

Barnham Parish Council

Chair: Cllr Joahn Bauer Vice Chair Cllr Martin Belsham

**Councillors are summoned to attend a meeting of Barnham Parish Council, on
Monday 21st July 2025, commencing at 5.00pm
Venue: Barnham Village Hall, Mill Lane, Barnham IP24 2NG**

Members of the public are welcome to attend

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive declarations of interest and to consider any requests for dispensations
3. To receive questions from members of the public in relation to items on this agenda.

Policy Documents for Review and Approval

4. Standing Orders
5. Financial Regulations
6. Financial Risk Assessment
7. Assets Register

Finance: Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025

8. To Approve the Certificate of Exemption 2024/25 (page 3)
9. To Receive the Annual Internal Auditor's Report (page 4)
10. To Approve the Annual Governance Statement (page 5)
11. To Approve the Accounting Statements (page 6)

Planning Matters

12. **Biodiversity Policy – Liaison with Resident in relation to the removal of a section of hedge on the boundary of their property – Yew Tree House, Barnham -, which is within the conservation area.**

Following contact from the owner of Yew Tree House, Barnham: Councillors are asked to consider and provide their opinion in relation to the removal of a section of a boundary hedge and replacement by panel fencing (the resident's preference) or privet hedge. Please see attached details.

The property is in the conservation area, however the owner has contacted West Suffolk Council and been informed that in this instance planning permission is not required. This request is consistent with the parish council's biodiversity policy which encourages liaison between residents and the parish council.

Agenda issued 17th July 2025

P Smith

Clerk to Barnham Parish Council

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Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email, and I note all you say.

The picture correctly shows the length of hedge in question.

With regard to the Council's biodiversity policy, it should be noted that the remainder of the hedge is staying. It is self supporting and made up of various trees as well as some privet, yew and other hedging species, and enables sustainable cutback along its length.

In considering its replacement we have taken into account the problems this has caused over many years, including with the previous owners, of the narrowing effect this has on the track owned by the estate, despite twice yearly cutting back. This has been made worse by its recent collapse

It would be infinitely cheaper to replace with privet hedging, but this would be planted on our boundary line (there is an original fence post still standing amongst the clipped conifer at the end), and overtime would end up causing a similar problem.

Therefore we propose, if at all possible, to replace with concrete post and panel as our first preference. This will ensure a fixed boundary for years to come. The current hedge when clipped stands at approx 6 foot. We propose using panels at 5ft, which when added to the concrete gravel boards, will give an approx height of 5ft 6in. As to the design of the panels, on the opposite fence we have the round top style of panels in a soft wood colour (not the horrid orange that is about), and these are being considered along with standard close panel style in the same softer colour.

I look forward to hearing from you

Regards,

[REDACTED]

