

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7:30 pm Via Zoom.

Present: Cllrs: C Hammond, W Martineau, S Lusher, R Baxter, S, Kenyon, C Cllr Spicer & B. Cllr Bull. 3 members of the public present.

**1. Election of Chairman**

Cllr Martineau proposed Cllr Hammond for the position of Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Kenyon. Cllr Hammond accepted the position.

**2. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Hammond signed the acceptance of office.

**3. Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr Lusher nominated Cllr Martineau for the position of Vice Chairman. Cllr Martineau accepted the position.

**4. Apologies for absence Cllr T Steer**

**5. To elect Council Officers and Representatives to outside bodies**

Cllr Lusher was nominated as the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee.

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

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

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

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

**7. Minutes** – The minutes of the Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 meeting were approved and agreed as a correct record.

**8. Meeting open to the public**

A resident asked about the current position with the Neighbourhood plan, in particular where we are with the survey results. The Clerk reported that the results did not give us a clear indication on which site/s are the preferred option for Barningham. We are working on a summary of the results and once this is done we will send a copy to all the residents in the Parish as well as making all the comments available on the website. Our next step is to go back to AECOM and have them help us produce a more detailed plan for each of the sites. Hopefully we will soon be able to hold a public event and we are hoping this will give us a clearer idea of what the village wants and where. We have requested that West Suffolk Council do not allocate any sites in the West Suffolk Local Plan and that they allow us the time we need to consult with our residents so we can be in a position to make a properly informed decision.

There has been a change in the West Suffolk timeline regarding their Local Plan. Cllr Bull will provide the Clerk with the up-to-date situation and the Clerk will forward this on to the resident. It was noted that West Suffolk have made available all the comments they have received following their Options and issues consultation.

## **9. Report from County Councillor: J Spicer**

HGV Signs. A number of complaints have been received from residents in Hepworth Road regarding the positioning of the sign. They have been erected facing oncoming traffic entering the village from Stanton. The complaints focus on the need for the sign to be facing the other way so it is visible to lorries travelling from either Market Weston or Coney Weston as it is from these locations that they are using the road as a cut through. Cllr Kenyon will take a video, highlighting the issue with the placement. She will send this to Cllr Spicer. In addition to paying for the post Cllr Spicer has been charged for traffic control, which was not used in the end. Cllr Spicer reported that both Barningham and Hopton Schools are doing well for numbers.

**Action Cllr Kenyon**

## **10. Report from WS Councillor: C Bull**

Cllr Bull reported that she has been in touch with the officer in charge of the broken light in Bardwell Road. He assured Cllr Bull that he would be dealing with the matter soon. The proposal for a solar farm, between Barningham and Hepworth has been put on hold. This is because there would be too much capacity to make it viable.

After Friday it will no longer be legal to meet remotely. There is a lot of strong feeling that, on occasions, it would be beneficial for Councils to meet remotely to retain flexibility. The Government are looking at this as an option.

It was unknown if the light, in Sandy lane, at the bottom of Bishops Croft, is working. Cllr Hammond will check this and report it to Cllr Bull if it still hasn't been repaired.

**Action Chairman.**

## **11. Progress reports. For information, from:**

### **11.1 Chairman:**

#### **11.1.1 Litter pick – village event, to discuss event**

9 people and a successful hour and a half session. Bobby and husband, Tony and wife, William and Brigitte, a mother and her little daughter and myself. The village itself was very tidy. The litterbin outside the school was top overfull. Someone had had a disposable barbecue on the meadow and left a burned patch! Most of the bigger, older rubbish was revealed by the flood at Aggie's -a rusted tin bath, old, wire border, some old tin cans, and plastic bottles. An old plastic container. William and Brigitte were amazing climbing into prickly hedges to get things! A successful session. William drove back to the village hall with the bags for us and then drove the equipment back to mine.

Dog fouling remains an issue.

There was another incident of antisocial behaviour. Reports were received of a catapult, firing ball bearings, being used in the Lych-gate Cemetery. One ball bearing went in to a neighbouring garden and caused damage to an outside storage bag.

I want to finish by thanking everyone behind the scenes who have stepped up to help others out over the past year. It makes me feel very proud.

### **11.2 Clerk:**

#### **11.2.1 Parish Council meetings, to discuss plans going forward.**

The High Court has dismissed the application by Lawyers in Local Government (LLG), the Association of Democratic Service Officers (ADSO) and Hertfordshire County Council and stating that primary legislation would be required to enable virtual meetings to proceed once the current Regulations expire on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Therefore we need to prepare to resume physical meetings once Step 3 of the Government Roadmap is implemented which hopefully will be from 17<sup>th</sup> May as planned. There are still concerns regarding this and it was suggested that we didn't have a meeting in June but wait until July as things should be clearer by then. All in agreement.

