

Barnham Parish Council
Chair: Cllr John Bauer. Vice Chair: Cllr Ed Wyer

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th March 2025, 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 Helen Beck, Cllr Martin Belsham, Cllr Matthew Hawthorne, Cllr Susan Watson, Cllr Adrian Webb. Suffolk County Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE, West Suffolk District Cllr Andrew Smith
Clerk/RFO: Pauline Smith Members of the Public: 1

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None.
2. **Declarations of Pecuniary and/or Non-Pecuniary Personal Interests:**
None declared in relation to items on this agenda.
3. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:**
14th January 2025
13th February 2025 (Planning Meeting)
No comments or corrections were received.

Proposal by the Chair: That both sets of minutes be taken as read and approved as an accurate record of the respective meetings.

Proposed: Cllr Webb. Seconded: Cllr Watson. Resolution: Unanimously agreed.

The Chair duly signed each set of minutes as an accurate record.

4. Public Participation Session

████████████████████, Managing Director Elveden Farms Ltd, was welcomed to the meeting.

Ref: Item 10 – ██████████ provided an update regarding the Elveden Estate land adjacent to C633, which was previously proposed for use as a quarry. He reported the following:

The land has now been restored to agricultural production.

The bund has been removed.

The water pipe has been repaired, ensuring proper flow instead of spillage into the field.

The land has been treated with glyphosate.

A farm business tenancy has been agreed upon with neighbouring farmers for a period of 4 ½ years, commencing in March 2025.

5. Dangerous Dogs:

Councillors acknowledged the serious concerns raised in an email from a resident (copy attached).

Cllr Belsham, acting as the parish council's police liaison, contacted the police to enquire about the reported incidents. However, there were no recorded reports, which may indicate that:

The incidents were not officially reported.

There was insufficient information or evidence for the police to take action.

Councillors also made local enquiries but were unable to identify the dog(s) or owner(s) involved.

One of the incidents referred to, involving a cat being mauled on a driveway, was reported on Facebook, not directly to the parish council.

According to online discussions, there were no witnesses or evidence to identify the responsible dog.

With the exception of [REDACTED] email, no other reports of dangerous dog incidents have been made to the parish council.

Council Resolution:

Whilst the parish council understands the distress caused by incidents such as those described, it (the parish council) has no authority or powers to deal with dangerous dogs. It is essential that anybody having witnessed or experiencing such incidents report these to the police at the time they occur.

Action: Clerk to respond to [REDACTED]

6. Report: West Suffolk District Councillor, Andrew Smith

Planning application in relation to Gerda: Determination date 20th March 2025.

Cllr Smith advised that based on the information received to-date, planning officers are unable to proceed to approve this application by the determination date.

NRG: The Enforcement Officer has advised that he has not received any reports relating to noisy deliveries outside of the permitted hours since 4th February, leading to the possible assessment that matters had improved.

[REDACTED] advised that NRG continues to operate in contravention of the planning conditions: He has not taken note of specific delivery times since 4th February, but can confirm that the company continues to start operations before 6am, with vehicle engines running at 6am with lights on, and sometimes pumping before 7am. In addition lights are burning throughout the night/not adhering to the approved lighting scheme.

Cllr Smith stressed the importance of regular reporting of incidents as they occur to provide witness evidence that can be followed up and enable action to be taken.

Action: Cllr Bauer will provide regular reports directly to planning enforcement of transgressions going forward.

7. West Suffolk Local Plan - Main Modifications Consultation

Barnham does not have any matters to consider within the plan with regards to housing development, due to the constraints of the buffer zone to protect the stone curlew.

Cllr Belsham highlighted that the former quarry site along the C633 remains in the plan: Should this be removed? (Suffolk County Council Minerals and Waste plan.) **Action: Clerk to seek advice.**

Stone Curlew: [REDACTED] explained that Elveden, Euston, and Shadwell Estates are collaborating to address outdated scientific evidence currently used by planners regarding the stone curlew. Existing data, which is over 20 years old, does not reflect the significant increase in stone curlew populations or their adaptation to arable land beyond their traditional heathland habitats. This outdated information is now leading to restrictive constraints that now negatively impact landowners who have actively contributed to the species' success. The estates are exploring options to sponsor new research or secure funding from external sources to update the scientific understanding of the 'modern' stone curlew and ensure that conservation measures are based on current accurate data.

Play Park Grant: Cllr Smith has kindly agreed to provide £1000 towards the play park refurbishment project: The parish council expressed appreciation.

