Planning Department are detailed. There will be some training on this, hosted by WSDC to help us understand these changes. We will make sure that we attend these training sessions. The current Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) is under review. Cllr Bull will continue to keep us updated on this.

## 7. Chairman's Reports

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

I attended a meeting of the bus group in August. We were joined by Simon from SCC Transport. He confirmed that the funding for both the 73 and 73a will continue for the next two years. He believes that although they are not financially self-sufficient there is enough usage to justify the subsidy. We then discussed the possibility of a Saturday service and looked at a number of ways this could be provided: shuttles linking up with the 70 route or just the 73 route extending to Saturday. Simon will discuss this further with the operator and try to find some funding, I am cautiously optimistic. It was a positive meeting and Simon expressed his thanks for the very productive working relationship between ourselves and SCC. There has been a considerable price increase from £4 to £6.30 a day for students using the 73A service.

7.2 To note report on site visit with SCC Highways engineer A Moore and SCCC H Richardson. Cllr Hebert, the Clerk, myself and SCC Cllr Richardson met with Andy Moore the Highways Engineer. We looked around the village at various sites. The report has been circulated. The speed signage in Hepworth Road is something we can proceed with providing it can be funded. I am proposing that we include this in our budget for next year. This work, previously suggested by includes some dragons teeth and some 30 roundels being painted on the road. Despite our best efforts we have been unable to find a suitable location to mount a Speed Indicator Device (SID) The works to Coney Weston Road would be highly unlikely to meet criteria for an extension of the 30mph zone. Bardwell Road, Andrew Moore will keep on top of the maintenance of the outfall in the ditch , and when we have a more of a substantial rain fall, he will check how the new pipe that has been fitted , and with how it moves the water from ditch to ditch.

### 7. 3 To receive feedback on WSDC Parish and Town Forum

The Clerk and I attended the Parish and Town Forum. There was information about Local Government Reorganisation and a presentation from Barley Homes. There was no new information gathered from the meeting.

## 8. Clerk's Report

### 8.1 To note Clerks pay increase.

It was noted that an agreement has been reached, by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) on the 2026-27 pay settlement. A 3.3% increase in pay was agreed, for both the Clerk and Caretaker. This was approved by the councillors and will be backdated for the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

### 8.2 To note correspondence with Havebury housing.

The Clerk has been in correspondence with a local resident and Havebury Housing over an issue involving a fence. This has now been handed to Havebury to deal with.

## 9. Finance/Compliance

### 9.1 To approve/note the following:

|                       |         |                                             |            |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------|------------|
| Clothing bank         | Receipt | Alford Storage                              | £21.00     |
| Clothing bank         | Receipt | Alford Storage                              | £10.00     |
| A Butcher             | Receipt | Armstrongs Funeral                          | £500.00    |
| Grass cutting         | Payment | Countryside, conservation and tree services | -£761.54   |
| Admin-salary 2 months | Payment | Various                                     | -£4,720.73 |
| External Audit        | Payment | PKF Littlejohn                              | -£378.00   |
| Grass cutting         | Payment | CCTS                                        | -£703.27   |

9.2 Bank reconciliation, budget report - To consider six months position, and schedule of payments.

The above documents were reviewed by all Councillors. The bank reconciliation and schedule of payments were checked at the meeting by Cllr Martin, and the Chair approved the schedule of payments.

The budget report was also reviewed, with several items identified for consideration at the next meeting and inclusion in the 2027 budget. These included servicing of the Church Clock and the necessary repairs/replacement of items within the children's play area.

9.3 To review, agree and/or adopt the following:

The following documents were reviewed and, where necessary, updated. Existing documents were agreed, and new documents were approved and adopted.

9.3 (i) Risk Assessment. Reviewed, updated and agreed.

9.3 (ii) Extended Risk Assessment. Reviewed, updated and agreed.

9.3 (iii) Reserves Policy. Reviewed and updated.

9.3 (iv) Internal Audit Control. Reviewed and updated.

9.3 (v) Training Policy. Approved and adopted.

9.3 (vi) Performance Review document. Approved and adopted.

9.4 To note conclusion of Audit.

It was noted that PKF Littlejohn have concluded the audit for Barningham Parish Council, with no matters of concern. The relevant notice has been displayed.

10. Village Matters

10.1 To receive any Highways update.

See under item 7.2 Chairs report.

10.2 To receive Traffic Data update.

The Speed Indicator Device (SID) which records data has been moved from Pound Corner to Church Road as requested at the last meeting. The data does not support reports of speeding in Church Road. There has been a request to place a SID in Bardwell Road but this cannot be done until the hedge around the post has been cut back. The Clerk will write to the resident.

**Action Clerk**

10.3 Church Clock, to note issues raised and discuss requirement for service.

The Church Clock has not been serviced for some time. The emergency stop switch, on the quarter hour winder, is occasionally activated and it shouldn't be and the bells occasionally miss the quarter hour chime. The Clerk will arrange for the horologist to visit and carry out a service. We will make sure that local resident, Adam Baxter is available when the horologist visits to facilitate the visit.

