

## Barnham Parish Council

Chair: Cllr John Bauer

### Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Barnham Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th May 2025 – Commencing at 8.10pm Venue: Barnham Village Hall

This meeting followed on from the Annual Parish Meeting of Barnham

In attendance: Cllr John Bauer, Cllr Ed Wyer, Cllr Helen Beck, Cllr Susan Watson, Cllr Adrian Webb,  
Suffolk County Cllr Joanna Spicer

1 member of the public.

1. **Election of Chair and signing of Declaration of Office**

Cllr John Bauer was nominated and proposed as Chair by Cllr Wyer  
Seconded by Cllr Beck. **All in Favour/Unanimously approved**

**Resolution: Cllr Bauer** was duly elected as chair to May 2026 and signed the acceptance of  
Office, which was countersigned by the Clerk.

2. **Election of Vice Chair:** No nominations for the role of vice chair were received.

Note: Cllr Wyer does not wish to be nominated to this role for a further year.

**Resolution: Deferred to July meeting**      **Clerk: Agenda item July**

3. **To receive apologies for absence and requests for approval for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Belsham and Cllr Hawthorne  
Reasons provided were duly approved.

Apologies were also received from District Cllr Andrew Smith due to clash of meetings

4. **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. To  
consider requests, not already received and determined, for dispensations relating to  
matters on this agenda: None received.

5. **To approve minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

The minutes were taken as read

Proposed: Cllr Beck    Seconded Cllr Webb

**Resolution: The minutes having been unanimously approved were duly signed by the  
Chair.**

6. **Public Forum**

Matters intended for discussion during the public forum by residents present had been  
described in detail during the annual parish meeting: Speeding concerns and requests for  
reduced speed limits to 20mph/15mph along Church Lane and others and change from  
40mph to 30mph at entrance to village (Euston end), together with other traffic calming  
measures.

See item 9 for discussion by councillors and actions agreed.

No other matters of concern were raised.

**7. To receive reports from**

- 7.1 Suffolk County Councillor, Joanna Spicer  
Cllr Spicer had provided her report during the Annual Parish Meeting. No other matters to consider.
- 7.2 West Suffolk District Councillor, Andrew Smith. Cllr Smith had provided a written report to the Annual Parish Meeting. (See copy attached)

**8. Highways.** See item 9.

**9. Speeding/Traffic Management**

- 9.1 Concerns highlighted within correspondence from a resident regarding vehicles driving at inappropriate speeds along village roads/lanes and potential mitigation measures.

4 residents had attended the APM, two of whom spoke in favour of reducing the 30mph speed limit along Church Lane and similar roads on safety grounds, whilst one resident had disputed the validity of the claims leading to this requirement. During the APM Mr Hollis had detailed his rationale for his request for a 15mph limit. (He also provided a document for councillors with this information: *attached*)

Re: Speeding concerns along the Street, Mr Hollis has included the details as explained during the meeting within the document provided. Within this, he references an email (previously sent to Cllr Bauer by Mrs Ailsa Jobson: Cllr Bauer responded to the correspondent at the time.) *Copies attached.*

Following the detailed discussion during the preceding annual parish meeting, Cllr Joanna Spicer and parish councillors considered the matters raised and suggestions put forward by the resident who has recently moved into the village and considers that vehicles are driving at excessive speeds along Church Lane, which he considers should be reduced to 15mph - on safety grounds (SCC would consider 20mph limit or zone if conditions are appropriate).

An opinion put forward by another resident was that the ANPR camera is not located in the optimum location, that the location for school children alighting the bus near Salmond drive is dangerous due to speeding motorists (this is within the 40mph area), and the existing speed indicator sign is in the wrong location.

However, a contrary view of the need for the imposition of a 20mph speed limit had been heard from another resident who regularly walks on Church Lane and connecting roads and feels entirely safe when doing so.

*Cllr Beck, having declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in the matter as a resident of Church Lane, highlighted that:* Regrettably, whilst there are always motorists who will drive at excessive speed - regardless of conditions or speed limit - the regularity of motorists driving at excessive speed along Church Lane was disputed, due to the nature of the lane, which causes most motorists to drive cautiously.

