

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7:00 pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, J Chalmers, T Steer, L Hebert, S Kenyon & D Cllr C Bull

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from W Martineau, R Baxter, & C.Cllr J Spicer

2. Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None. Please see under item 20 in the minutes.

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. None.

3. Minutes - The minutes of the Wednesday 7th December 2022 Parish Council meeting were agreed and approved as a correct record.

4. Meeting open to the public.

Peter Kerry came to speak to the Councillors about works in the village. He asked if we might be able to arrange for a litter pick, at Aggies Piece in particular. We will be holding our Annual litter pick again in the spring and it was suggested that, in the meantime residents are encouraged to pick up litter if they see it. There is a lot of work to do at Aggies and volunteers are being sought to form a working party. Anyone interested in helping out can contact the Clerk at Barninghampc@outlook.com for further information.

5. Report from County Councillor: J Spicer

Cllr Spicer was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following:

I am sorry to send my apologies for the meeting tomorrow.

I think we have agreed that next steps with flooding and the road near Aggie's Piece was to establish all ownership of ditches and hedges (and land) - not least to be clear what the parish council own.

I have been in correspondence with a resident of Bardwell Road about traffic speeds – The Clerk has a copy of the letter I have sent her. (shared) As stated in the letter I have a site meeting/tour with a community engineer later this month and I have told him I want to look at Bardwell Road (Barningham) to seek his view on possible traffic calming measures.

Finally, thank you for including me in your parish council dinner - it was a most enjoyable evening.

6. Report from WS Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull reported that West Suffolk Council have agreed to stop the general use of Glyphosate weed-killer to protect the environment and wildlife from April 2023. It has been confirmed that Voter Photo ID for the May elections will definitely be needed. The council will be doing a big publicity campaign to make sure people are aware. People can also be reminded that they can apply for postal votes and this is very simple process. Cllr Bull has been working on disability access information for Village Halls. Cllr Bull finished by thanking the Councillors for letting her join in with their Christmas meal.

Cllr Hammond reported that residents of Bishops Croft had been written to regarding parking on the green. Cllr Bull was unaware of this correspondence and will look into the matter further.

7. Chairman's reports

14th December - edited minutes from last meeting

20th December – 9am met Tree Contractor Peter Kerry at Aggie's Piece to record the planting of the free Silver Birch tree in memory of Councillor Eddie Sier, as Sheila Sier was away. Best site chosen for the sunshine and not too close to taller overshadowing trees. Sheila has seen it and is very pleased with the site.

5 January 2023 – A request from a research historian regarding a WW2 soldier on our church memorial – Sargeant Walter S Kitson In Barningham (although it bears the initials W.F. rather than W.S.) He lived at Wimpey Cottage in the village, having married local girl Barbara Lingwood of Church Farm, Barningham in Bury St Edmunds in May 1940. I took some photos of the memorial.

6 January – I eventually found Wimpey Cottage in the village. It backs onto Mill Road and faces the B1111. Its end is next to the Village Sign. I took photos of that as well.

7 January - I put the Mobile Library Van timetable for the year on the Parish Noticeboard opposite the church. You can also get audio and kindle books from the library. USE IT OR LOSE IT!

A resident has asked if they can plant their Christmas Tree on land outside their house. The land in question belongs to West Suffolk Council. The resident will be advised to contact tem for further advice and information.

Action Chairman

8. Clerks Report:

8.1. Request for information for Historic record.

The following request has been received:

I am a volunteer for a UK project called The Heligoland39 Project www.heligoland39.org

We have been researching the lives of over 100 RAF servicemen who took part in the first named air battle of WW2 – The Battle of Heligoland Bight . This took place on 18 December 1939 and was a total disaster for the RAF with over 50 men perishing that day. Sergeant Walter Stanley Kitson took part in the battle and did survive it. He was unfortunately killed in action in 1941.

We are now at the end of the project and are publishing a book in January 2023 about the project and primarily about the RAF men who took part in the battle. We have been able to make contact with family members of many of the men involved and have arranged commemoration events.

I am at present writing up Walter's story and have found that his name appears on the war memorial In Barningham (although it bears the initials W.F. rather than W. S.) He lived at Wimpey Cottage in the village, having married local girl Barbara Lingwood of Church Farm, Barningham in Bury St Edmunds in May 1940.

I am wondering if somebody in the village would be willing to take a good quality digital photograph of the war memorial as a whole and a close up of Walter's name on it to reproduce in our book? A photo of Wimpey Cottage would also be appreciated if it still stands.

I did notice on your village website that somebody named Lingwood had written a history of the village. It is likely they are related to Walter via his marriage to Barbara. I would be very happy to hear from any family still living in the village.

As mentioned in her report, the Chairman has taken a photo of Wimpey Cottage. Our village history recorder, Lesley Williams has passed on this request to James Reid and he is currently looking into this.

8.2. Rural Coffee caravan, visit to the village

The Clerk has been trying to make contact with the rural coffee caravan. It was suggested that they park where they have previously and there did not seem to be a day that was more suitable over another so, as long as we had plenty of time to advertise the visit, we were happy for them to visit at any time.

Action Clerk

9. Finance.

9.1 The following accounts were approved for payment:

Countryside, conservation and tree services	Church Cemeteries	£1,560.00
Steve Wilson	Aggies	£12.00
Various	Admin	£2,206.81

9.2 Bank reconciliation and budget report

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

9.3 Ongoing issues with HMRC

The Clerk is experiencing ongoing, time consuming and stressful issues with HMRC. They appear to stem from when HMRC allocated the Clerk and Caretaker with a new National Insurance number, this was their error. The Clerk has written again in a bid to resolve the matter.