8. Report: Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

Councillor Spicer has followed up the failure of the road repair on the C633 close to the junction with London Road. Yellow marks are now surrounding the relevant areas, indicating that they have been scheduled for repair.

A1088 - bridge works have been completed and the road has reopened.

Devolution: Suffolk and Norfolk have been put on a priority scheme for devolution.

Devolution is now out for legal consultation (details previously shared to councillors).

Subject to devolution progressing there will be an election for a mayor of a Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority.

Secondly, the requirement by government is the move to unitary authorities, ie combined district/borough and county authorities.

Suffolk County Council has put forward a recommendation for one unitary authority for Suffolk. The District Councils are looking at alternative proposals for example East and West unitaries or perhaps East, West plus Greater Ipswich.

Due to the current proposals, the May 2025 elections have been cancelled.

Once the process has been decided and if the reorganisation goes ahead then the boundary commission will review divisions and boundaries will change: This will determine how many people a councillor represents. Currently Cllr Spicer as a Suffolk County Councillor represents c.8000 people whilst Cllr Smith in his role as a District Cllr represents c.2000.

A question was raised about the true cost and savings of reorganisation. Cllr Spicer will provide details to the clerk (for circulation) of figures that have been calculated. However, she considers that what is more important is the efficiency savings resulting from fewer Chief Executives, less directors etc and achieving best value for money.

Suffolk County Council is facing huge cost pressures, particularly around children's services, adult social services and community services. The county council is having a very difficult year as they spend in the region of £300 million per year on the care of the elderly and vulnerable people and have been very badly hit by the National Insurance increases because Suffolk County Council pays large sums to care homes and agencies; schools, school staff. School budgets have also been hit by NI increases.

Cllr Smith is concerned about the impact of a single authority for the West of the county and the impact on residents.

Clock funding request: Councillor Spicer has kindly agreed to provide £500.00 from her locality budget toward the clock dial restoration project. Councillors expressed their appreciation.

9. **Highways Matters:** Nothing further to discuss

10. North Farm Quarry Restoration

Cllr Bauer considers that the information he has identified following his review of the documentation/conditions provides a well founded reason to request a discussion with Andy Rutter SCC, but there is some additional work required.

Planning permission was given for a borrow pit from which no soil stripping was to take place within the extraction area until the car park had been built. The permission was extended from 2012 - 2014. then for a further 4 years.

2018 another document refers to 'no further soil stripping'. But before this it appears the bund had been built. Considerations were expressed regarding this time frame of events v work carried out v permission granted.

A question was raised about the benefits of spending additional time on this research from both a parish council perspective as well as from a Suffolk County Council perspective needing to respond.

Cllr Bauer is keen to continue with the review, suggesting that the evidence could be provided in a summarised format with a request for SCC to provide an explanation, enabling an understanding of the final outcome: ie how did the borrow pit finally become to be classed as quarry.

Understanding how this outcome was arrived at would provide the parish council with confidence in the planning system. Cllr Wyer has agreed to assist him.

No decision was taken as to the final action to be taken once the review has concluded.

Action: Clerk to continue to include as an agenda item

11. Traffic Management

- i. Cllr Bauer has downloaded the data from the speed indicator camera for November, December, January. See attached summary.

There is additional analysis to be carried out but in the three months, the fastest vehicles recorded were 68, 64 and 70 (27th January at 3.59pm).

30mph Roundel road markings - These are very indistinct. SCC to be asked to repaint.

Action Clerk

- ii. ANPR Camera: Note this will be visiting Barnham 31/03/25 - 07/04/25
- iii. Speedwatch equipment: To determine action regarding the disposal/redistribution of jackets and signs.

Note: these items were funded from Cllr Spicer's locality budget.

Fakenham Parish Council expressed interest in having the signs and Cllr Smith took them to their meeting following on from being at the Barnham PC meeting.

Note: Fakenham Magna have decided they don't require these signs.

- a. *they are not what they were expecting*
- b. *these signs are the 'old type' and are heavier and more difficult to manoeuvre than those provided more recently by the police.*

- iv. Reflective jackets: Cllr Spicer asked that a decision is delayed briefly. She will come back to the pc with potential suggestion.

Action JS

Alternative solution is that the police are willing to collect the items.

12. Parish Councillor Reports

i. **Cllr Belsham - Police Liaison**

As reported at item 5: Dangerous Dogs - No information.

The Team covering Barnham is, PCSO Amanda Dodd, PCSO Crompton, PC 461 Gibbons, PC 1263 (new)

There are no current trends or investigations of interest in the last 3 months

ii. **Cllr Hawthorne - Barnham Primary School**

Nothing of note to report.

iii. **Cllr Hawthorne -Barnham Village Hall Liaison**

Cllr Hawthorne had not been available to attend the village hall committee meeting.