Driving at inappropriate speeds through the village – The Street/Euston Road - has long been/continues to be a concern of residents and councillors. This has previously resulted in the purchase of a speed indicator sign from which the data is regularly extracted, the implementation of the Community Speed Watch team (CSW), and Lorry Watch.

Barnham is included on the ANPR schedule, and the police regularly visit the village to carry out speed monitoring. County Councillor Joanna Spicer has been fully involved in discussions/matters of concern throughout the years and contributed to the original equipment for the Speedwatch, as well as raising issues on behalf of the parish council with the relevant departments within Suffolk County Council.

Lorry Watch has since been ceased and unfortunately, due to the previous CSW co-ordinator standing down (May 2023) and nobody else coming forward, the CSW team was eventually formally disbanded during 2024 and the speed gun and other equipment returned to the police.

Cllr Spicer and the parish council have previously considered – in detail – the options of extending the 30mph limit through the current start of the 40mph limit (Euston side) and also creating a 20mph zone within the centre of the village. A lack of agreement by Suffolk County Council at the time for extending the 30mph limit into the existing 40mph area, together with the legal process, costs and the plethora of signage within the conservation area that would be required for implementation of a 20mph zone (with the costs falling to the parish council, had the parish council decided to pursue this line of action), were not considered viable at that time.

It was noted that a 20mph zone exists in Mill Lane, in the area of the school: this is common in the vicinity of schools across Suffolk. *This 20mph limit is advisory only ("20's plenty").*

The resident leading the campaign for a reduction to 15mph along Church Lane primarily, but which would need to be implemented along other roads, Blacksmith Lane, Water Lane, etc and possibly others, if the changes were deemed viable, expressed a willingness to take on the role of Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator, which was appreciated.

(The resident also expressed a willingness to provide funding towards the costs of speed reduction schemes, being under the impression that other residents would do likewise.)

It is agreed that driving at excessive speeds along The Street/Euston Road is a concern. It is noted that there is not universal agreement amongst residents for the need to impose a 20mph limit (or 15mph) for Church Lane or other areas within the village.

Councillor Spicer described various alternative measures which could be considered, if the parish council resolves to progress the suggestion of 20mph zones or limits, and/or other speed calming options for Church Lane and other lanes in the village.

**Actions:**

**Cllr Bauer** will visit the resident (SH) in Church Lane to discuss his concerns and witness for himself the apparent/perceived issues being described/experienced.

He will also discuss (SH's) the resident's willingness to take on the role of CSW co-ordinator.

**Clerk** to contact former CSW members to gain expressions of interest/willingness to become involved again.

**Cllr Spicer** will

- Arrange a site meeting in Church Lane to review potential options should it be deemed necessary.
- Visit Barnham with Community engineer to assess potential traffic calming options.
- Establish feasibility of replacing/renewing village gateway together with associated white road markings and rumble strips.
- Assess feasibility of speed cushions in Church Lane.
- Assess feasibility for 20mph speed limits within village lanes/roads
- The first stage, before any consideration can be given to a change of speed limit, each road/lane will require traffic monitoring equipment to be installed to assess eligibility: costs to be confirmed.
- Traffic monitoring costs, previously c.£350 per lane/road: to be met by parish council (subject to agreement). Cllr Spicer to confirm costs.

Process and costs to be aware of if it is agreed to progress with speed limit reduction:

Legal process:

Traffic management order (TMO) required for each lane/road

Advertising of traffic management orders.

The legal process is extended if objections are received from residents which increases the cost.

If TMOs granted:

Roads signs, road markings, and work to implement.

**Action Clerk: July Agenda item** to consider parish council funding the costs related to traffic monitoring for Church Lane and other lanes/roads considered appropriate for inclusion should the parish council wish to progress obtaining the data, required as a precursor to establish factual evidence prior to applying for lower speed limits within the village.

It should be noted that another requirement to progressing with an application for speed calming measures would be consultation with residents.

