

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7:00 pm Via Zoom.

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, W Martineau, S Lusher, A Woodward, T Steer, R Baxter, C Cllr Spicer & B. Cllr Bull.

1. **Apologies for absence.** None received.

2. **Members Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**

3.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda. Cllr Baxter declared an interest in item 14.1 on the agenda.

3.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.

3.3 To grant dispensations as appropriate under Section 33 of the Localism Act.

3. **Minutes** - Minutes of Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 zoom meeting were agreed and approved as a correct record.

4. **Meeting open to the public** 3 members present

A member of the public raised concerns about the handling of the recent sites consultation by West Suffolk. They had tried to engage with West Suffolk but had received no response. Cllr Bull asked that the resident forward any details to her and she will look in to it. It was acknowledge that the current Covid situation had meant communication has been difficult. It was recognised that one of the main ways we normally communicate is via the Parish Council newsletter. With the restrictions that have been place we have been unable to deliver this. The Clerk will look at the cost of sending a newsletter to all the residents.

The good work the new head teacher is doing was commented on. She is facing huge challenges as she joins the school but she is said to be handling it superbly.

**Action Cllr Bull/Clerk**

5. **Report from County Councillor: J Spicer**

Cllr Spicer had no report to make.

6. **Report from WS Councillor: C Bull**

Cllr Bull reported that there are additional grants available for village halls and that she had been in touch with the village hall committee to advise them of this. Babergh/Mid Suffolk have suspended their brown bin service. Currently the brown bin service is still running in West Suffolk. Cllr Bull said that she would be able to make a financial contribution towards the purchase of a new speed device for the village. The Clerk will make a formal application.

**Action Clerk**

7. **Progress reports. For information, from:**

**7.1 Chairman**

7.1 Abuse of shop staff

Cllr Hammond contacted the police about the abuse of staff, by customers and delivery people, at the shop. Sgt Puiy answered very quickly and offered some practical advice to the staff. Sgt Puiy also offered to have a virtual meeting with the staff if they felt this would be helpful. The Chairman has had a busy December dealing with the precept forms and attending a Neighbourhood Plan meeting. There has been flooding at Aggies and both Steve and Peter Kerry are going to take a look to see if anything can be done to help the situation.

Cllr Hammond reported that there are going to be creative workshops run by the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds.

## **7.2 Clerk:**

7.2.1 **Highway matters.** To include request for permission, from Hepworth Parish Council, to include Barningham in their quiet lanes project.

We have been asked by Hepworth Parish Council if we have any objections to

(i) a quiet lane, from Hepworth, finishing in Barningham, on North Common Road. &

(ii) to allow them to use our financial allocation, granted from SCC, to pay for any works associated to Barningham. This is understood to be £600 per parish. There would be no cost to Barningham directly. The Parish Council agreed that they would be happy for Hepworth Parish Council to use their funding for this project. **Action Clerk**

7.2.2 To discuss free tree planting initiative

The Clerk has been in contact with a new charity, set up by Sicon, a software provider based in Bury St Edmunds. During lockdown the founders of Sicon decided to set up a charity foundation to provide free trees. They would be able to provide, plant and look after the trees, until established. It was agreed that this is something that we would like to pursue for Aggies, including planting a tree in memory of the late Eddie Sier. The Clerk will speak to the charity about this. **Action Clerk**

7.2.3 Social media abuse.

Social media admin and the Clerk have been in receipt of correspondence of an unpleasant nature regarding information posted. No one should be subject to abuse when they are offering our community a public service, this is really not acceptable. It was agreed that any social media posts should be shown as clearly coming the Parish Council, which is the case and not just from the individual who is posting. A change to the current admin set up will be made reflect this. **Action Clerk**

## **8. Finance.**

8.1 The following accounts were approved for payment:

Admin	£1,676.75
Church Cemeteries	£57.60

8.2 Update Precept 2021/22

West Suffolk Council has received a grant from central Government to offset some of the impact Covid 19 has had on the tax base this year. They have passed this down to the Parishes and have asked if we want to adjust our precept request accordingly. Barningham has been awarded £333.00 in grant. It was agreed that this would not make a significant difference and therefore we would not be altering our precept request. **Action Clerk**

8.3 Bank reconciliation and budget report

The Clerk provided details of the transaction for approval and up to date bank reconciliations and budget report.

## **9 Village Hall**

The village hall is currently closed. A tree has been planted in memory of the late Peggy Ellinor at the hall garden.

