

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7:00pm in Barningham Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, J Chalmers, L Hebert, R Baxter, T Steer, N Martineau, SCC C J Spicer & WSC C Bull

1. Apologies for absence

2. Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. None.

2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests. None.

2.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act. None.

3. Minutes - to confirm and sign the minutes of the Wednesday 10th January 2024 meeting as a correct record.

4. Meeting open to the public None present.

The Parish council again extended their thanks to local resident Kathy Cummings for her prompt reporting and continued communication with the Parish council regarding issues in the village.

5. Report from Suffolk County Councillor: J Spicer

Gateway update. See under item 10.2

The installation of the bend warning sign, part of the traffic calming works for Coney Weston Road, has been installed. Unfortunately, the post it was mounted on was very high so the new sign would be hidden by the trees once the leaves come out. Also, it was reported that the bend warning sign, on the other side of the bend, has turned round. These matters have been reported to the SCC highways engineer. At the time of the meeting the flood at Bardwell Road seemed to be receding and the water had gone down on the both the road and in the ditches. Thanks were extended to all those who have been helping with the matter, particularly James Reid and Nigel Webber, who have been undertaking work to clear out ditches. It was suggested that we have, as a future agenda, an item to contact all landowners, whose property has a ditch, to ensure that they are clearing them out on a regular basis.

Action Clerk

A number of potholes have been filled in Drouts Lane.

6. Report from West Suffolk Councillor: C Bull

The Councillors thanked Cllr Bull for organising the road sweeper to come and sweep the debris left by the flood in Bardwell Road. Cllr Bull reported that the budget, going forward for approval would see a 2.99% increase for a band D property. The archive at Bury St Edmunds is being moved to The Hold at Ipswich. Some concerns have been raised about this but, due to the proposed hub at Bury being cancelled by the new administration, this seems like the only option at this time. West Suffolk are still trying to see if there are any alternative options to keep the records more locally. Co-part have withdrawn their application for development at Shepherds Grove at Stanton. Jaynic are still going ahead with their application although there is no date for this to go to development control at this time. West Suffolk are currently undertaking personal visits at properties where a resident has not responded to an 'invitation to register' (ITR) form and the subsequent reminder forms that followed. They will be undertaking the personal visits between 7 February and 8 March and the canvasser will support the resident to complete their voter registration. The canvasser will always wear and show their official identification and will visit the property once to request a response and will deliver a calling card, which is on pink card so that it's clearly visible, if there's no answer. They are notifying us to ensure that we are aware of the door knocking exercise taking place in our area. The Parish Council will put something on Facebook to let residents know that this is happening.

Action Cllrs Chalmers/Steer

7. Chairman's reports

17 January – In line with updating the Lawn Cemetery Regulations, I researched Cremation Boxes and Urns which are eco – friendly and presented them to the Parish Council. This matter is in hand with the Clerk.

22nd January – Took photos of an overgrown tree in the far right corner of the rear churchyard beside two houses in Church Gardens. One resident had complained about it. He had got a quote of £1,000 to remove it. It is the responsibility of West Suffolk I believe. To be checked. This matter is in hand with the Clerk.

23 January – Zoom Meeting attended re-Cemetery Regulations. Clerk to check further relevant points. This matter is in hand with the Clerk.

7 February – Message from resident Bishops Croft, regarding a memorial plaque site for a young person who was fatally injured in a crash. I called at home but no-one there. Will contact on mobile phone number given when more information available from PC.

Neighbourhood Plan document received with update from the Consultant Ian Poole for review and future action. See under item 15.1

8. Clerk's Report

8.1 To receive update on flooding Sandy Lane

The farmer, who farms the land adjacent to the properties in Sandy Lane has been contacted. They have said that they will look at options to limit any water coming off their land. The residents affected have been updated.

8.2 To note response from Anglian Water, re. sewage discharge into Church Road.

The above matter was reported but had resolved itself in the meantime. Anglian Water said that it is not unusual for extreme rainfall to have a temporary, adverse effect of the sewer system, and that they return to normal once the overwhelming volume has passed through. They were very quick to respond.

