

Barnham Parish Council

Chair: Cllr John Bauer. Vice Chair: Cllr Ed Wyer

Minutes of the Meeting of Barnham Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th March 2024, commencing at 7.00pm Venue: Barnham Village Hall, Mill Lane, Barnham IP24 2NG

In attendance: Cllr John Bauer(Chair), Cllr Ed Wyer (Vice Chair); Cllr Martin Belsham, Cllr Helen Beck, Cllr Matthew Hawthorne, Cllr Susan Watson, Cllr Adrian Webb. Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE, West Suffolk Councillor Andrew Smith
Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Pauline Smith
1 Member of the Public

1. Apologies for Absence: None

2. Declarations of Interests

2.1 To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and non-registrable interests as detailed in Appendix B of the LGA Model Code of Conduct: None declared at this point

2.2 To consider requests for dispensations relating to matters on this agenda
None requested at this point.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2024

The minutes were taken as read, unanimously approved, and signed as an accurate record by the Chair.

4. Public Forum

In relation to item 6.4 (North Farm, Elveden road, Barnham): the resident asked whether the parish council would be standing firm on its requirement that the restoration plan for the land be enforced if necessary.

Response: Yes

5. To Receive Reports from

5.1 Suffolk County Councillor, Joanna Spicer MBE

In relation to the question above at item 4: Cllr Spicer advised that she will be keeping a regular check on progress via SCC Officer Andy Rutter. The land remains within the Suffolk County Council Minerals and Waste Plan which is consulted on and reviewed every 10 years. Consultation will commence again in approximately 12 months.

Station Road: Repairs to the surface have been carried out at the traffic lights, and further along Station Road into the Parish of Elveden. It was suggested that, as previously, repairs carried out along Station Road are unlikely to last a significant period of time due to the concrete layer beneath the surface.

5.2 District Councillor Andrew Smith

The Forge, Blacksmith's Lane: A resident raised a concern raised with Cllr Smith about the construction not adhering to the approved plans and that that the roof trusses look excessively high. Prior to the meeting Cllr Smith had, at the request of the resident, viewed the property from the roadside (with the resident).

Cllr Smith has reported the concern to West Suffolk Enforcement and is awaiting a response.

Further Concerns:

The recommendation remains as previously: that any concerns raised by residents should be submitted to the Enforcement team via the [WSC web portal](#).

6. Planning Matters

6.1 To respond to planning consultations received from West Suffolk Council:

DC/24/0325/TCA: LOCATION Cranford, The Street Barnham Suffolk
PROPOSAL Trees in a conservation area notification - one Fir (on plan) Fell.
Resolution: No objections. (Response submitted to WSC)

6.2 To note that the following applications have been approved:

DC/23/1970/HH | Householder planning application - construction of glazed link between main dwelling and outbuilding and conversion of outbuilding to create a habitable space with insertion of windows and doors | 5 Church Lane Barnham Thetford Suffolk IP24 2NB. (Decision date 24 January 2024)

DC/23/1973/LB | Application for listed building consent - a. construction of glazed link between main dwelling and outbuilding and conversion of outbuilding to create a habitable space with insertion of windows and doors, b. internal alterations
5 Church Lane Barnham Thetford Suffolk IP24 2NB (Decision date 24th January 2024)

DC/23/1647/HH | Householder planning application - installation of solar panels on the western elevation of the garage roof | The Pink House Station Road Barnham Suffolk IP24 2PE. (Decision date 4th January 2024)

DC/23/0445/FUL | Planning application - a. new access to highway b. addition of boundary fence c. planting bunds d. hardstanding to form driveway | Honeysuckle Farm Thetford Road Barnham Thetford Suffolk IP24 2PA. (Decision date 23rd January 2024)

6.3 Appeal: DC/22/1620/VAR: Station Yard Barnham (NRG)

To consider and resolve Barnham Parish Council's response to the Planning Inspector.

Following discussion relating to issues of concern, it was resolved that Cllrs Bauer and Wyer would liaise to provide an appropriate response to be submitted by the Clerk to the Inspector against the appeal.

Final response attached

6.4 SCC/0055/18VOC To receive an update re: progress to restore land at North Farm, Elveden Road, Barnham, IP24 2PF. Work to

comply with the requirements/conditions due to be completed by 31st March 2024

Following a request for a progress update, SCC advised that the interested parties are aware of the requirements and that "If the works are not undertaken within the deadline, we will assess our enforcement options at that point in time."

7. Highways Matters

7.1 Damage being caused to wall at 1 Mill Lane: SCC response

"Thank you for contacting us about this issue. We have visited the location of your report and assessed against Suffolk County Council's Highway Maintenance Operational Plan (HMOP). Unfortunately, at this time, we are unable to take further action as this does not meet our intervention criteria. We will, however, continue to monitor the location as part of our routine inspections."

Clerk has advised property owner. (see attached)

7.2 Grass Verges and General Parking Matters Raised by Residents.

Lack of available parking within the village when attending events at locations other than the village hall has been raised as a concern, together with other associated matters.

