

Barnham Parish Council

Chair: Cllr John Bauer Vice Chair: Cllr Martin Belsham

Minutes of the meeting of Barnham Parish Council

held on: Tuesday 10th March 2026 Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Location: Barnham Village Hall, Mill Lane, Barnham IP24 2NG

Present: Cllr John Bauer (Chair), Cllr Martin Belsham (Vice Chair), Cllr Helen Beck, Cllr Susan Watson, Cllr Adrian Webb, Cllr Ed Wyer
Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE, West Suffolk District Councillor Andrew Smith
Clerk/RFO: Pauline Smith
Members of the Public: None

1. Welcome from the Chair

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and expressed his gratitude to Cllr Spicer who has announced her retirement, after 37 years as our County Councillor. She will not be standing again for election to Suffolk County Council in May 2026.

Cllr Spicer expressed her appreciation to the Chair and Councillors.
(See further details at item 6)

2. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Matthew Hawthorne: Work commitment.

Apologies unanimously accepted/absence approved.

3. To receive declarations of interests and any requests for dispensations in relation to items on this agenda. None received.

4. Approval of Minutes of meetings held

4.1 **13th January 2026** – 1 amendment: Cllr Beck shown as being present. This is incorrect: Cllr Beck had submitted apologies which had been accepted/approved. Minutes amended accordingly.

4.2 **9th February 2026** – 1 amendment – correction to spelling of Cllr Wyer's name in list of attendees.

Following the aforementioned corrections, both sets of minutes were taken as read and unanimously approved.

Proposed: Cllr Watson. Seconded: Cllr Belsham.

The Chair signed both sets of Minutes as an accurate record of the respective meetings.

5. Public Participation Session

To receive questions and comments from members of the public in relation to items on this agenda. Other matters may be raised at the discretion of the Chair.

No members of the public were present at this meeting, however an email had been received from a resident in relation to item 19.1, the content of which was considered at that point.

6. Suffolk County Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE Report

6.1 ***To include update re site visit to Barnham Heath: Newall Road***

Blocked drain – Newall Road: The Highways Engineer had taken an action to enquire whether the drain could be jetted – but could not provide any guarantees – update awaited.

Trees: Pollarding or removal request: The Highways Engineer had taken the action to request a visit by the Arboriculture Officer for assessment. Suffolk County Council will not normally remove trees unless they are diseased or dangerous.

Shedding of fruit and leaves is to be expected and would not normally be considered a reason to remove an otherwise healthy tree.

Awaiting update.

Actioned: Clerk to follow up with Community Highways Engineer

- 6.2 **Road markings at village gateway** and roundels: It is 14 weeks since the order for the traffic calming works was signed off. **Since Meeting: Now complete.**

- 6.3 **Village Hall Sign** (directional sign) from A134/Mill Lane.
This has been damaged again.
The Community Highways Engineer has previously expressed a view that it is too far forward - therefore prone to damage by large vehicles - and she would seek to have it put further back. **Action** to follow up

- 6.4 **Councillor Spicer is retiring/will not be standing for election in May 26:**
Cllr Spicer reminisced about the many and various issues that have been discussed in this same room of the Village Hall during her tenure as Barnham's Suffolk County Councillor over the past 37 years, during which she has supported the village in many circumstances.
Examples include highways concerns at the cross roads with the A134, resulting in traffic lights being installed; resolving the highways issues that arose as a result of the anaerobic digester at Euston; the implementation of the traffic-management arrangements along the C633 and C634; the Quarry application which was a long drawn out affair but eventually resulted in the land being returned to agriculture.
Cllr Spicer has provided generous grants towards many village projects including community Speedwatch, the vehicle activated sign (VAS), village notice board at Salmond Drive. The most recent projects include the village clock dial refurbishment project; refreshed and new road markings to improve highway safety for everybody at the village gateway and throughout the village. However, it is not only parish council projects that Cllr Spicer has supported, she has also supported the school and other village organisations with funding through the years, including the cricket team (which sadly no longer exists).
Barnham Parish Council will always be grateful to Cllr Spicer not just for her generous financial support but also for her friendship, wide-ranging knowledge, direction and advice that has been greatly welcomed throughout the years.

7. **West Suffolk District Cllr Andrew Smith**

- 7.1 **Better Recycling** is scheduled to commence June 2026.
Explanatory leaflets have been delivered to each household.

The new/additional bins are being delivered between 20April-15May. West Suffolk Council had miniature display of the new bins at the recent Town and Parish Forum. The team is willing to attend village events to discuss how this will work with residents.

All food waste will be sent to an anaerobic digestion plant facility at the Adnams Distribution Centre in Reydon, near Southwold.

- 7.2 **Local Plan:** The government requires local authorities to produce their next local plans within 30months. The “call for sites” will be issued soon.

- 7.3 *Enforcement Matters/Enquiries:*

Gerda: Awaiting further information regarding anticipated planning application.

Land Opposite Barnham Camp: Update awaited.

8. **Highways matters**

Blacksmiths Lane: Concern was raised about an area of concrete within the highway which is breaking away. This is the location of excavation work carried out for a Sewer Connection c.2/3 years ago. **Actioned:** Report to Highways – Clerk.

9. **Village Gateway - Progress**

It is anticipated that this will be installed imminently.

10. **Councillor Reports**

- 10.1 **Barnham Village Hall:** Clerk reported that concern continues to be expressed that now there is no access to the village hall bin this will result in increased litter in the play area. See 10.4

- 10.2 **Community Engagement** (Cllr Beck)

Consideration will be given to parish council involvement at the Farmers Market due to be held in June. **Action: May agenda**

- 10.3 **Community Speedwatch – Progress** (Chair)

The lack of response requests for volunteers is disappointing, resulting in no progress being made (there are too few volunteers for training at present). The Chair will make further contact with those who have previously expressed an interest.