## 9.2 **Community Speed Watch Scheme: to review potential for reinstatement**

**Cllr Bauer** will discuss requirements of CSW co-ordinator with SH.

Subject to SH confirming his agreement to agree to take on this role,

**Chair will contact Police** to establish process to reinstate Barnham's scheme, arrange requisite training for SH as co-ordinator, and arrangements for obtaining necessary equipment.

**Clerk will provide list of previous team members to chair/contact previous team members** to establish interest in rejoining team.

*Clerk has had a recent conversation with police, who indicated that as the scheme has been closed, all previously team members will be required to undergo training again.*

### 9.3 Speed Indicator Sign

The Chair provided details of the recent data downloaded from the speed indicator device

It was noted that speeds as high as 70 and 73 had been registered during January/February/March. If a pattern emerges from the data identifying when these high speeds are occurring, the police can be asked to carry out speed checks/monitoring at the appropriate times.

### 9.4 Potential for 2<sup>nd</sup> speed indicator sign

Relocating the existing speed indicator device (SID) or purchasing a second device was suggested. It was also asked whether the device could be installed to monitor the 40mph area. The chair believes that the equipment can be calibrated to record within the 40mph zone.

Parish Councils are constrained by the criteria laid down by SCC in relation to where these devices may be installed.

**Chair will make enquiries regarding the current requirements/permmissible locations.**

**Clerk will make enquiries regarding costs.**

### 10 Appointment of responsibilities and representation to other organisations for agreement

No changes to previous responsibilities were requested. Therefore, these remain as for 24/25

RAF Honington	Cllr Wyer
Village Hall Committee	Cllr Hawthorne
Barnham Primary School Liaison	Cllr Hawthorne
Emergency Plan Lead	Cllr Wyer
Play Park	Cllr Watson
Suffolk Association of Local Councils	Cllrs Beck/Bauer
Police Liaison	Cllr Belsham
Village Historian, liaison	Cllrs Belsham/Beck
Vehicle Activated Sign/Speed Data	Cllr Bauer

### 11. To review and confirm the following documents

Review of the following documents has been deferred to EGM

(Date to be confirmed) – Clerk

- 11.1 Standing Orders
- 11.2 Financial Regulations
- 11.3 Risk Assessment – **Clerk to discuss** with Cllr Beck
- 11.4 Assets Register

### 12. Financial matters:

- 12.1 To reappoint bank signatories:

The signatories remain unchanged: Cllr Bauer, Cllr Belsham, Cllr Wyer.

**Resolution:** Unanimously agreed

However, there is likely to be sufficient advice and knowledge locally to progress.  
Cllr Beck to follow up on progress.

19. **Future Meeting Dates**

Parish Council Meetings 2025/26

**15<sup>th</sup> May:** Honington and Sapiston Village Hall – 7pm

Suffolk County Council Briefing on Local Government Reorganisation

**17<sup>th</sup> June:** Newmarket Memorial Hall – 6.45pm

West Suffolk Parish and Town Forum

20. **Items for consideration for inclusion on next agenda.**

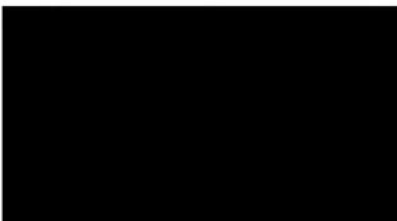
Speed Monitoring: Request for 30mph along C6333

21. **Date of next meeting.**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – 7pm - Venue: Barnham Village Hall

