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Barnham Parish Council

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Chair: Cllr John Bauer Vice Chair: Cllr Martin Belsham

Minutes of a meeting of Barnham Parish Council held on

- Date: Tuesday 13th January 2026
- Time: 7:00pm
- Venue: Barnham Village Hall, Mill Lane, Barnham IP24 2NG

In attendance: Cllr John Bauer (Chair), Cllr Helen Beck, Cllr Martin Belsham (Vice Chair), Cllr Susan Watson, Cllr Adrian Webb, Cllr Ed Wyre, West Suffolk District Cllr Andrew Smith, Suffolk County Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE
Clerk/RFO Pauline Smith Members of the Public: 0

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Hawthorne: Absence approved.

2. To receive Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

None.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th November 2025 were

Proposed for approval by Cllr Belsham, Seconded by Cllr Watson:

Unanimously approved.

The Minutes were signed as an accurate record by the Chair.

4. Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

5. To Receive Reports from County and District Councillors

1. Suffolk County Councillor, Joanna Spicer MBE

Local Government Reorganisation: A decision on LGR is expected from the Government by late February/early March 2026.

Once the decision has been determined (whether there will be 3 unitary authorities or a single unitary authority) boundary changes will be required, necessitating a structural change order. Once that has been issued the legal process commences to end the existing council structure. The government wishes to get this in place before the summer recess.

Mayoral elections have now been deferred by the Government to 2028.

Views were expressed that cancelling Suffolk County Council elections again for 2026 is undemocratic.

*(Note: Since the meeting, the Government has rescinded its decision regarding Suffolk County Council elections: These **will** now take place in May 2026.)*

Buses:

Cllr Spicer spoke about the bus service from Euston-Fakenham Magna-Honington-Troston: This route is being looked at with a view to possibly enabling passengers from this route to pick up the bus from Barnham through to Thetford.

Minerals and Waste Plan: A Suffolk County Council cross-party working group is taking preliminary steps towards the next Minerals and Waste Plan.

Question: Could SCC include a site without a request from a landowner?

Response: In theory yes, but unlikely. SCC would look very foolish if they did this

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without the landowner's knowledge.

Action: Cllr Spicer will enquire about the timetable.

Avian Flu: Although restrictions locally have been lifted, rules remain in place

2. **West Suffolk District Councillor, Andrew Smith**

Community Governance Review: Cllr Smith is one of a small group of councillors who will be looking at the representations.

Deadline to respond to the consultation is 13th February 2026: Barnham Parish Council has no requirements for change. **Clerk to respond/Actioned**

Simpler Recycling will commence June 2026. A newsletter is being circulated to all households providing further details.

6. **Highways Matters**

1. **To receive progress update re White lining, Speed roundels**

JS

£1980 of Cllr Spicer's highways budget has been committed to this project which will result in 7 roundels (refreshed and new), "Slow" being painted on the road and dragons teeth at the new village gateway.

2. **To receive progress update re Village Gateway**

Awaiting details from Euston Estate.

Cllr Smith has generously agreed a £500 grant towards this element of the project.

3. **To consider any other highways matters requiring attention**

A resident has raised concern about significant mud deposited around the 2 bollards at the traffic lights

7. **Road Safety**

1. **VAS data – Report**

JB

Cllr Bauer will extract the data and submit to the police

2. **Community Speedwatch – Update/Progress**

There are currently insufficient volunteers to enable training to proceed (6 is the minimum number required).

Councillors were asked to encourage any residents whom they think may be willing.

Action Chair: to include an item for The Link to encourage volunteers to come forward.

8. **Barnham Heath: Newall Road**

JB/JS

To receive the outcome of the site meeting (JB/JS/ST) regarding flooding issues and crab apple trees and to consider any further action.

Date for site meeting deferred to 29th January: Time 9.30am – Meet at Newall Road

9. **Planning Matters**

To consider new planning applications received from West Suffolk Council since the previous meeting: None at the time of issuing the agenda.

10. **To note planning decisions made by West Suffolk Council since the previous meeting:** See attached

11. **Planning Enforcement Matters: To receive updates/progress reports**

AS/JS

1. **NRG** had contacted WSC themselves to explain that due to a number of issues occurring they had had some late movements in and out of the site over the Christmas period.

The WSC Enforcement Officer Andy Smith WSC Enforcement will be liaising with NRG again in the spring.

2. **Gerda:** WSC have been following up, but no outcome to date.

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3. **Land opposite Barnham RAF Camp:** WSC is engaging with landowner regarding land use.

