

,Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7:00pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs J Chalmers (Chairman), C Hammond, Y Martin, L Hebert, R Baxter, N Martineau, WSDC Cllr Bull & SCC Cllr J Spicer.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted by the Councillors from Cllr S Baker.

In the absence of Cllr S Baker, Cllr C Hammond agreed to do the magazine report.

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 were agreed and approved as a correct record.

### 4. Meeting Open to the Public. 3 members of the public present.

A resident, from Old Hall, Coney Weston Road, came to express their concerns about the issue of safety presented by vehicles speeding past the entrance of their property. They have experienced some near misses when leaving their driveway on foot, with cars accelerating out of the 30mph restriction, past their entrance. SCC Cllr Spicer was sorry to hear that this has been their experience. The area in question sits within a national speed limit area (60 mph). The Chairman and Cllr Spicer, with the assistance of Andrew Moore, our Community Liaison Engineer from Suffolk County Council, visited the area in the recent past, as safety concerns have been raised previously. Following this visit the slow markings on the road were renewed and a new bend warning sign was erected. Another resident, present at the meeting, said the new signage seemed to be having a positive effect with traffic appearing to slow down since it's installation. It was unclear if additional signage in this area would improve road safety. Cllr Spicer, with the support of the Parish Council, will arrange for a traffic count to be done on the road. The information gathered from this can be used to help decide what next steps could be taken to try and address the issue.

Traffic calming measures discussed included but were not limited to: the potential extension of the 30mph limit, additional road marking, a 40mph buffer zone. These options can be explored once the traffic count has been completed. The resident will cut back their hedge to aid with visibility. It was agreed that we need to be mindful of pedestrian safety in this area also. To this end it was asked if we could contact the landowner, of the land opposite, to see if it would be possible to reinstate the permissive paths on the field margin. The Clerk will write to the landowner with this request.

**Action Cllr J Spicer/Clerk/Resident**

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

As discussed above, Cllr Spicer is arranging for a traffic count to be undertaken to inform any traffic calming measures that can potentially be undertaken. Cllr Spicer is still following up on our grit bin request. Cllr Spicer agreed to make a contribution towards the cost of a new Vehicle Activated Device (VAS) for the village. This will be used to replace the old device at the shop, which is beginning to fail. The Gateway for Bardwell Road is still under review and the Chairman and Clerk will revisit the site to see if there is an alternative location.

Cllr Spicer attended a Suffolk County Council meeting where it was agreed to submit a bid for inclusion in the government's Devolution Priority Programme (DPP). This decision followed a debate and vote involving all county councillors. As part of the government's English Devolution White Paper, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet recommended Suffolk for the DPP, which could

lead to the creation of a directly elected Mayor (potentially covering both Suffolk and Norfolk) and a reorganisation of local government. This would replace the current district, borough, and county councils with a streamlined unitary council structure.

The government's proposals aim to restructure councils in two-tier areas like Suffolk, claiming that unitary councils deliver better outcomes for residents and allow cost savings to be reinvested in public services. Additionally, the government is proposing the establishment of new Mayoral Authorities. These would have a single directly elected Mayor overseeing larger regions, such as Norfolk and Suffolk, with strategic powers in areas like transport infrastructure, health improvement, and emergency services. If this is to go ahead there will not be County Council elections in May this year. Cllr Spicer reported that, unfortunately, there is a further delay to the works to repair the bridge on the A1088 at Stowlangtoft. It is hoped the work will now be completed by the 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**Action Cllr Spicer/Chalmers/ Clerk**

## **6. Report from West Suffolk district Councillor (WSDC) Councillor: C Bull**

Cllr Bull is happy to make a contribution towards the new VAS device. The Clerk will provide Cllr Bull with the details of the proposed device. Cllr Chalmers will speak to the Village Hall to see if they would like to discuss with Cllr Bull the potential of receiving some funding towards having WiFi at the hall. Following a discussion with Cllr Bull, Cllr Chalmers will speak to the pub to see if they would like to investigate further the possibility of having an electric charging point in their car park. It was understood that a request for a planning application has been made, for the works to Old Hall, Cllr Bull will continue to keep the Parish Council updated. The owner of the property, who was present at the meeting, will forward the Clerk any information she has from their architect, regarding this application. Cllr Bull provided those present with information about a new grant scheme set up to invest in activities that will try to help people out of food poverty, improve health and reduce food waste. The Building Resilience and Nutrition (BRAN) fund is open to applications from community groups, charities, voluntary organisations, faith groups and social enterprises. It has been created from £90,000 given by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders and is being delivered by West Suffolk Council in partnership with Community Action Suffolk and Suffolk County Council. Further information can be found by contacting West Suffolk Community Food Partnership officer Elizabeth Evans from Community Action Suffolk at [Elizabeth.evans@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.evans@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk).