*Meeting closed at 9.05pm*

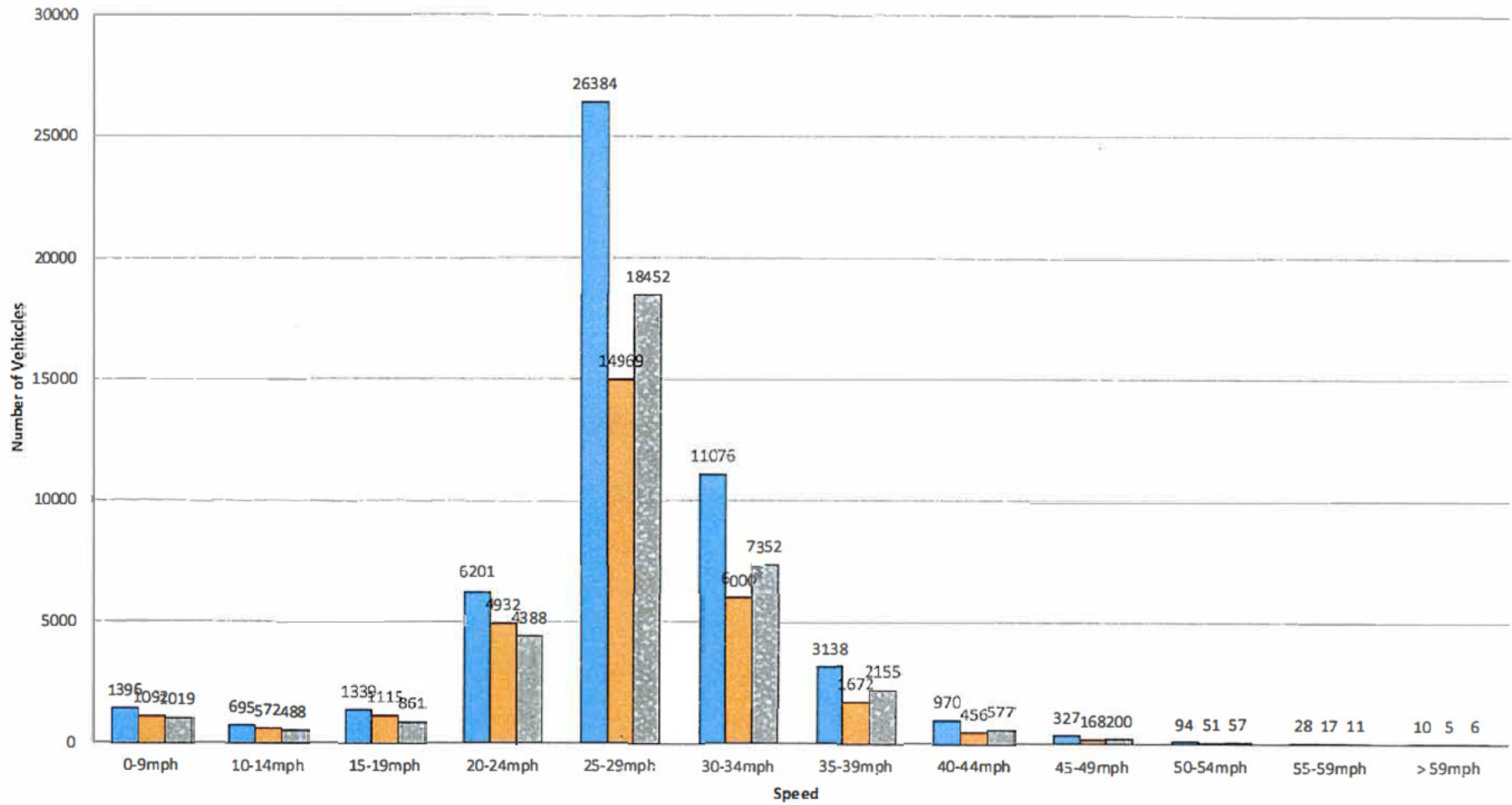
*Signed as an accurate Record*



Date..... 8/7/2025

	November	December	January
Maximum Speed	68	64	70
Date/Time	18/11/2024 04:59:57	30/12/2024 06:59:57	27/01/2025 15:59:57
Total number of vehicles	51658	31049	35560
Number faster than 35 mph	4567	2369	3006
% faster than 35 mph	8.8%	7.6%	8.5%

### November - January



Letter provided to all councillors by resident [redacted] during meeting

Letter from resident <sup>ref item (9)</sup>  
circulate to councillors  
at meeting

**BARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 13 May 25**

**What is the issue? Causes v Impact      Likelihood & Severity v the 'so what's'**

**30 MPH speed limit within internal village lanes is ridiculous. Size of actual lanes with no footpaths, high verges. Many villagers I've had chance to speak to all agree that Church Lane, Blacksmith's Lane, and Water Lane are hazardous, all should be set at a much lower speed limit in order to protect pedestrians, dog walkers, children and YES, our pets, we should all be afforded the right to feel safe on these lanes. General feeling from locals is indeed levels of anxiety due to vehicle speeds.**

**Consistent speeding on the main road through the village within the 40 MPH and 30 MPH limits – The Street & Station Road.**

**Church Lane is used as the main through road to access Water Lane, some drivers, particularly non villagers, have no perception that this lane is very narrow, no footpaths, and the fact that we have steps from our property that lead directly onto the lane, Roy and Susan's drive next door leads directly onto the lane, they hate having to reverse out in their car, two examples that are clearly a serious hazard to us both, delivery van's 'pelt' up and down the lane, electric cars at speed are very hard to pick up on due to low noise levels. This leads onto the 'So What's' below..... This has been addressed before and yet no safety measures put into place, WHY?**

**The 'So What's' of nothing happening? Worse case credible scenario?**

**Risk to Life to pedestrians, dog walkers, children, and animals.**

**Risk of serious injury to pedestrians, dog walkers, children, and animals.**

**Stress and anxiety for villagers directly impacted due to speed of vehicles and position of properties (turning out of private driveways)**

**Risk of collision for villagers entering the lanes from individual properties, great example being neighbours (Roy & Sue) next door to Primrose Cottage.**

**What is required?**

**A new max speed limit of 15 MPH sanctioned within internal village lanes - Church Lane, Water Lane, Blacksmiths Lane backed by physical speed calming measures (speed calming strips)**

**More signage, replace speed/hazard damaged signs on the main road through the village, particularly old RAF Quarters patch.**

- E-mail from [redacted]

**No Entry onto Church Lane, and Blacksmiths Lane from the main road?**

**Church Lane and Blacksmiths Lane to be a pedestrian Zone? This would only serve to push the problem onto residents living on Water Lane**

**Community Speed Awareness Team reformed?**

- All of the above require engagement with local council Highways Dept or Traffic Management Dept.

### Confirmed Actions to Date

Suffolk Constabulary contacted 17 Apr 25 (verbally, backed up with an e-mail), concerns raised reference persistent speeding on the main road through Barnham and a reported lack of enforcement through speaking to locals. Confirmation on the day that an increase to speed enforcement would be effected, Barnham classed as a PRIORITY 4 zone. To date, speed enforcement conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April 25, speed enforcement officer confirmed to me that numerous speed violations were captured on both days and a high enforcement presence will be maintained within the village.

Signs purchased (Polite Notice) and handed to villagers who expressed a wish to display on Water Lane, Church Lane, and Blacksmiths Lane. Having broken a highways ruling myself by attaching signage to an actual Highways Agency sign post, villagers briefed that to place a sign, it must be on a separate post and not cause an obstruction to moving vehicles on the lanes.

We should not be in this position where private signs are having to be deployed around the village when solutions are available (listed above)

When we purchased Primrose Cottage, all we noted at the time, a small idyllic little lane behind the property, once moved in it was abundantly clear that the lane was hazardous due to the amount of traffic, ridiculous speed limit, backed against a high volume of pedestrians, predominantly dog walkers and children that use Church Lane. We already had serious concerns with regards to our 3 x cats as the majority of traffic transiting the lane would not have a hope in hell of braking for animals suddenly on the road, never mind pedestrians, cyclists, children during poor light and visibility. The inevitable happened to one of our beloved pets. We can't rely on common sense, discipline of drivers, understanding of our predicament, proven over the last few weeks (sadly several villagers, proof taken of registrations) continue to go at pace up and down the lane. Clearly, until speed calming measures are introduced we can't do anything ref delivery vans and visitors to the village. This is why **ACTION** is required **NOW**, as soon as possible,

**PROACTIVITY and not REACTIVITY sleepwalking towards the next incident, human or animal**

**I will contribute out of my own pocket if it means being stress free, our pets afforded some protection, and not forgetting protection for the general villagers.**

