

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at 7:00pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs J Chalmers - Chair, S Baker, L Hebert, C Hammond, Y Martin, N Martineau, Suffolk County Council (SCC) Cllr J Spicer & West Suffolk District Council (WSDC) Cllr Bull.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted by the Councillors from Cllrs R Baxter.

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 6th August 2025 were agreed, approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Meeting Open to the Public 1 member of the public present.

A resident came to the meeting to hear any updates on the traffic calming measures, currently under discussion, for Hepworth Road. We are waiting for Cllr Spicer to set up a speed survey, this work needs to be done before any decision can be made regarding the installation of any traffic calming measures. Cllr Spicer will speak to Hepworth Parish Council, to see if they would be willing to contribute to the survey as it was considered that any data collected could be useful regarding the potential impact of any development at Shepherds Grove. The Councillors agreed to commit to a contribution of up to £400 towards the costs of the survey. Hopefully this amount will be less if Hepworth Parish Council were able to make a contribution. Cllr Spicer said she would contribute half the costs of the survey.

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

A meeting to discuss the clearing of a ditch in Bardwell Road, with the landowner and an Engineer from SCC, is being organised. The Clerk will keep Cllr Spicer updated on this matter.

Action Clerk

It was agreed that, following further discussion, it would be very difficult to get up to a high speed on the section of road before the bridge, on Coney Weston Road and as such we would not be pursuing options for traffic calming in the location at this time.

It was noted that the A143 from Stanton to Ixworth has been resurfaced, we are still waiting for the lines to be re-painted. Low Street, in Bardwell is open again to traffic. It may need to be closed again in the future when the cottages, destroyed in the fire, are rebuilt. There have been some issues with the school bus, It is hoped that these are just new term teething issues and they will be sorted out soon. It was noted that we have not received any feedback from the work carried out by Cenex, who were doing work on local transport issue. The Parish Council would still like to look at an option for a Saturday bus service. The full business case for One Suffolk will be published ahead of a final decision and approval by County Council's Cabinet on 16 September.

Submission, once approved will sent to Central Government by 26 September 2025. The proposal will see all of Suffolk's six councils abolished and replaced with one new unitary council - which would deliver both local and county-wide services. There is an alternative proposal from the districts and borough councils, to split Suffolk into three arbitrary council areas. Government Ministers will be deciding later this year which proposals to put out to public consultation, before making their final decision in early 2026.

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

West Suffolk District Councils are now debating and finalizing their proposal to meet the Government's deadline of 26th September 2025, for a unitary council. The Case for Change plans, to revolutionise Suffolk council services, will be published on the 15th September. Improvements at the Tollgate Triangle gyratory in Bury St Edmunds are due to commence at the end of September and are planned to finish in May 2026. The reduction of the footpath width to 1.2m, at the proposed development in Barningham Road, Stanton Chare was refused. The remaining footpath improvements to the western side of Barningham Road and the additional of a footpath to the eastern side of Barningham Road will remain as approved at appeal as 1.8 metres. The proposals, for land off the A143 Bury Road in Stanton, has been granted approval by West Suffolk Council's development control committee. The application had come back before the committee following a decision last month to take further time to address concerns. Local residents, and members Barningham Parish Council expressed concerns about the increase of the traffic this development will bring.

7. Chairman's Reports

7.1 To receive any update from the Support our Buses project. The new timetable for the 73a starts this week. It has been advertised through Facebook. Although it has had some teething problems we hope that it will meet the student's needs.

7.2 A letter has been received from Suffolk WI. Cllr Chalmers mentioned to B Last who ran WI here previously, she is doubtful that the village would have sufficient numbers but suggested that the details of the Parish Mag are passed on so they put something in if they wish to do so. We will include a piece on Barningham PC Facebook page. **Action Chair/Clerk**

7.3 Another comment was received on Facebook from Hepworth Rd, regarding concerns over traffic speed. The Chair explained that a traffic survey is in hand. The Chair pointed the resident to minutes on website and invited them to attend the PC meeting, where further information could be found.