12. To receive Reports from Parish Councillors including

1. Barnham Village Hall: No report MH
2. Police liaison: Nothing to report MB
3. **Play Park: *Damaged fencing*** by person/s unknown SW

Clerk reported that no witnesses have come forward and nobody has admitted responsibility.

Details have been provided to the insurance company. Subject to acceptance of the claim, the parish council will be required to pay the £250 excess.

It is hoped to identify a supplier who can provide a like for like replacement panel.

Cllr Watson believes Mr Heading may still have some additional panels from when they were originally installed: Cllr Webb will enquire. (Mr Jordan has already advised the clerk that he does not expect this to be the case)

(Since the meeting: confirmation received that there are no extra panels).

Clerk has met with a contractor regarding extending the surface underneath the climbing frame and potentially replacing the existing slide unit. Quotation awaited.

Paul Woollard will undertake work to rectify the uneven area at the entrance to the new play area gate from the field, using hardcore.

Clerk to confirm agreement to PW to use hardcore (Actioned)

4. **Barnham Primary School:** Nothing to report MB/MH
5. **No Parking Sign on the Green at Church Lane:** AW
Clerk has provided the new sign to Cllr Webb who will install it.

13. Finance

1. **Financial Report:** Circulated
Payment of invoices totalling £332.19 Unanimously agreed
Clerk's Salary: £213.20 - December 2025
HMRC re Clerk/RFO £46.80 - December 2025
Defib world: Defib pads £72.19 - (inc vat £4.99 recoverable)

2. **Budget/Precept for consideration and decision**
See attached.

Following detailed discussion, councillors unanimously agreed to a budget and precept request of £11,357. (Details attached).

This will result in a band D charge of £47.17, an increase of £3.47 over the previous year or in percentage terms: 7.94%.

(Since the meeting concerns have been raised about the level of this increase. A £250 reduction on the budget has been agreed: Now reduced to £11,107.

Precept request has also been reduced to £ 11,107.

Increase over previous year: band D £46.13, in percentage terms: 5.56% increase.

These figures will be formally ratified at the next meeting – see attached details).

Precept request £11,107 submitted to WSC 22nd January 2026

14. Clerk's report

Allotments: The parish council has received 2 enquiries about allotments within 1 month. The first person was referred directly to Euston Estate.

it is understood that the Estate is not currently re-letting allotments as they are relinquished.

If Euston stops providing allotments councillors need to remain aware that the parish

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council will be required to consider provision itself should 6 or more residents require them.

Clerk will now maintain a log of requests going forward and will continue to liaise with the Estate for further information regarding their intentions.

Clock: Cumbria Clock company will be returning to service the clock. Date awaited.

Plaque expressing appreciation to funders: **Action Clerk**

Data Protection: Councillors have been provided with details of data protection training via the ICO site.

All councillors are asked to confirm to the Clerk when they have completed the training.

A data map/policy is required and will be available at the next meeting together with an updated IT policy.

Clerk's computer (Apple Mac Air): Clerk is currently keeping an eye on prices 2026 M5 is expected very soon which may cause 2025 M4 version to drop in price, but will need to be quick to take advantage. Clerk is checking daily.

15. Consultations: To consider consultation documents and determine how/whether the parish council will respond.

1. Local Government Review

Consultation closes 11th January 2026 (prior to this meeting):

Resolution: No Action.

2. Community Governance Review: 17th December – 13th February 2026 (information previously circulated)

Resolution: No changes required – Clerk/**Actioned** see 5.2

3. West Suffolk Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document

2026 consultation: Open 6th January – 17th February 2026

Resolution: No Action.

16. Correspondence

To note items of correspondence receive since the previous meeting requiring consideration by councillors: None

17. Diary Dates

1. Village Litter-pick: 22nd March 2026 9.30am - noon

Clerk to order equipment and collection of rubbish/Include in Link Actioned

2. Annual Village Meeting – 12th May 2026

18. Questions to the Chair/Items for next meeting.

A resident raised a concern with Cllr Webb regarding confusion caused by the numbering of addresses in Mill Lane, St Martins Lane and Water Lane, and asked whether additional signage could be erected. It was suggested that the resident may wish to provide possible locations for signage for consideration, ensuring it would be clearly visible for delivery drivers and visitors.

19 Date of Next Meeting : 10th March 2026

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

Minutes confirmed and signed as an accurate record by

Cllr John Bauer (Chair)

Date: 10th March 2026