

Residents are invited to attend the

**Barnham Annual Parish Meeting**  
Will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Commencing at 7pm  
Venue: Barnham Village Hall, Mill Lane, Barnham IP24 2NG

## AGENDA

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Annual Report of the Parish Council
3. To receive any reports from District/County Councillors and Clubs, Societies, or Organisations within the Parish.
4. To invite members of the public to raise any matters of interest or concern relevant to the parish.

This is a meeting of the electors of the parish it is not a parish council meeting.

The Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners on the Electoral Roll for Barnham to raise any matters of interest or concern that relate to the local community

5<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Pauline Smith  
Clerk to Barnham Parish Council  
[Barnhampc@btinternet.com](mailto:Barnhampc@btinternet.com)

## **BARNHAM**

### **West Suffolk District Councillors Annual Report May 2025**

We are all facing a Local Government Review (LGR). The government intends that Norfolk and Suffolk will become a combined mayoral authority. In addition, all current local government authorities across Suffolk and Norfolk e.g. Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk District Council will cease to exist and will transition into unitary authorities. The number of unitary authorities in Suffolk is still to be determined. There are currently three potential options the first being a single unitary for the whole of Suffolk, an east/west option i.e. a two unitary split and finally a three unitary option to include a wider Ipswich.

The budget for 2025/26 was discussed at Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Recommendations among other things included a 3% rise in Council Tax and rises in car parking charges with a significant increase for Ram Meadow car park which most of the workers who travel into town use.

The Local Plan has been through the examination stage and further consultation is taking place following the modification report, leading hopefully to a final report and adoption this summer.

During the year I was able to contribute £1,000.00 towards the work required to the children's play area and equipment from my locality budget.

There have been significant staff changes at senior level. As a result the opportunity has been taken for some restructuring which while necessary and in some cases beneficial is always unsettling for staff who must also now be wondering what the impact of a Unitary Authority will be for them.

The future is definitely full of change and challenge with the advent of a Unitary Authority and a Mayor. There is a lot of detail to be resolved, and timescales are tight. Whether you are for it or against it, this government is determined it will happen and therefore we need to embrace it and work towards making it the best unitary we can.

**Andrew Smith**

**West Suffolk District Councillor**

**Bardwell Ward**

**May 2025**

## **Barnham Village Hall**

### **Report for the Annual Barnham Parish Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

During the past year the village hall has had several refurbished works carried out.

- The wall at the front was re-built and new handrails were fitted.
- The parking bays at the front of the hall were re-aligned in an endeavour to make it safer for car park users.
- Our thanks go to the P.C. for the cost of these works.
- New tiles were fitted in the bar area, and the walls were re-painted.
- A portrait of King Charles, that was donated by the Parish Council, was hung up in the bar.

The Village Hall relies on hires and fundraising to allow the hall to function.

- Hires are relatively steady. Children and adult parties are the most popular.
- The bowls, over 60s, and yoga are our regular weekly hirers.
- The Daffodil Teas and Social Evenings remain successful as well as providing valuable income towards the upkeep of the hall and are enjoyed by all who attend.

The Hall is approaching 70 years old and continues to be an integral part of the village.

**Judy Jordan, Chair**  
**8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**