## **10. Neighbourhood Plan**

It was agreed that, due to the ongoing restrictions, that we would have to post out the consultation, making arrangements for the responses to be posted back. The Clerk has secured 2 quotes for printing the consultation document, sending out and providing a postage paid return envelope. It was agreed to go with the company based in Norwich, as they had offered the best customer service so far. This cost would be covered by the grant, unlike any works carried out by the Clerk. It was agreed that a response would be requested within two weeks of receipt of the consultation. The document is very close to completion and should be

ready to be submitted for printing at the beginning of February. Two of the members of public volunteered their services to proof the document prior to it being sent off. **Action Clerk**

### **11. Speed devices**

Cllr Steer and the Clerk are still working on this.

### **12. Caretakers report Circulated.**

Leaf work continued this month with the sweeping of Church Road and blowing the wet leaf debris from the pavement there. I have finished raking in the Lychgate Cemetery. A visitor to the Lychgate Cemetery was very upset to find his parents' grave completely obscured by the laurel hedge on the boundary with St Andrew's Close; I have now lopped the entire back row to make the graves accessible.

I have fitted wire mesh to the boardwalk in Aggie's Piece where the anti-slip surface had been lost. I did not have access to the appropriate size of mesh and the end of it is not secured by timber so it will need to be re-addressed. It is, however, much safer than it has been recently. For the majority of 2020 I worked in the village only one day per week as a Covid precaution. This has saved time and the litter has never quite reached a level where a second visit has become necessary. I have, therefore, included my time clearing spoil from the Lawn Cemetery as part of my hours rather than booking it as overtime. As occasionally happens, 2020 ended up as a 53-week year. The overall result is that I have worked two and a half hours in excess of my normal allocation but I will simply knock this off my time for 2021.

The Clerk has tried to arrange for the road sweeper to the village, to assist with Steve sweeping the debris in to the road, fortunately it had visited the day before. We have requested another visit.

### **13. Play area /Cricket Meadow**

#### 13.1 Balance of S106 funds

There is an outstanding balance of S106 money, from the Lingwood development of £463.84. We needed to find something to offset the amount against. The Clerk has allocated this money towards the replacement of the two zip wire seats that needed to be replaced after being vandalised. They were £347.20 plus vat, each.

### **14. Churchyard/Cemetery**

#### 14.1 Damaged fence in Lawn Cemetery.

There is some confusion over who is responsible for the fence that had come down in the lawn cemetery. Cllr Baxter confirmed that the chestnut paling that runs round the cemetery is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The post in the corner had fallen over but has since been stood back up. There is some work to be done and it was suggested we have a meeting on site to look at any works that needs to be done. In addition to the fencing we also need to look at the shrubs and bushes, that border the area and potentially agree a regular schedule of maintenance. **Action Clerk**

#### 14.2 Fly tipping in Lych-gate Cemetery

There has been more fly tipping of garden rubbish in the Lych-gate cemetery. We are reluctant to put up a 'no fly tipping sign' at this location so it was agreed that we would include an article in newsletter. **Action Cllr Baxter**

The hedge should be cut at the end of this month.

### **15. Planning**

15.1 DC/20/2065/OUT | Outline planning application (means of access to be considered)  
10 dwellings with associated new access | George Hill Nurseries Barningham Road, Stanton.

**No objection were raised.**

#### 15.1 West Suffolk Council new Local Plan, Consultation

There have been concerns raised about the recent West Suffolk consultation on sites. Unfortunately the posters we were promised, by West Suffolk, didn't arrive in time to stop people passing out inaccurate information, especially around the Bardwell road site. The West Suffolk planning consultations often cause this kind of reaction. The Parish Council took a less active approach this time as we are just about to promote our sites and as such we are not actively supporting any sites submitted by West Suffolk until we have had the results of our consultation. In the past we would have ordinarily advertised the upcoming West Suffolk consultation, and explained our position, in our regular newsletter. As noted earlier this is an issue we are looking to address. As reported previously our response to West Suffolk, regarding their consultation on sites in the new Local Plan was 'Barningham Parish Council think that a Parish, carrying out a Neighbourhood Plan, as we are, should be responsible for allocating their own sites. As such, unless strategic to the overall Local Plan, West Suffolk should not allocate any sites in our area. They should allow us to continue our work in identifying sites and consulting with the Parish, with the end result being that the sites chosen in the Neighbourhood Plan are done so through a thorough local consultation and that it is these sites that are brought forward for development'. We are about to carry out our own consultation, contacting all the residents in the village. Once we have had back the results of our consultation we will submit them to West Suffolk for inclusion with their data. The Parish Council believe this will represent the most accurate view of where the residents of Barningham would like to see any future development.

#### 16. **Councillors reports and items for future agenda**

It was agreed to put the lych-gate gate on the next agenda for discussion.

It was reported that the Royal George are offering a very good take away menu.

#### 17. **Correspondence for information**

None received.

#### 18. **Date of next meeting** 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

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

19.1 Personnel Issues. None.

19.2 Legal Issues. None.