

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 7:00pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs J Chalmers, C Hammond, Y Martin, L Hebert, R Baxter & S Baker & SCC Cllr J Spicer.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted by the Councillors from Cllr N Martineau and 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.

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 6th November 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 (SCC) Councillor: J Spicer

Cllr Spicer has sent the Clerk information about the best way to get permission for a grit bin in Bardwell Road. The Clerk reapplied, but permission was still denied. The reason for refusing the bin was given that the location did not meet SCC criteria. One of the reasons we did not meet criteria was because there had not been any accidents recorded in that location. The Parish Council felt that, by placing a grit bin in this location, we are being proactive in trying to avoid accidents there in the future. The experience of last winter, with the road flooding and then freezing, led to some dangerous road conditions and the Parish Council would like to do what they can to limit any incidents. The Clerk will contact SCC again and explain our reason for wanting a bin in this location. A query was raised about Bardwell Road being gritted as it is currently a bus route for the temporary service. The Clerk will look into this. The gateway for Bardwell Road is still under discussion, with doubt about the suitability of the location previously identified. **Action Clerk** Cllr Spicer thanked Cllr Chalmers and the Clerk for all the extra work they have done to submit the application for the bus bid at such short notice. Cllr Spicer reported that the bridge repair works have begun again at Stowlangtoft.

6. Report from West Suffolk Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following information.

The brown bin at the Cemetery is no longer being emptied. This is because they no longer provide a free service for Churches. It was agreed that the Parish Council should fund a brown bin, as a majority of the green waste generated there is from the cemetery. The cost is currently £50 per annum. The Clerk will liaise with the Church and make arrangements for the invoice to be sent to the Parish Council for payment. **Action Clerk**

There has been an increase in Fly-tipping in the village, and the Parish Council have been approached to ask for our support to pursue a prosecution. The Parish Council are happy to support any prosecution for fly-tipping in the village. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Bull is chasing up again, enforcement re the works at Old Hall. **Action Cllr Bull**

7. Chairman's Reports

7.1 To receive any update on status of application for funding for threatened bus service. The application for funding has been submitted and we are hopeful that our application will be looked on favourably. We are still concerned about the implications for both students and residents if the bid is unsuccessful. Cllr Chalmers will be attending the next meeting of the Save our Buses Taskforce on Friday 6th December and will report back at the next meeting.

8. Clerk's Report

8.1 To consider adoption of Grant Policy for the Parish Council.

The Clerk has done some work on the Grant Policy and shared it with Cllr Hebert. He has suggested a couple of changes. These include adding in a statement about any grant being used for lawful purposes only and including a timeline of completion of expenditure of 12 months. Cllr Hebert will make these changes, and the document will be shared ahead of adoption at the next meeting.

Action Cllr Hebert/Clerk

8.2 To note attendance and receive any feedback from SCC Winter Maintenance forum and SALC Trustee training.

SCC Winter Maintenance forum. It was noted that SCC highways look at road temperatures, not air temperatures to decide when to grit. Roads can often be a lower temperature than the air and this is why you sometimes see the gritters out, but the weather forecast is not predicting freezing weather. It was further noted that SCC grit all A and B roads and in addition roads that support a 5 day a week bus services where practicable.

SALC Sole Trustee training.

This was a very helpful and informative training. It may prove useful if we ever find ourselves in the position of having to have to take over from a charity, i.e. the Village Hall.

8.3 To note report of vandalism/graffiti at the Church.

There has been some vandalism at the Church. Some graffiti has been drawn on the church wall. The incident was reported to Suffolk Police and an appeal for CCTV or sightings via the community FB page was made. Lots of people were upset by it but no one came forward with information. The Community and Rural Policing Unit have been in contact, and they will add it to their rounds and have noted the incident.

