

Barningham Parish Council

Spring Newsletter 2024



Greetings from your Parish Council!

Your Parish Council needs you! The Parish Council is a corporate body, and a legal entity, and is accountable to the local community. Parish Councils provide a focus for the community to identify concerns and projects, and endeavour to resolve issues locally where possible, and to assist in directing parishioners to the appropriate course of action.

Your Parish Council is responsible for organising the day-to-day management of the village - village



maintenance, (such as recently replacing the Lychgate gates: left), some grasscutting, repairs, benches, litter bins, ,providing and maintaining Vehicle Activated Signs VAS the Lawn Cemetery, Cricket Meadow and Play Area, and Aggie's Piece.

At West Suffolk Council's request we have an Emergency Plan to enable us to pass on information from West Suffolk to the community in an emergency. Additionally, we are working on a Neighbourhood Plan which aims to set out the character of the village and allow us to have some control over any development plans.

Your Parish Council is made up of elected unpaid Councillors and an employed clerk. As a Parish Council we are struggling to recruit new Councillors, and those in the role are stretched. We urgently need two new Parish Councillors and may be unable to continue to carry out operating our

VAS and other tasks if we are unable to recruit. Whether you are a young, working parent with lots of other responsibilities, or someone who is retired and has more time available, working in the local community can be rewarding. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss this further.

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at the Village Hall at 7.00p.m. Detailed information is available on the website where agendas and minutes of our monthly meetings are all displayed along with other relevant information. We are always keen to hear your views so get in touch or come to one of our meetings to find out what's going on in your village and get involved!

Our Community: Our annual village clean up/ litter pick - Keep Barningham Beautiful will take place on Saturday 20th April 10-12 meeting at the Village Hall. Your kids will love it!

Defibrillator: this is installed at the shop and we are very lucky to have this potentially life saving equipment in our village. In an emergency stay with the patient and call 999. You will only be advised to go and get the defibrillator if it is currently available for use and you have another person free to go and get it so someone can stay with the patient. There is a code to open the box which is: C1267. The instructions are simple and are provided in the box, more information is available at <https://www.communityheartbeat.org.uk/>

Neighbourhood Plan: Neighbourhood Plan allows communities to have a say in the future of the places where they live and work. It gives the community the power to produce a plan with real legal weight that directs development in the local area.

Work continues on the final (hopefully) draft of Barningham Neighbourhood Plan, and we are planning a consultation launch event where residents can attend and find out about the plan through viewing display boards and inspecting copies of the Plan. We will distribute further information regarding this to every property in the village in due course, enabling residents to view the full plan and comment on it, prior to submission to West Suffolk Council.

Churchyards and cemeteries Please note the regulations that apply to these areas and please be aware that regular removal of tributes and maintenance takes place respectfully, in order to maintain these areas as peaceful and tranquil spaces for all who use them.

Emergency Plan: Our updated Emergency Plan is available on our website- please take a look as it contains lots of useful information. If you do not have internet access, please get in touch for more information.

Flooding : Following significant flooding winter 23/24, and acknowledging the likelihood of more adverse weather events in the future due to climate change, we are working with Suffolk County Council and local farmers to try to put measures in place to ensure drainage is functioning as it should. Any concerns- please get in touch.

Aggie's Piece: It has recently been identified that one of the tributaries of the Ouse River runs in a culvert under Aggie's Piece and that diverting it to run outside the pipe, as it would once have done, will both allow remediation of flooding in this area and should increase wildlife and biodiversity. With the help of Norfolk Rivers Trust and other parties we are starting to plan work to achieve this. Volunteers please get in touch.



Costs : Our Precept comes from part of your Council Tax, and recognising that times are hard for many residents we have tried to minimise this as far as possible. Last year we increased it by only 0.11%, equivalent to 11p on a band D property over the year; but this year have had to increase the precept a little more in order to be able to continue to pay for vital facilities within the village. We would also note that some useful information is available at <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>

Village Hall update: There is a list of regular activities including Carpet Bowls, Whist, Art& Craft, Knit&Stitch, B Active Fit Club, Social Club and Pilates: <https://www.facebook.com/BarninghamVH>
<http://barningham.onesuffolk.net/our-village-welcome/village-hall/regular-bookings/>

Anyone interested in hiring the Village Hall for a regular group or a one off event would be very welcome. The hire charges are reasonable and are displayed on the noticeboard outside. There is a good size garden space included. If you are interested in setting up a group please let us know- anything from a book club to running would be a great addition to the community.

The Rural Coffee Caravan visits the village on the 4th Monday of the month from 10 a.m. – 12 noon. It can be found at the Village Hall in winter, and on the green area alongside Millfield in the warmer months. It has won an international award for its work in the community and the cakes are definitely worth popping in for. They offer a range of information and the chance for a cuppa and a chat.

Barningham Relief in Need Charity : The Trustees are anxious that this Trust should be as widely known about as possible. It was established to help all residents of Barningham who may be in need and also now to support students who are undergoing tertiary education, both at University and during an Apprenticeship. Applications, which will be dealt with in strict confidence, should be made to Leslie Williams 01359 221583 or (educational) William Martineau 01359 221495.

Parliamentary constituency: Due to a boundary change we are now part of Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket constituency.

CONTACT INFORMATION: The Parish Council meets monthly at the Village Hall at 7.00pm normally on the first Wednesday of the month, please check posters and website for relevant dates.

Parish Clerk – Vicki Gay tel: 01379 898733 email: barninghamPC@outlook.com

Councillors: Carol Hammond 43 Bishops Croft, Roberta Baxter 01359 221471, Janice Chalmers 07802669275, Lance Hebert 07920467172 and Nicholas Martineau 01359221046

Suffolk County Councillor - Joanna Spicer 01359 230800, West Suffolk Borough Cllr – Carol Bull 01953 681513

Police – Please report all anti-social incidents to the police. If you see it happening call 999, if you see it after it has happened call 101. 01284 774100 for Community Beat Officers or

www.onesuffolk.co.uk/saferSuffolk/StEdmundsburyRuralNorth our local police officer is PC Rachel Reeve

Facebook: Barningham Parish Council-Suffolk

Website: www.barningham.onesuffolk.net