8.3 Update on blocked drain reported in Bardwell Road, adjacent to the school.

The Clerk reported the blocked drain, at the bottom of Bardwell Road, near the school, to SCC. The following response was received 'Thank you for contacting us about this issue. We have visited the location of your report and assessed against Suffolk County Council's Highway Maintenance Operational Plan (HMOP). Unfortunately, at this time we are unable to take further action as this does not meet our intervention criteria. We will, however, continue to monitor the location as part of our routine inspections.' It was felt that this matter had not been resolved and that it was unlikely that a member of the team had inspected the drain within the short timeframe indicated by the speed of the response. The Clerk will report this matter again. **Action Clerk**

8.4 Update on meeting with PC Reeve.

Unfortunately, PC Reeve is unable to commit to coming to a Parish Council meeting but she would be happy to try and set up a meeting to discuss any issues and concerns we may have. The Clerk will organise this for some time in the future. In the meantime the Clerk will ask if the email contact that PC Reeve has been communicating on can be shared with the Councillors and/or with the public. **Action Clerk**

The Clerk asked about any issues with bikes in the village being reported, as had been seen on Facebook. PC confirmed that no reports had been made. Again, we would encourage residents to report any incidents of antisocial behaviour if they felt it was an issue.

9. Finance.

9.1 To consider invoices for payment/note receipts.

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Admin | Payment | various | £2,093.51 |
| Annual support | Payment | Community Heartbeat Trust | -£162.00 |
| G Marsh inscription | Receipt | Burials | £33.00 |
| recycling credit | Receipt | Alford Storage | £15.00 |

9.2 Bank reconciliation, schedule of payments and budget report.

The Clerk provided a schedule of payments, budget report and bank reconciliation to the Councillors for information.

10 Village matters.

10.1 To discuss flood in Bardwell Road, including road clearing and any plan going forward. See under item 6.

10.2 To receive update of traffic calming measures.

An application for the gateway was discussed. As we must submit a plan of the design we want, prior to being given permission, from SCC, to instal the gate, the Clerk will circulate some options to the Councillors for consideration. **Action Clerk**

10.3 To receive information about concerns raised in Sandy Lane (Nth) regarding speeding.

A request for a new post is being submitted for consideration to SCC. Clarification from the properties behind and adjacent, to check they are happy with the proposal, needs to be sought as part of the application process. Details of the property behind was confirmed. From experience it was noted that the application to SCC is often lengthy, and the Parish Council will need to consider the cost implications of a new post once this has been processed. **Action Clerk**

10.4 To receive an update on funding for damaged post, Church Road.

The damaged post has been reported and confirmation that action is being taken by SCC with the works ordered.

10.5 To agree the purchase of a grit bin for Bardwell Road.

Following a site meeting with Cllrs Steer/Chalmers and the Clerk, a site was identified as suitable on the junction with Bardwell Road and Droughts Lane. A request for siting a bin there has been submitted to SCC. Once approved an order for a new bin will be put in. The Clerk has asked Steve Wilson if he can install the new bin. If he is not able to, we will ask Peter Kerry.

Action Clerk/Caretaker

10.6 Grit bin on shop corner

This bin has sunk into the ground and is full of water to ground level. The Clerk has asked Steve Wilson to look to see if he can drain this.

Action Clerk/Caretaker

11. Aggies Piece

11.1 To receive any update on the Aggies Piece wetland project.

Cllr Baxter has been speaking to Andrew Moore about a site meeting to discuss where the pipes under Aggies lay. This meeting should take place before the end of the month if possible. Cllr Baxter will let the Councillors know a date of the meeting when she has one. Sam Hurst, Norfolk Rivers Trust is looking at funding for a site survey. **Action Cllr Baxter**

12. Caretakers report Circulated.

This was a relatively uncomplicated month, despite the best efforts of the storms. The receding of the flood in Bardwell Road exposed a quantity of plastic debris from vehicles; I piled this up and a highways inspector kindly removed it from site for me. I removed some annoying branches from the shrubs at the elevated path a few days before the whole area received a serious haircut. I have cleaned the mildew from the noticeboard at the entrance to At St Andrew's Close.