- a. The parish council does not own any land which it is able to make available for parking.
- b. Parking along The Street/Euston Road is permitted.
Whilst motorists may be concerned that parking along the Street reduces the width of the road, this does not obstruct traffic flow although it does - or should - cause motorists to slow down, which may be considered beneficial.
- c. The parish council has no responsibility for the car park at the Village Hall.
This is not a public car park. It is the responsibility of the Barnham Village Hall Charity Trustees, who are responsible for the insurance and maintenance of the land and all associated costs.
However, Cllr Hawthorne will clarify the situation with the Trustees when he attends the next Village Hall Committee Meeting and establish whether there any occasions when members of the public might be permitted to use the carpark.
- d. Motorists are reminded that vehicles parked on pavements/footpaths may cause an obstruction which can be dangerous particularly if, for example, it causes pedestrians, wheelchair users, parents/carers with children/pushchairs etc to have to go into the road to get past. Causing an obstruction in this manner is an offence.
- e. The triangle of land on the corner of Mill Lane/The Street opposite no.1 Mill Lane is the responsibility of West Suffolk Council (the central area) and Suffolk County Council (the perimeter). Where there is concern about damage being caused to the verge/land this should be raised with the appropriate owner.
- f. Further information about parking on grass verges and pavements is available on the SCC website at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking/parking-on-pavements-and-verges>

8. Councillor Reports

- 8.1 Cllr Bauer: Vehicle Activated Sign** – Speed Data not available: The access code/link provided to Cllr Bauer by Coeval has expired. He will request a new one.

Action: Cllr Bauer

8.2 Cllr Beck: D Day Commemorative Events

Plans are progressing well:

School will provide small cones of fish and chips.

Friends of Barnham School may be willing to provide tea and coffee for a small charge.

Soldiers are being knitted for a display in the church.

School will put on a display.

A themed Farmers Market will be held in the church on Saturday 8th June.

Schedule of the events to be provided.

8.3 Cllr Beck: Defibrillator training (12th January 2024)

This had been a successful, well received event. The suggestion is that it may be worth repeating in approx. 18 months' time.

8.4 Cllr Beck: Town and Parish Forum (18th January 2024)
Presentations were given relating to Suffolk County Council Highways, Emergency Planning, Housing and Homelessness.
Please see attachments, which includes responses from SCC to questions raised.

8.5 Cllr Beck: Suffolk Association of Local Councils: Nothing to report

8.6 Cllr Belsham: Police Liaison

During January, Cllr Belsham met with PC Rachel Reeve who covers Barnham together with PCSO Amanda Dodd.

PC Reeve and PCSO Dodd are holding pop up surgeries across their areas.

Potential dates for Barnham were put forward as 3,4,or 5th June.

It was suggested that the surgery could be held 9am – 10am in the Village Hall followed by a visit to the school.

Action: Cllr Belsham to enquire re availability of Village Hall

Action: Cllr Hawthorne to speak to Head Teacher at Barnham School

PC Reeve has been made aware of the speeding concerns and advised that it is lawful to put up visible notices on private land. She would like to be kept informed of any issues including problems with lorries.

8.7 Cllr Hawthorne: Village Hall. No report for this meeting.

He will raise the question at the next VH meeting about residents expressing concern about being unable to park at the village hall when participating in events elsewhere in the village.

8.8 Cllr Watson: Play Park

The new gate has been installed and various other works have been completed by Vertas. Other minor matters continue to be shown on the reports.

Cllr Watson and Clerk had met with the WSC Inspector who reiterated that no item is free from risk. He also highlighted the availability of certificated courses relating to play parks and risk assessments.

It is considered that the cost of the course is not commensurate with the benefit at this time, in view of the size of the play park and the regular monthly visits/reports currently provided free of charge by West Suffolk Council's Inspector.

8.9 Cllr Wyer: RAF Honington Liaison: No longer applicable/remove from future agendas

8.10 Cllr Wyer: Emergency Plan – Completed.

To date, nobody else has volunteered to be part of the team from within the village.

9. Financial Report and invoices for payment (Clerk/RFO).

Invoices for payment totalling: £1,618.40 were unanimously approved for payment:

Clerk/RFO Salary/Work from Home allowance: February/March £520.00

Paul Dunning Village Hall Wall and Railings £988.40 (INC VAT)

Previously approved awaiting authorisation

(delay in confirming bank details) S137 Sars £50.00

CAB Diss & Thetford £50.00

Financial reports attached:

Bank reconciliation, reserves, balances, net position.

- 10. Clerk's report:** See notes previously circulated
Fit Villages: Due to a lack of interest (3 responses), it was agreed not to proceed at this time.
Village Maintenance: Paul Woollard will repair the gate by the bus shelter which has fallen away from the wall.
The Street/Euston Road: Returning path to original width by removal of overgrown vegetation from edge of verge. Clerk to resend email of confirmation to Cllr Hawthorne agreeing to the kind offer from Euston Estate for their contractor to carry out this work with a contribution of £250 from the parish council. (Actioned/ Cllr Hawthorne has confirmed receipt)
Low hanging BT line opposite/in the vicinity of Copper Beeches, Euston Road.
Action/outcome: Clerk contacted OpenReach. Engineer visited: Cable to be re-tensioned (no date provided/not considered urgent.)
- 11. Village Clock**
11.1 Faculty progress and next stage: Awaiting confirmation that the faculty has been granted. This is expected to be provided imminently.
11.2 The query regarding the planning permission for the light illuminating the clock has been satisfactorily resolved.
- 12. Biodiversity Policy**
Cllr Hawthorne proposed that the Biodiversity Policy be accepted.
Seconded: Cllr Webb. All in favour
Resolution: The draft policy was approved.
- 13. Future dates**
6th April 2024 Barnham Litter pick: To confirm arrangements (Clerk)
Volunteers will meet at the Village Hall from 9am – 10am
Return by noon. Clerk to provide refreshments.
Litter-picking equipment booked with WSC
Cllr Webb to provide transport/collection of rubbish which will be left at Village Hall near glass bins for collection by WSC on 8th April.

14th May – Annual Village Meeting to follow the Annual Parish Council Meeting
- 14. Any correspondence** requiring attention not previously dealt with: None
15. Requests for items to be included on the next agenda: None at this time
16. Next meeting: Tuesday 14th May 2024, 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 8.52pm

Minutes approved as an accurate record.

Signed Chair

Date

P Smith Clerk/RFO
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