**Action WSDC Cllr Bull, Cllr Chalmers/Clerk/Resident**

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

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

Cllr Chalmers attended the West Suffolk Council Scrutiny meeting, held at Stanton in December, which included, as an agenda item, the Review of Rural Buses in West Suffolk. A new app, to track the busses was discussed, but is still to come online. The outcome of this meeting was not yet known. As the Councillors are now aware, our bid for funding to retain a service for villages in our area, including Barningham, was successful. This was for both the workers/shoppers/student bus for Bury and the School bus for Thurston. There is still work to be done to retain all the stops and to ensure that the service is sustainable. The Clerk and Chairman are doing some work on looking at the route to see if they can secure all the stops on the route, in particular the Coney Weston stop, which is under threat. Cllr Chalmers and the Clerk will continue to work with the group, now called 'Support our Buses' to make sure the service is viable moving forward. As a parish we need to do all we can to encourage residents to use the service. If it is not used it may well be lost. We are hosting the next Support our Buses meeting on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, in the Village Hall.

7.2 To report on energy survey offer by community climate action.

The Chairman arranged, via the Coffee Caravan, a free energy survey of her home. This is something that is available to all and looks at providing advice, raising awareness, and encouraging residents to adopt energy-saving practices, potentially through programs like home energy assessments, free loft insulation and access to interest-free loans for energy upgrades. Anyone who is interested can find out more information from the Coffee Caravan.

7.3 To receive a report on anti-social behaviour Hopton Road.

There has been reports of parcels going missing in the Village. The Police are aware of the situation and are following this up.

## **5.Clerk's Report**

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

This matter is in hand.

**Action Cllr Hebert**

8.2 To receive request for information from Ixworth Doctors Surgery. Also, Stanton Requests for financial assistance, for patients at Stanton and Ixworth surgery have been received. The Clerk will forward these requests to the Barningham in Need Charity.

**Action Clerk**

8.3 To discuss date and arrangements for annual Keep Barningham Beautiful event.

It was agreed to hold the Annual Keep Barningham Beautiful event on 29<sup>th</sup> March this year. The Clerk will check the hall is available and make the necessary arrangements with West Suffolk Council to borrow some equipment. The Clerk will produce some posters and make arrangements for the refreshments.

**Action Clerk**

## **9. Finance**

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

|                |                          |            |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Admin          | Various                  | -£1,911.71 |
| Ico            | Data Protection          | -£40.00    |
| Tripp Batt     | Playing field            | -£31.38    |
| Dave Trigg     | Fuel - training          | -£9.90     |
| Trip Batt      | Play area                | -£39.99    |
| West Suffolk   | Church Cemeteries        | -£50.00    |
| Admin          | Various                  | -£2,636.24 |
| Alford Storage | Clothes bank             | £15.00     |
| Groundworks    | Neighbourhood plan grant | £1,095.00  |

Cllr Y Martin 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.

9.3 To make arrangements for internal audit review.

Cllr Y Martin agreed to carry out the internal audit review.

**Action Cllr Y Martin/Clerk**

## **10. Village Matters**

10.1 To receive any update on VAS.

The data from the devices was published on Facebook again. Fewer comments were received than previously.

10.2 To discuss option for new VAS post Hepworth Road.

We have received some responses back from the letters sent to the houses located near the proposed site for a new post, in Hepworth Road. As yet we have not heard back from all the residents, particularly from two residents who need to grant permission for the post to be situated adjacent to their properties, if this area is found to be suitable. The Clerk will write to these residents again.

**Action Clerk**

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

Cllr Spicer has this matter in hand.

**Action Cllr Spicer**

10.4 To receive any update, on use of footpath by horses, from SCC.

Suffolk County Council have put up signage to say the horses are not allowed to use the footpaths off Coney Weston Road. We are grateful for their prompt action.

10.5 To discuss concerns raised over vehicle speeds in Coney Weston Road. See under 4.

Meeting Open to the Public.

10.6 To receive any report from Barningham Primary School. No report received.

10.7 To receive any report from the Village Hall.

The Coffee morning, held before Christmas, was well attended. There is a Fish and Chip Bingo event being held on the 28<sup>th</sup> February. The secretary is planning on standing down from the role in May. Anyone interested in the position is encouraged to contact the village hall committee.

10.8 To note further correspondence from resident, Hopton Road, re access for mobility scooter. A residents relation has been in contact with the Clerk about the issue with access for a mobility scooter, in Hopton Road. This matter is being dealt with by Havebury Housing.

10.9 Bardwell Road, Bramble Cottage ditch

The Clerk has asked if any further action is being taken by SCC, regarding the ditch adjacent to Bramble Cottage. At the time of the meeting, we had not received a response to this query. It was noted that the flooding, outside Barningham House appears to be much improved since the ditch works have been carried out.

**Action Clerk**

## **11. Disability Audit**

11.1 To receive any update on progress.

This is in hand. It was noted that the contractor, Peter Kerry had done a really good job edging back the path from the Village Hall to Sandy Lane.

## **11. Neighbourhood Plan 12.1 To receive any update.**

The grant, discussed at the December meeting for £1095, has been received.

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

No planning matters received.

## **14. Aggies Piece 14.1To discuss option for a barrier/gate at Aggies Piece.**

The Clerk contacted Suffolk County Council regarding putting a gate or barrier at Aggies Piece, to deter fly-tipping. The Clerk was informed that as this is a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) that we would not be allowed to erect a lockable barrier or gate. Cllr Spicer will see if we are able to have a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to address this. We will revisit this after we have had an opportunity to carry out a site visit.