7.4 The ditch next to Bramble Cottage is overgrown. The owner has been contacted and they are considering piping it. As mentioned under item 6 a site meeting to discuss the issue is being arranged. **Action Chair/Clerk**

7.5 The Defibrillator Training has been confirmed with pub and advertised on Facebook. We have received a positive response so far. Posters, advertising the event, will go up this week.

7.6 Two messages were received via Facebook Messenger. One asking about noise in the village over the bank holiday weekend and another complaining about noise from pub.

8. Clerk's Report

8.1 To confirm intention to attend WSDC briefing on the Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) The Clerk and Chair will attend the WSDC LGR workshop on Thursday 4th September in Bury St Edmunds.

8.1.1 Clarity on SAPPP 2025 Practitioners Guide Assertion 10 training.

The Clerk will attend the session looking at the key updates in the 2025 edition of the Smaller Authorities Practitioners' Guide (SAPPP) with a focus on Assertion 10 of the Annual Governance Statement on how it now extends to councils' IT governance and data integrity.

8.2 Request to attend Writing Grant Applications and Sourcing Funding training.

The Clerk would like to attend the above training session, the fee for this is £36.00. The Council were happy for the Clerk to attend this training. The Clerk also intends to join a free planning seminar in September. **Action Clerk**

8.3 To agree and adopt:

(i) Safeguarding Policy. Following discussions this document was agreed and adopted. The Clerk will attend some Safeguarding training when it becomes available. **Action Clerk**

8.4 To receive feedback from SCC Highways Self Help session, including information about equipment purchase.

The Clerk attended the recent SCC Highways self-help training and was reminded that SCC could pay for equipment, used by members under the scheme. We are in the process of purchasing a portable jet washer, for various cleaning around the village and the Clerk is making enquiries to see if this, and any other equipment we might want to purchase, is eligible for funding.

Action Clerk

8.5 To receive update on application for a bus stop in the village.

The Clerk has submitted an application for funding to SCC, for both a bus shelter, and bench. We are yet to confirm with the pub if this is acceptable.

9 Finance 9.1 To consider the following payments/note receipt:

Grass cutting	Payment	CCTS	-£785.28
Admin-Salary	Payment	Various	-£2,043.42
new bin	Payment	Office Needs Direct	-£126.72
Expenses	Payment	Clerk	-£106.81
Grant SID	Receipt	SCC	£2,000.00

Cllr Martin carried out the review of the documents/accounts at the meeting.

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. The Chair signed the agreed schedule of payments.

9.3 To note request for information, PKF Littlejohn.

A request for clarification on the explanation of variances was received from PKF Littlejohn. The Clerk provided the additional clarification required. We still have not received the completed accounts back from the external auditor. We have until 30th September to advertise the notification of conclusion of audit.

10. Village Matters

10.1 To receive any update on Speed Indicator Device (SID).

The new SID is up and running. Traffic data has been published. The batteries on the old device are not lasting very well. It was agreed that we would need to purchase some replacement batteries. Malcolm Chalmers will confirm requirements with the Clerk.

Action Clerk

10.2 To receive update on dog/litter bin for Sandy Lane Footpath.

The bin was collected by Cllr Chalmers from the supplier. It is larger than we anticipated. The Caretaker will swap it with a smaller bin.

Action Caretaker

10.3 To receive request to use Parish Council maps for publication.

A formal request for permission to publish photographs of a map deposited in the collection of Suffolk Archives that belongs to Barningham Parish Council: EG565/4/7 (Barningham Inclosure Map, 1798) has been received. The Parish Council were happy to grant this permission and would be interested in seeing the finished document once it has been published.

Action Clerk

10.4 To receive any report from the Village Hall.

The tea party, to commemorate VJ Day was a jolly occasion and a lovely event. Local resident Mike Millet provided a very interesting display. There was a Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on VJ Day.

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

Cllrs Baker and Martin are still to meet with the Churchwarden to discuss access at the church. Once this work is done the document should be ready to be signed off.

Action Cllrs Baker and Martin

12. Neighbourhood Plan

12.1 (i) To note the comments received, following our consultation, (ii) to agree the responses, (iii) to approve the proposed modifications.