**Action Clerk**

11. Barningham Neighbourhood Plan

11.1 To note date of Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) Referendum - 10 September 2026.

The NHP referendum. This is taking place on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Voting cards have been sent to all eligible residents. The Chair have posted information about the NHP referendum on the PC Facebook page and shared it onto the Community page. She has also responded to the messages received. An email asking for councillors' thoughts about raising awareness was also sent. The Chair has loaned out one of the hard copies of the plan and shared the other copy with a number of residents. She has tried to make clear what the purpose of the plan is and that this is the final step. The Chair is going to observe the opening of the postal votes during the day in Bury and the count of the other votes at 10pm, in the village hall. There were some concerns raised over postal votes, and the reliability of the postal service. Cllr Bull will make enquiries about this.

**Action Chair/Cllr Bull**

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

12.1 DC/26/176/FUL - one self-build dwelling, Land Adjacent 1 Hopton Road Barningham.

The Parish Council had no objections to this application.

12.2 Appeal 6010638 DC/25/0963/OUT Land South Of Hopton Road Barningham. Outline planning application - (means of main vehicular access from Hopton Road to be considered) for up to 60 dwellings.

The applicant for the plot of land on Hopton Road has lodged an appeal. There is no date for the hearing yet but the deadline for representations is 17 September. Our previous comments will go forward but the Chair would like to write another letter reinforcing our concerns about the number of dwellings. She intends to focus on the developers need to use land outside of the plot to meet the requirements for drainage and the resulting density of the development as she believes this is our strongest argument. The Councillors agreed with the Chairs proposal. **Action Chair**

12.3 Consultation Jaynic -land at Shepherds Grove, information circulated.

The parish Council felt that they had no comments to make at this time.

12.4 To note changes to NPPF, information circulated.

The Government published a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on 17 August 2026. The new Framework introduces a revised structure for plan-making and decision-making policies and replaces earlier versions of the NPPF. These policies now apply for the preparation of Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and for decision taking. The plan for Barningham, due to go to referendum on the 10<sup>th</sup> September, will not be affected by these changes. However In preparing the new Local Plan, West Suffolk may (or may not) identify additional requirements over and above the 37 and may, or may not, leave that new number to be identified by a revised NP.

13. Aggies Piece, Biodiversity and Environment. To receive any updates

See under item 4, meeting open to the public.

14 Caretaker's Report.

14.1 To receive any update from the Caretaker.

The Caretake continues to work hard in the village and has added a shake test to his regular schedule. Please see below.

15 Play Area/Cricket Meadow: To receive any updates, to include:

15.1 To discuss works to play area, to include quote received and application for funding.

The Clerk and the Chair met with an officer from WSDC to look at the swings and wet pour in the playground. He highlighted an issue with the wet pour under the roundabout and recommended that the swings are checked weekly. The caretaker is now carrying out a 'shake test' every week.

The Clerk will contact WSDC to see how long we should continue with this before removing the swings from use. Following on from this we met with a representative from a play equipment company. He has provided a quote to replace the wet pour and the swings. A decision is needed

on how to proceed as it is likely that the swings will have to be removed from use very soon. A decision was made to go ahead with the works to the wet pour and swings. Quotes are currently being gathered from Sovereign Playgrounds, Wicksteed and ESP Playgrounds. To take advantage of a grant received from WSDC and in light of the visit and advice from WSDC, it was agreed that we should go ahead with the most competitive quote, for the wet pour and swings.

The Clerk and Chair will make this decision and report back to the Councillors. In addition to the funding received from WSDC the Clerk is completing an application for funding from The National Lottery Community Fund. Further details will be provided at the next meeting. **Action chair/Clerk**

16. Churchyard/Cemetery.

16.1 To note burial request and permission given for the late M Butcher.

16.2 To note requests, and approval of memorial, for the late B Lodge.

Whilst checking the plot available for the next burial it was noted that at least two of the graves have extended out past their allocated space. The regulations clearly allow for memorials up to 12" in front of the headstones but there are some plots which extend much further out. Whilst this is manageable at the moment when the next row comes into use this will make keeping the grass cut difficult. This is something we need to be aware of.

17. Correspondence for Discussion/Information

No additional correspondence received for discussion.

18. Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda, to include:

18.1 Grass Cutting Tender.

18.2 Emergency Plan. Emergency Plan. Cllr Hebert, Chalmers & the Clerk are working on the plan. We are in the process of checking details of contacts and other information. All Councillors will be named in the plan and allocated specific areas in the village to coordinate in the event of an emergency. We will bring the plan forward once all of the details are complete.

18.3 Disability Audit, this will be discussed at the November meeting.

18.4 Housing Needs Survey (HNS)

18.5 Internal Audit Control. October meeting.

19. Date of Next Meeting. Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2026, 7.00pm  
Barningham Village Hall

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.