**Action Cllr Spicer/Clerk**

Cllr Baxter has been speaking to a local resident who is happy to fill the bird feeders at Aggies Piece. It was proposed that an amount of up to £100 should be allocated for the purchase of feed for the feeders. The Councillors supported this idea, and it will be included on the agenda for official agreement at the next meeting.

**Action Cllr Baxter/Clerk**

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

15.1 To receive any update from the Caretaker, including confirmation of completion of SCC Highways training.

The new Caretaker is working hard in the village. He has asked if we think it would be a good idea to remove the old bin, adjacent to the layby opposite the pub. This seems to be regularly used to dump items of household waste. The Councillors agreed that it would be beneficial to remove this bin. It is a bit of an eyesore and, as there is another bin in the layby, it is surplus to requirements. The Caretaker completed the SCC Highways Community Help training. This means he can carry out and supervise works undertaken on the highway. This does not cover works on the carriageway but relates to works on the public highways, including footpaths, verges etc.

**Action Caretaker**

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

16.1 To receive any update.

16.2 To discuss concerns with accuracy of reports from West Suffolk Council.

The Caretaker has arranged to meet with the West Suffolk District Council Play Area Inspector on Friday to discuss the report and any areas of concern. In the meantime, he has carried out a number of repairs to the equipment in both play areas as well as a number of other remedial works in the village.

## **17.Churchyard/Cemetery**

17.1 To receive an update on any cemetery matters, to include removal of floral tributes.

It was agreed to leave the removal of Christmas wreaths until the 1<sup>st</sup> March. The Caretaker will be asked to dispose of them after this date.

It was noted that some additional works are required following the recent trimming of the hedge in the lawn cemetery. The Clerk will contact the contractor about this. **Action Clerk**

17.2 To note further graffiti at the Church.

It was noted that there has been more graffiti at the Church. This disrespectful behaviour is very disappointing to see. The caretaker cleaned this off for them.

**18. Biodiversity and Environment** 18.1 To receive any update Biodiversity and Environment plan Cllr Baxter, working with two residents in the village, have started work on carrying out a biodiversity survey in the village. The group started with a walk round the village, with the aid of maps provided by Cllr Baxter, and marked areas of interest. They looked at a number of trees in the village and are keen to explore the possibility of attaching Tree Protection Orders (TPO's) to a some of them if possible. Cllr Baxter will make contact with the Tree Officers at WSDC to explore this matter further. In addition to looking at the trees they are also considering the following: To prioritise the protection of hedges and trees, especially if any development does go ahead on Hopton Road; To consider planting more trees, possibly some in Church Gardens to replace those removed, possibly more on cricket meadow, to consider a community orchard: to consider long grass/ wildflowers on green spaces at Bishops Croft, Millfields, Village Hall, and the Cricket Meadow: to look at birdfeeders and boxes at Aggies, and elsewhere: to possibly increase biodiversity in the Lychgate Cemetery: To discuss village ponds: to clarify position of wobbly footpath signs. They have been in touch with a speaker from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, who seemed very knowledgeable, and asked if they can join the group on a walk round the village in the future. The group will continue to work on Biodiversity and Environment plan and will report back at the next meeting. **Action All group members**

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

Cllr Hammond provided the following report:

- Saturday 7 December – Village Hall Tombola. Did not attend awful weather
- Monday 9 December - Parish Council Meal at Royal George. Pleasant meal, nice to support them. Staff very helpful.

Monday 27th January – I went to The Rural Caravan at the village hall. weather not great. 8-9 there.

Rural Coffee Caravan Community Engagement Officers can provide specialist energy guidance on organisations, and agencies who can be approached if you are struggling to stay warm in your home. Get in touch by emailing [info@ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk](mailto:info@ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk). There is an Engagement Officer for your area who will contact you at the earliest opportunity.

Information on cost-of-living support in Suffolk, winter warmth help and energy saving ideas.

Cllr Chalmers will speak to the contractor about installing the bolts to the bench at Bishops Croft.

**Action Cllr Chalmers**

Cllr Baxter reported that a local resident has a number of copies of the late Micheal Lingwood book, 'Our own people'. Cllr Hammond will speak to the Church about having them for sale in the Church. **Action Cllrs Hammond/Baxter**

There was a report of some antisocial behaviour on the field behind Church Gardens. The farmer, who farms the land has been made aware.

There appears to be an increase of dog mess on the Cricket Meadow. The Clerk will see if there are any posters available to help address this issue.

**Action Clerk**

It was asked to include defibrillator training on the next agenda.

**Action Clerk**

## **20. Correspondence for Information**

Surviving winter, information from West Suffolk Council, circulated.

## **21. Date of Next Meeting** 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 7.00pm Barningham Village Hall.

Date for April meeting agreed as April 9<sup>th</sup> and May Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council

Meeting agreed as 7<sup>th</sup> May 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.

**8.45 PM meeting close.**