13. Play area /Cricket Meadow to receive any update.

Replacement ladder.

The Clerk has asked for an update as to when work to swap the units over will be done.

Action Clerk

14. Churchyard/Cemetery

14.1 To discuss regulations in regard to cremated remains.

Some work needs to be done to the regulations to reflect inclusion of Cremated Remains (CR) conditions, including any space allowed in front of the CR memorials. Cllr Chalmers and the Clerk will work on this. **Action Cllr Chalmers/Clerk**

14.2 To agree container and location for removed items.

The purchase of a lockable box and a combination lock was agreed. The box will be used to store any items that need to be removed from the graves. Items will be stored for a period of two months and then anyone wanting to re-claim their items will need to contact the Clerk to arrange access to the box. This information will be added to the notice in the Cemetery. **Action Cllr Chalmers/Clerk**

14.3 To note request for additional inscription for the late G Marsh.

The inscription for the late G March was agreed.

Action Clerk

14.4 To discuss the application for the late O Vatcher.

A request was received from the family of the late Oscar Vatcher to use a ceramic vessel in the cemetery. Unfortunately, the Councillors were unable to agree to this request as we only allow biodegradable vessels. An alternative, biodegradable vessel has now been agreed.

14.5. General works.

The cemetery needs a bit of work as it is looking a bit unkempt after the winter. A meeting with Peter Kerry is being arranged to ask him to have a general tidy up and try to reduce the impact of the moles. More regular cuts of the cemetery will be needed going forward so we are able to keep the area tidier for all. **Action Clerk**

15. Neighbourhood Plan.

15.1 To further discuss the draft plan ahead of submission for consultation.

The latest version of the plan was received just ahead of the meeting. The Consultant was suggesting a drop-in session on the 23rd March. However, due to the short amount of time the group would have to review the document, it was felt unlikely that we would be able to achieve this. A zoom meeting will be arranged to review the plan. On a brief inspection there were considered to be errors within the document that will need to be addressed. The Clerk will request a copy of the document in word format so that we can make changes before sending back to the consultant. **Action Clerk**

16. Planning. to include any applications/decisions received since the agenda was posted.

16.1 To discuss, and submit any comments, regarding the West Suffolk Local Plan submission consultation.

The Parish Council wants to make it clear that they would not support any more than 37 new houses on the site identified by West Suffolk Council. The Parish Council agreed that any new development should provide sustainable travel connections to existing local destinations and that a robust transport assessment and travel plan would need to form part of any application for development of the site.

17. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

17.1 To confirm arrangements for the next newsletter.

The Clerk will try to write a brief update on the Neighbourhood plan for inclusion.

17.2 Keep Barningham Beautiful date.

Saturday 20th April was agreed as the date for the next Keep Barningham Beautiful event.

Cllr Baxter enjoyed her recent training with SALC, she had a different trainer to the previous Councillors, she has another session booked for the end of February.

Cllr Chalmers reported the Coffee Caravan is visiting again in February and that a few more people had visited last month.

Cllr Chalmers reported that whilst the new heating is adequate under normal circumstances it has not been warm enough in the really cold weather. They are looking at installing some additional heating, possibly a fan heater. They are looking at holding a summer event and wondered if the Parish Council would be able to offer any funding. The Parish Council would consider any request for funding and asked that an amount is put forward. **Action Cllr Chambers.**

18. Correspondence for information.

18.1 Housing, Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy – consultation and online survey – a message from Councillor Richard O’Driscoll, Portfolio Holder for Housing at West Suffolk Council. Circulated.

19. Date of next meeting 6th March 2024 7pm in Barningham Village Hall. To confirm arrangements for the May annual Parish and Parish Council meetings. It was agreed the May meeting should be held on the 8th May, to avoid any clash with elections arrangements.

20. To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:

20.1 Personnel Issues. None.

20.2 Legal Issues. None.