EV charging points, the committee had considered this option last year and had decided that it is not practical.

Cllr Hawthorne will attend the next meeting and describe how a possible payment system for using the car park could work for the benefit of the village hall.

iv. **Cllr Watson: Barnham Play Park** - Nothing further to report (see 21.i safety surfacing)13. **VE Day 80 Celebration: Cllr Beck**

In the absence of anybody else coming forward to arrange an event, Cllr Beck made the following suggests which were unanimously agreed.

There are 2 distinct days: Bank holiday Monday 5th May and VE Day Thursday 8th May.

Thursday 8th May - Beacon to be lit

Action Cllr Hawthorne

Check insurance **Action: Clerk**

Monday 5th May (bank holiday)

A street party themed event in the village hall, or on the field depending on weather conditions.

- Encourage fancy dress
- Children's Outdoor games
- A request to the ladies of the village for help: 6 or 7 positive responses so far
- Menu suggestions: sausage rolls, sandwiches, cakes
- Possibly ask people to bring food to share
- Jelly
- Maybe arrange for an ice cream van at about 4pm.
- Decoration: Bunting, lampost plaques to be considered

Action: Cllr Beck to progress ideas

Other activities during the week: School is preparing an exhibition and church is likely to display the soldiers as they did last year. On the Friday evening monthly bar night, there is likely to be a 40's theme.

14. **Village Historian** (Cllrs Beck and Belsham)

- i. Cllrs Belsham and Beck (lead contacts for this project) held a useful meeting with [REDACTED] who is delighted to have the opportunity to take on the role of Village Historian and is extremely keen to progress. (The clerk was also present.)

There is a wide range of historical areas to be covered. One of the particular areas of interest being explored initially is recording oral histories, for what could be known as the Barnham Oral History Project. [REDACTED] has been assisting in providing [REDACTED] with information and contacts. The intention is that the recordings will be made available on line via the parish council website.

In supporting the role of Village Historian there will be some expenses, for example: for the oral histories a digital recorder; travel expenses for visits to the records office; etc.

Other matters which must be considered and resolved are:

UK GDPR: An understanding of the implications and the necessity for consent forms to be signed by interviewees.

Safeguarding: DBS check/certificate/requirements. It is suggested that a relative or other appropriate adult should be present when interviewing elderly and vulnerable residents. Guidelines need to be drawn up and discussed with [REDACTED]. **Action**

- ii. **To consider parish council purchased digital voice recorder for the purpose of interviews/ oral histories.**

Costs vary but as an indicative figure the Clerk has identified one for c.£100: other less expensive options are available.

CLLrs Agreed this purchase at £100 maximum. **Action: Clerk**

- iii. **Courses:** [REDACTED] is keen to attend relevant courses and has provided details of two, for attendance online via the Oral History Society (<https://www.ohs.org.uk>)

- a. **GDPR** - cost £40.00 (12th March).

Resolution: Councillors unanimously agreed to fund the cost of this course.

The clerk has created a draft UK GDPR consent form.

Once agreed copies will be provide to [REDACTED] for use as required.

- b. **Project Planning:** £156.00 .

Councillors considered that the content of this course which, whilst undoubtedly extremely interesting, is probably excessive for the purposes of this role.

There are a lot of on-line resources available to assist with project planning, plus significant experience within the parish council, if required.

Resolution: Councillors are unable to support the cost of this course.

- iv. **Budget**

Councillors agreed that a budget of £250.00 should be made available.

Proposed: Cllr Hawthorne Seconded: Cllr Wyer Unanimously agreed

To note that costs already allocated against this budget are:

GDPR training £ 40.00

Voice recorder estimate. £100.00

DBS £75 was indicated however, this cost may be lower for a volunteer.

Advice to be sought (Clerk contacted CAS 12/3/25 - awaiting a call back)

It was agreed that the parish council should require a report of progress after 12 months. The intention - subject to progress - is that [REDACTED] will participate in the parish council's next community engagement event, expected to be during the summer.

The parish council is very appreciative to [REDACTED] for taking on this role and wishes to be as supportive as possible, whilst accepting that costs must not be permitted to exceed any agreed budget unless agreed by full council. All expenditure must be pre-authorized.

Councillors recognise that this is a long-term /ongoing project which [REDACTED] will be carrying out voluntarily and will be fitting around his other commitments and activities.