The Chair is planning to carry out a further analysis of the VAS data by time. Cllr Belsham will liaise with the police enforcement team.

- 10.4 **Play Park** (Cllr Watson)

Weed/moss is growing through surface – requires spraying off. **Action** Clerk

Area from field into playpark at gate: The stone has not compacted sufficiently well and is spreading across the grass. Alternative solution/s to be considered **.Action** Clerk

Repairs carried out: The Parish Council is grateful to Cllr Webb who has

removed the remaining grip from the climbing wall and replaced a bolt in the basket frame.

Litterbin: There is no possibility of West Suffolk Council emptying an additional litterbin, regardless of location.

Posters/FB post required asking people to taken their litter home

Actioned: Clerk

10.5 **Police liaison:** (Cllr Belsham) Nothing to report.

10.6 **Barnham Primary School:** (Cllr Belsham) The School is preparing for an Ofsted Inspection.

10.7 **No parking sign on the Green,** Church Lane. (Cllr Webb)
Cllr Webb was thanked for installing the new sign.

11. **Lorry Watch:** (Cllr Wyer) One of the reasons that Lorry Watch along the C634 was ceased was the difficulties in identifying which were exempt. Lorry Watch could be reinstated but this will require a new team of people who will need to be trained.

Q. Without the trained team how is it possible to prevent unauthorised HGV's traversing the village?

This will be a query raised with the police enforcement team.

Resolution: If Community Speedwatch can be successfully resurrected/implemented then the next stage will be to look to reinstating lorry watch.

12. **Public Space Protection Orders** (Clerk)

To consider whether to proceed with the inclusion of the play park.

The application has been submitted, but it was not finally determined with this is necessary at this location. The PSPO will not cover the field.

There would be a cost for new signage for the play area.

The signs do need to be updated with new contact details regardless of whether or not the PSPO order goes ahead.

Questions regarding costs have been submitted to WSC: Awaiting response.

Review at May meeting. **Action:** Clerk

13. **Planning**

To consider the parish council's response to planning application consultations received from West Suffolk Council: None

14. **To note any planning decisions** by West Suffolk Council since the meeting held 13th January 2026: None

15. **Clerk's Report**

Parish and Town Forum: Honington and Sapiston Village Hall, 10 February 2026.

The Clerk attended this event, during which Graeme Mateer of SCC described recent updates to the 20mph speed limit policy.

While explaining that the changes make the policy less onerous for parish councils wishing to implement 20mph schemes through their villages, Mr Mateer confirmed that no funding is available to assist parishes.

Those present expressed concern that this lack of funding means most small parish councils wishing to progress 20mph schemes through their villages would be unable to afford to do so.

Clock Service – 23rd February 2026: Report notes wear on escapement pulls, which company will keep an eye on at next service visit
Litter bins dealt with elsewhere

16.

Finance

- 16.1 Financial Report: Circulated – See attached
- 16.2 Invoices totalling £808.00 were presented for payment

Cumbria Clock Company	£288.00	Inv 21609
Pauline Smith	£213.20	Jan26 Salary (Clerk/RFO)
HMRC	£46.80	Jan26 PAYE
Pauline Smith	£213.20	Feb26 Salary (Clerk/RFO)
HMRC	£46.80	Feb26 PAYE
Total	£808.00	

Proposed Cllr Beck. Seconded: Cllr Webb
 Unanimously approved.

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that £5,000 will be transferred to the Capital Fund from the general fund.
 Proposed Cllr Beck. Seconded Cllr Wyer.

17.

Policies and procedures

Clerk

Data mapping and IT policy

The IT policy was unanimously approved.
 Proposed: Cllr Wyer. Seconded Cllr Beck
 Data Mapping has been completed: to be circulated.

18.

Consultation: Barningham Neighbourhood Plan

To consider response: No action required.

19.

Correspondence requiring consideration and response

- 19.1 Lighting on Blacksmith Lane – from a resident
 “Please can the level of the LED street lighting be tabled for discussion.

The light on Blacksmiths Lane is so overly powerful that it is disrupting sleep cycles and is dangerous to local wildlife, as there is no darkness - even in the middle of winter. This is not healthy, there is significant evidence that these lights suppress melatonin, and pose health risks like increased cancer rates, headaches, and migraines.

As it is the glare coming through our windows hurt. There is no need for these lights to be in throughout the night.”

Councillors acknowledged the concerns raised by the resident together with the counter concerns raised by other residents (who do not wish the light to be turned off at any time), who consider that this would be detrimental to safety due to the lack of pavements along Blacksmiths Lane which is very narrow and would be extremely dark without the single light.
It was noted that Councillors have not received any complaints previously.

Details of content of the letter have been submitted to SCC Street Lighting for comment and advice.

Resolution: Councillors will await the outcome of the response from SCC before making comment.

19.2 **Any other correspondence requiring consideration** - None

20. Diary Dates

20.1 Barnham Litterpick: 22nd March 2026 – Meet 9am Barnham Village Hall
It was agreed to delay sign cleaning and pathway clearing to a village work party on a future date.

20.2 **Barham Village (Parish) Meeting** 12th May 2026 - 7pm
Invitations to be sent inviting various village organisations to present a report.
Action Clerk: Clerk

21. Questions for the Chair – None

22. Date of next meeting: 12th May 2026

This meeting will follow directly on from the Barnham Village (Parish) Meeting which commences at 7pm

Minutes signed as a true record

J. Bauer, Chairman

12th May 2026

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