The comments received were noted, the responses and proposed modifications, as prepared by our Consultant were agreed.

12.2 Following the agreement of the above points it was agreed to approve the submission of the Plan, as amended, to West Suffolk Council together with all the necessary documents including the Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement. The Clerk will communicate this information to the Consultant so he can progress the plan. **Action Clerk**

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

13.1 To note DC/25/0724/LB Old Hall Coney Weston Road has been Withdrawn / abandoned. Cllr Bull confirmed that discussions were ongoing with West Suffolk Council Enforcement and Planning teams and we will continue to monitor the situation.

13.2 To receive any update on DC/24/1105/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.

It was noted that comments have been received from the WSDC planning policy team, who do not support the number of houses being proposed, stating 'Whilst an increase to 37 homes may be possible on site provided all other policy requirements and policies are met, it is considered the provision of 60 homes is not appropriate'.

13.3 **DC/25/0865/HH** | Householder planning application - detached cart lodge (following demolition of existing building) Bardwell Road. It was noted that WSDC have approved this application.

14. Aggies Piece, Biodiversity and Environment

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

Cllr Baxter was unable to attend the meeting but informed the Council that she has emailed the conservation volunteers and suggested sat 4/10 or 25/10 for possible volunteer event for surveying.

14.2 To receive request from WSDC inquiring what we are doing to reduce carbon emissions. West Suffolk District Council are keen to hear what our own council are doing to reduce carbon emissions. It was noted that Councillors car share to Council events and use electronic devices, rather than printing out documents, where possible. Cllr Baker will look further at the 'No Idling' scheme, promoted by WSDC. **Action Cllr Baker/All**

14.3 Getting your message across - Free webinar by Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

It was noted that was available to watch online.

15. Caretaker's Report. 15.1 To receive any update from the Caretaker.

The Caretaker continues to work hard for the village. As mentioned previously funding may be available towards the jet washer agreed at the last meeting and other equipment we use. The Clerk will continue to pursue this. The caretaker will be asked to cut back the area by the raised path, opposite the shop. **Action Caretaker/Clerk**

16. Play Area/Cricket Meadow

16.1 To receive any update.

No additional report this month..

16.2 To discuss options for repairs to play equipment in Children's play area.

The Chair and the Clerk met with Peter Kerry to discuss repairs to equipment in the play area. We are currently waiting for a quote for these works. It was agreed that we will have to look at works

to the play area and consider the replacement of some structures in the future. We will ensure that this matter is included in the budget discussion at the October meeting. **Action Clerk**

16.3 To discuss no BBQ and Fire signage for Aggies Piece and the Cricket Meadow.

The Clerk has obtained some quotes for signage. It was agreed to go ahead with the purchase of four sets of signage at £4.79 each. **Action Clerk**

17. Churchyard/Cemetery. 17.1 To receive any update.

17.2 To receive a request to alter a name on the War Memorial.

Luxstone Stonemasons in Sudbury have contacted the Clerk to say they have been contacted by Mr Chris Kitson regarding his father's name on the war memorial in Barningham Churchyard. The name on the memorial reads W F Kitson and unfortunately this should read W S Kitson (Walter Stanley). The Clerk has been provided with evidence, from both Mr C Kitson and records held locally and it is confirmed that this is indeed an error. The Parish Council were happy for this mistake to be rectified. The Clerk will let the stonemason know that permission has been granted and we are hopeful that the works can be carried out before the November Remembrance Service. **Action Clerk**

18. Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda

There is some Emergency plan, rest centre training at Honington and Sapiston Village Hall on 23rd October, from 6-9pm. The Clerk, Cllrs Chalmers, Hebert and Martineau would like to attend if they are able. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

Action Cllrs Chalmers, Hebert, Martineau & Clerk

19. Correspondence for Information

19.1 West Suffolk Parish and Town Forum – 21 October 2025 at West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds. The Chair and Clerk intend to attend this event. **Action Chair/Clerk**

19.2 Domestic energy efficiency upgrades, WSDC. Circulated.

20.Date of Next Meeting. Wednesday 1st October 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.

8.45pm meeting closed.