8.4 To receive update on Tree survey/TPO advice.

Cllr Bull and the Clerk had a Teams meeting with Daniel Gospel, Arboricultural Officer from West Suffolk Council, to discuss the criteria for Tree Protection Orders (TPO's). This was a helpful session and the Clerk will share the information regarding criteria for listing trees for possible TPO's with Cllr Baxter and the residents in the village who are going to help with the wildlife audit in the new year. We were advised that further helpful information can be found on the West Suffolk Council website, by using the TEMPO template and through the Suffolk Tree Warden Network website. **Action Cllr Baxter/Clerk**

9. Finance

9.1 The following accounts were approved for payment, and receipts noted.

| Description | Type | Supplier / customer | Total |
|------------------------------|---------|----------------------|-----------|
| Wreath/Donation | Payment | Royal British Legion | £50.00 |
| Administration | Payment | Various | £2,369.96 |
| War memorial refurb | Payment | Dave Trigg | £73.68 |
| Cemetery management training | Payment | SALC | £42.00 |
| interest | Receipt | Barclays | £114.48 |
| ditch work % | Receipt | R Baxter | £175.00 |
| Clothing bank | Receipt | Alford Storage | £3.00 |
| Defibrillator support | Payment | Community Heartbeat | £162.00 |
| Hedge & Aggies | Payment | CCTC | £630.00 |

Cllr Hammond carried out the additional accounts check 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

10.1 To receive any update on VAS.

The traffic data is now being shared on Facebook regularly and, although it shows there are some drivers who are exceeding the speed limit, it shows a majority of drivers do not.

10.2 To discuss works to the bench at Bishops Croft entrance.

The concrete base has now been completed and the bench is now installed. We thanked Peter Kerry for completing this work, at no cost to the Parish Council.

10.3 To discuss works to hedge, opposite the shop, Church Road.

The contractor did cut the hedge down opposite the shop but left the brambles. It would appear that this need cutting from the other side of the fence, as removing them could have potentially damaged the fence. The Clerk has put the contractor in contact with the neighbour, and they will make arrangements to complete these works between them.

10.4 To receive any report from the Village Hall.

There is a festive Coffee Morning planned for this Saturday, between 10:30am and 12.30pm, all are welcome to attend. The Coffee Caravan continues to be a success with 14 people coming along to the last session. Many people have benefited from their visits, and we are very pleased that this resource is a regular visitor to the village. It will return to the village next in January.

10.5 To discuss option for a Village Maintenance Allowance.

It was agreed that we would have a pre-agreed contingency budget, of up to £2,000, to carry out ad hoc maintenance works in the village. The Clerk will liaise with the Chairman regarding any works that might need to be undertaken, as a matter of urgency and will not necessarily be able to wait for approval at a meeting. All in agreement.

10.6 To discuss option for new Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS post) Hepworth Road.

The Clerk is sending letters to the residents, of Hepworth Road, who could potentially be affected by the placement of a new post for the VAS. If we receive any objections SCC will not grant permission for the post to be erected. Cllr R Baxter kindly agreed to hand deliver the letters.

Action Cllr R Baxter/Clerk

10.7 To receive any update on grit bin for Bardwell Road.

See under item 5.

10.8 To note damaged tree, B1111.

A large branch came down in the recent winds on the B1111 and there are concerns that the tree it came from might be unsafe. The Clerk reported the tree to SCC, who have ordered the works to have it looked at, this will be carried out within the next 14 weeks. Someone moved the branch out of the road and put it on the verge at Millfields. There was some confusion over whose land the branch was on, as this area is part SCC land and part WSC land, and therefore who was responsible for having it removed. With this in mind, the Clerk has also been in contact with WSC, and they had said if the branch was still there next week, they will arrange to have it removed. It would appear that, at the time of the meeting the branch has been removed. The Clerk will let WSC know this.

Action Clerk

10.9 To receive report from Barningham Primary School.

The Clerk has been in contact with the headteacher, but no report was received this month.

11. Disability Audit

11.1 To receive any update on progress.

Cllrs Baker and Martin having been doing some work around putting together a Disability Audit for the village. It was recognised that as we live in a rural area there are certain areas that we could not make fully accessible, for instance Aggies Piece. However, there are things we can do to help in other areas, for instance keeping the grass short at the lawn Cemetery. It was felt that access to the Church could possibly be improved, and once the report is complete this is something that could be discussed with the Church. The Village Hall did not seem to pose any major access issues, and it was understood that the shop has their own arrangements in place to aid access. It

was unclear if the bell, that was at the shop, to alert staff to the fact that someone needs help, is still operational. It was unknown if access to the pub poses a problem, some enquiries will be made around this. The footpath in Sandy Lane currently poses a problem re access and this is something the Parish Council will work on. Cllrs Baker and Martin will continue to work on the document and report back at the next meeting.