10 Village matters

10.1 To discuss new trees planted at Church Gardens and Aggies Piece, including a request for a barrier for the new tree at Church Gardens.

Cllr Martineau felt that the newly planted Christmas tree, at church Gardens, would benefit from a protective barrier. It was agreed not to pursue this at the moment but monitor the situation.

10.2 To confirm Defibrillator status

Cllr Steer has this matter in hand.

10.3 To discuss revenue from Clothing bank

It is unclear if the shop has received any revenue from the clothing bank. The Clerk will continue to investigate this. **Action Clerk**

11. Aggies Piece

11.2 To discuss issue with flooding, to include signage issues.

It would appear that we no longer have any Flood signs. The Clerk will contact Cllr Spicer for some advice on this. **Action Clerk**

As mentioned earlier Peter Kerry is keen to get some jobs done, by volunteers if possible, at Aggies Piece.

The Parish Council has been contacted by Sam Hurst from, Norfolk Rivers Trust. He has visited Aggies Piece in the last year with a local landowner and was informed that the Hopton brook runs in a brick culvert several hundred meters long underneath it.

The area is very low lying and liable to flooding when the entrance to the culvert is overwhelmed or blocked. He was wondering if there would be any appetite from the local community to restore the brook to the surface and improve this pocket wildlife haven further still. The Parish Council felt that this was a very timely request as they are currently exploring options regarding flooding at Aggies Piece. As mentioned earlier Peter Kerry is keen to get some jobs done, by volunteers if possible, at Aggies Piece. To this end we will ask Sam Hurst and Peter Kerry to come to the next meeting to discuss options to take these items forward. **Action Clerk**

11.3 To confirm removal of bath and tyres

The bath has been removed and Steve Wilson took the tyres to Thetford Waste site.

12. Caretakers report Circulated.

I raked leaves in the old cemetery this month as well as doing more sweeping in Church Road. I also took photos of the cracks in the zipwire seat as evidence for the supplier. When the roads and pavements were unsafe for a full litter round due to ice I diverted those hours to collecting the dumped tyres from Aggie's Piece and taking them to the waste centre at Thetford. I ended the year having worked one hour more than my contract so I have carried that over into 2023.

13. Play area /Cricket Meadow to receive any update.

13.1 Update on zip-wire seat issue.

New photographs have been sent to the supplier and the Clerk will chase this up again. The Clerk will ask the caretaker to check the seat and remove it if he feels it is unsafe. **Action Clerk**

13.2 To note items on Play Area reports.

No additional items to report.

13.3 To receive update on Play area sign placement.

The School are happy for the Cricket Meadow/play area sign to go on the gate. **Action Chairman**

14. Churchyard/Cemetery

14.1 To discuss repairs of the kissing gate in the Cemetery

This work should be carried out within the next three weeks.

15. Neighbourhood Plan.

15.1 Update on grant funding.

The application for funding has been submitted and we are waiting for Groundworks to sign off on this before starting a new application. Our consultant, Ian Poole, will do a new fee proposal to get the Plan finished and do the online form for us to review and submit. It'll be early next week now as he is not working the rest of this week after today. **Action Clerk**

16. Planning. to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted.

DC/22/2154/HH single storey rear extension, Hawthorn House Hepworth Road Barningham

No objection.

17. Newsletter.

To discuss items for inclusion.

The following items were discussed for inclusion in the newsletter:

Defibrillator training, including access code information.

Volunteers for Aggies/ litter picking/management/ culvert clearing.

Voter ID

Grit spreading procedure. (Clerk to clarify current guidance)

The above ideas will be sent to Cllr Baxter for consideration. **Action Clerk**

18. Church Clock service/repair

To include update on progress.

This matter is in hand with Cllr Baxter who has made arrangement to meet with the horological engineer shortly.

19. Village Grass Cutting.

To agree contract for 2023/24. This will be discussed at the February meeting.

20. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

Cllr Hebert declared an interest in the following item.

The white lines outside the school entrance on Church Road run outside the Beeches driveway entrance. Unfortunately these lines are now badly faded. As a consequence of this the resident at The Beeches often finds the entrance to their property blocked. This can be by parents dropping children at school, which although potentially annoying, is generally only for a short period of time. A bigger problem is vehicles making deliveries to the school, who can block the entrance for much longer periods of time. The Clerk will contact the school and ask that they request that vehicles do not park in this area. She will also contact Cllr Spicer to discuss the renewal of the road markings at the School. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Steer reported that the battery on the VAS do not last very long, especially when dealing with extra data. This is a particular problem with the VAS located near the school.

21. Correspondence for information

21.1 Suffolk's provisional devolution deal.

1 Information from West Suffolk Council on Suffolk's provisional devolution deal was noted.

21.2 Police commissioners precept survey

The Councillors completed the survey, supporting the increase suggested by the Police commissioner. Increasing the precept by 6% would add approximately £3.9m to the annual policing budget in Suffolk.

Action Clerk

22. Date of next meeting To agree dates for 2023 and next meeting as 1st February 2023 7pm 1st Wednesday.

It was agreed to meet on the first Wednesday of each month, where possible. The Clerk will prepare a schedule for the year.

Action Clerk

23. To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:

23.1 Personnel Issues. None.

23.2 Legal Issues. None.