15. Planning: New applications**To consider responses to planning consultations received from West Suffolk Council**

- i. DC/25/0287/TCA - Removal of hedge
1 Tower Cottages, Water Lane, Barnham IP24 2ND
Parish Council Response: No comment
- ii. DC/25/0273/HH - Householder application
12 St Martin's lane, Barnham IP24 2NQ
A revised description for this proposal has been received since the agenda was published.
It is now DC/25/0273/HH I Householder planning application - single storey front extension (following demolition of existing canopy)
However, the plans remain unchanged.
Councillors consider that the work being undertaken is appropriate.
Parish Council Response: No objection
- iii. DC/25/0202/TPO Felling of one Scots Pine (T1) under TPO 135 (1970)
Woodlands Grove, Thetford Road, Barnham
Councillors considered this application noting its TPO status and also note that if granted a replacement tree will be planted. The parish council defers to the WSC consultant arboriculturalist's advice on this application and has no further comment to submit.
Parish Council Response: No comment.
- iv. DC/25/0372/HH I Householder planning application - detached outbuilding with PV arrays
Oakland House, Euston Road, Barnham Suffolk IP24 2NJ
This application arrived too late for inclusion on the agenda.
Deadline for response: 28th March 2025
Action: Re-circulate details with deadline date to determine whether councillors either wish to hold an extra planning meeting to consider this application, or alternatively, not to respond.
13/03/25 Actioned Clerk - awaiting responses from cllrs

16. Planning: Decisions by West Suffolk Council as the Planning Authority

DC/25/0070/TCA - 1 Walnut tree Cottage

Trees in a conservation area notification - three sycamores (T1-T3) on plan and one Lime (T4 on plan) fell. Decided/No Objections

17. Finance

- i. Financial Report - see attached
- ii. Invoices for payment - totalling £455.00 - Clerk/RFO salary: Feb 2025 £260.00
Clerk Reimbursement Samsung Tab: £195.00
- iii. Councillors unanimously agreed the appointment of [REDACTED] as internal auditor for Barnham's accounts for the financial year 2024/25.
- iv. Councillors unanimously agreed an honorarium payment on conclusion of the internal audit of £150.00.

18. Clerk's Report - see attached**i. Clock restoration Project**

The order has been placed with Cumbria Clock Company.

The original hope was that this work would commence during March. Unfortunately, this is not now possible and it is scheduled for May.

Once the dial has been removed, the work is anticipated to take c.8 weeks.

ii. **Dog bin relocation**

There does not appear to be another suitable location for the dog bin. Unless UK Power will undertake to pay for the installation on a pole near their pole, Vertas is going to be asked whether it is feasible to reattach to the UK pole as previously.

iii. **Village Maintenance**

Phone box - book exchange/library: Thanks to [REDACTED] the new handle has been fixed to the phone box. The clerk has supplied paint for touching up any necessary areas.

19. **Correspondence requiring consideration not covered elsewhere**

No correspondence. However, the clerk has received a phone call advising that 3 large tyres have been flytipped in the village hall car park. Cllr Hawthorne has kindly advised that he will deal this issue.

20. **Upcoming Events and Diary Dates**

Sunday 23rd March - Village Litterpick. 9.30am - 12.30pm

Meet at the village hall

Tuesday 25th March 2025 - SALC Area Forum - focus on Devolution. Advance booking required via Clerk. Attendees: Cllr Beck **Actioned Clerk 13/3/25**

Tuesday 13th May 2025 - Annual Parish (Village) Meeting

In a change to previous years, this meeting will take place prior to the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Tuesday 13th May 2025 - Annual Parish Council Meeting - Follows on from APM (which starts at 7.00pm referred to above.

2nd July 2025: APII One-Day Routine Playground Inspection Course

The parish council consider that the inspections provided by West Suffolk Council (for which there is no charge) is suitable for its requirements and therefore will not be attending.

21. **Confidential Item: Exclusion of Public and Press.** This item was not utilised.

Item 21.i was discussed following clerk’s report at item 18.

PlayPark: To review arrangements for work to be carried out.

Councillors resolved that Vertas would be asked to carry out the work described.

The Clerk has not yet been able to confirm a commencement date.

Colour of safety surfacing: Unless another colour is more readily available, Councillors have resolved to remain with black.

22. **Items for inclusion on next agenda**

Parking on grassed triangle adjacent the church: Disappointment has been expressed at the damage being caused in this area by vehicles, particularly at this time of year when the daffodils are flowering.

23. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13th May 2025**

Annual Parish Council Meeting: This meeting will follow on directly from the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Minutes signed as an accurate record of the meeting by the Chair

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Date 13th May 2025