Action Cllrs Baker/Martin

12. Neighbourhood Plan

12.1 To receive any update.

The Consultant and the Clerk have submitted a request for further funding to Locality UK for £1095. This should hopefully be enough to complete the project.

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

None received.

14. Aggies Piece

14.1 To receive any update on fly-tipping at Aggies Piece.

Following the recent spate of fly-tipping, the Clerk has been in contact with local farmer, John Wallace about having a lockable gate at the track (Green Lane) adjacent to Aggies. In principle he is in favour, although he would not be able to fund the project. It was suggested a single bar gate may be sufficient to stop vehicles accessing Green Lane to dump rubbish. The Clerk will check if Green Lane is a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) and if such there are any restrictions on having a locked barrier there. If having a lockable gate there is an option, the Clerk will seek a quote for the work.

The Councillors asked that the Clerk thank Peter Kerry for the work he has been doing at Aggies Piece, in particular the work he did to clear the path following the incident with the trees and bushes being inadvertently pushed over the path following some work carried out on the outside of area.

Action Clerk

Cllr Baxter is continuing to pursue the wetlands project at Aggies Piece but had no additional information to add at this time.

15. Caretaker's Report

15.1 to receive report on issues raised for attention.

The Chairman and Clerk met with Caretaker and looked at a number of issues, primarily in the children's play area. The Caretaker will action these works and also, in the better weather, repaint and repair the fence. It will be painted black to keep costs down. Also, the Caretaker was asked to clear the path at Church Gardens, which has become slippery with moss. He has completed this work. The Clerk will check that the Caretaker is aware that we have a policy of not using weedkiller if possible.

Action Clerk

16. Play Area/Cricket Meadow

16.1 To receive any update.

There was an issue with fireworks being let off on the Cricket Meadow. It is illegal to set off fireworks in a public space. We are hopeful that this was a one off, but we will report, to the police, anyone found to be doing this in future.

17. Churchyard/Cemetery

17.1 To receive an update on any cemetery matters.

There was no additional report this month. We will look at the removal of additional memorial tributes at the February meeting.

Action Clerk

18.Biodiversity and Environment

18.1 To receive any update.

Cllr Baxter meet with the two residents, Heather Hobbs and Gill Elliston, to discuss carrying out a Wildlife Audit. Advice has been taken from Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWLT) and this, together with the information provided by the Clerk (see under item 8.4), will be used to start to put together a document for adoption. A walk around the village with maps, produced by Cllr Baxter, to look at identify any trees that might benefit from TPO's and other areas of interest, will be undertaken on the 28th December, meeting at 9.30am. Cllr Hammond expressed an interest in being involved in this. Cllr Baxter has been in conversation with a representative from British Gas who informed her that funding may be available to support wildlife projects locally. Cllr Baxter will follow this up.

Action Cllr Baxter/Hammond

19.Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda

It would appear that horses have been using the footpath off Coney Weston Road. The Clerk will contact SCC to see if there is any signage available to show that horses are not permitted to use this footpath.

Action Clerk

20.Correspondence for Information

EV charging points scheme. The Clerk has circulated information about this scheme. Due to the lack of space at the St Andrews Car Park, it was not felt suitable to site one there. The Car park needs to be unlocked, so unfortunately the Village Hall Car park would not be eligible. The Clerk will see if it would be possible to have a charger in the pub car park and if so, speak to the pub to see if they would be interested in pursuing this.

Action Clerk

21.Date of Next Meeting It was agreed not to hold a January meeting, due to issues with finding a suitable date at the beginning of the month. However, it was agreed to hold some provisional dates, for an extraordinary meeting if a planning application was to come forward ahead of the February meeting. These were agreed as 22nd or 29th January 2025. If no extraordinary meeting was needed, then the next scheduled Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th February 2025.

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. None.

22.2 Legal Issues. None.