#### 11.2.2 Bins on Cricket Meadow, to discuss replacement

HAGs can supply a bin for £540, from our fund or we could purchase one for approx. £150. It was agreed to purchase one for £150. The need for additional bins was discussed. It was agreed to wait and see if the new, replacement bin, eases the issue. **Action Clerk**

#### 11.2.3 To discuss current insurance provider and possible alternatives

The Parish Council insurance is due soon at £926.27 plus admin fee. The Clerk sought another quote for comparison. Aviva, for a premium of £762.75 inclusive of 12% insurance premium tax. A 3 year Long Term Undertaking would reduce the annual premium to £724.62 including insurance premium tax. Cllr Kenyon would compare the two policies and produce a table with the main points for comparison. The Chairman and the Clerk will then decide which of the two policies would be best for the Parish Council. BHIB also offer a free years subscription to Parish online worth approx. £40.00 We are tied in to a 3 year agreement with our existing provider, the Clerk is finding out how much it would cost to leave this.

#### 11.2.4 Webinar on good Insurance practices

The Clerk is attending a webinar on good practice, this will help inform the decision.

### 12. Finance.

12.1 The following accounts were approved for payment

Admin £1745.48

Weed killer £20.00

Ink £62.45

T Brown, internal audit £210.00

R H Landscapes, grass cutting £528.00

12.2 Bank reconciliation and budget report

The Clerk provided a schedule of payments and a bank reconciliation.

12.3.1 To discuss the Report by the Internal Auditor

The internal auditors report was circulated and approved. The recommendation made, regarding signing cheques was noted. The Council will ensure the Clerks contract is reviewed during the year and that the results of the External Audit are recorded

12.3.2 To Agree AGAR for submission.

The AGAR was reviewed and approved for submission. The Clerk will organise this.

**Action Clerk**

### 13. Neighbourhood Plan

Update on Neighbourhood Plan progress.

Work on the survey results is still being undertaken. Unfortunately the volunteer who has offered to help has been taken ill. As recoded under item 8 it was reported that the results did not give us a clear indication on which site/s are the preferred option for Barningham. We are working on a summary of the results and once this is done we will send a copy to all the residents in the Parish as well as making all the comments available on the website... Our next step is to go back to AECOM and have them help us produce a more detailed plan for each of the sites. Hopefully we will soon be able to hold a public event and we are hoping this will give us a clearer idea of what the village wants and where. We have requested that West Suffolk Council do not allocate any sites in the West Suffolk Local Plan and that they allow us the time we need to consult with our residents so we can be in a position to make a properly informed decision.

## **15. Speed devices**

Update on new device.

The new device should be delivered tomorrow. The Clerk will chase up the repair to the post at the shop and the installation of the new post at Pound Corner.

**Action Clerk**

## **16. Aggies Piece**

There was no report this month.

## **17. Caretakers report Circulated.**

I have continued to edge the footpath in Sandy Lane this month and this work will take a few sessions more. I have also swept the area around the entrance to the Lych-gate Cemetery. I have applied weed-killer to the elevated path opposite the shop and to the matting of the goalpost unit on the Cricket Meadow (as advised by the Play Area Inspector). Once the weeds on the elevated path are dead I will remove them.

Recent vandalism has included the rather complicated litter bin on the Cricket Meadow; this has now been strapped closed to remove a safety hazard. I have also recovered a large, plastic, wheeled toy from the Play Area. It had been smashed into what I conservatively estimate to be a million pieces but still had elements large enough to more than fill a wheelie bin.

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

We have experienced a further incidence of vandalism on the Cricket Meadow. The option of installing CCTV is being explored. It was agreed that, despite this latest incident, it was unfair to spoil the enjoyment of the majority by continuing to not replace the zip wire seat, just in case it was vandalised again. To this end the Clerk will arrange for the seat to be replaced before the half term. An article addressing the issue of vandalism and the associated costs involved will be put on Facebook.

**Action Clerk**

## **19. Churchyard/Cemetery**

19.1 Lych-gate repair/replacement.

This matter is still in hand.

19.2 Artificial flowers in the Lawn Cemetery

There is provision in our current cemetery regulations to remove (and dispose of) from any grave space, flowers, plants, floral tributes or wreaths, which have deteriorated or become unsightly. It was noted that some plastic flowers were looking unsightly and should be removed. A discussion followed about whether, due to concerns over their environmental impact, plastic flowers should be allowed in the cemetery. It was agreed that the Clerk will look at the wording of the current regulations and add a section expressing the Councils preference for non-plastic flowers when possible.

**Action Clerk**

## **20. Planning**

20.1 West Suffolk, update on Options and issues consultation.

The comments received are available on line for those who wish to see them.

20.2 DC/21/0703/HH single storey rear extension (following demolition of conservatory)  
14 Bishops Croft Barningham. **No Objection**

20.3 DC/21/0667/HH front porch 6 Bishops Croft Barningham. **No Objection**

**21. Councillors reports and items for future agenda**

21.1 Newsletter, contents and options for delivery.

Due to the further delay in producing the survey results for distribution it was agreed to go ahead and print and deliver the Spring newsletter. The Clerk will arrange for the newsletter to be printed.

**22. Correspondence for information**

None received.

**23 Date of next meeting 7th July 2021**

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

24.1 Personnel Issues.

24.2 Legal Issues.