

Minutes of Barningham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th September 2023 at 7:00 pm in Barningham Village Hall.

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

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Hammond & N Martineau

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Steer chaired the meeting.

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 - The minutes of the Wednesday 2nd August 2023 meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4. Meeting open to the public

None present.

5. Report from County Councillor: J Spicer

Cllr Spicer will confirm exactly what works are going to be undertaken in both Bardwell and Coney Weston Road. As discussed previously the Parish Council will purchase and own any new gateways, The village caretaker has painted the uprights on the bridge in Coney Weston Road and the Clerk will order some replacement 30 mph stickers for the existing, faded signs.

Action Cllr Spicer/Clerk

A request has been received from some new residents in Mill Road regarding designating Mill Road as a 20-mph zone. Cllr Spicer will look at options around this, it may be possible to have the 20's plenty signage extended in to Mill Road. The Parish Council will see if there is a suitable spot for the VAS to be mounted, to collect data, to better inform the situation.

Action Cllr Spicer/Cllr Steer/Clerk

A resident in Sandy Lane North has complained about the speed of vehicles in the road. Cllr Steer will look to see if there is a suitable spot for the VAS to be mounted, to collect data, to better inform the situation.

Action Cllr Steer/Clerk

6. Report from West Suffolk Councillor: C Bull

Cllr Bull reported that the Council has had one Full Council meeting since May. There is going to be a review of grass cutting in West Suffolk. The development at Western Way, for the new swimming pool is coming to the fore again. Cllr Bull will forward information from Co-part, following a fire at one of their depots. This will explain how they are planning on storing vehicles at the proposed site at shepherds Grove and avoid this situation happening again.. A re-consultation of the application is expected very soon.

7. Chairman's reports

The Chairman met with Cllr Chalmers to discuss comments for the draft Neighbourhood plan.

8. Clerk's Report

8.1 To receive feedback from Parish/town council training.

Unfortunately, no one was able to attend this training session. The Clerk however asked for the training material to be sent through. There seems to be a lot of useful information.

8.2 To confirm Councillor Training bookings.

Cllr J Chalmers and L Hebert have signed up for some councillor training starting in November and Cllr Steer in February. Cllr Baxter would like to book for the 29th January and 5th February 2024.

Action Clerk

8.3 Anti-social behaviour, to ensure issues are being reported.

There have been further reports of anti-social behaviour, this time suspected drug dealing on the Cricket Meadow. It is vitally important that any anti-social behaviour is reported to the police. If it is a crime in progress, such as witnessing drug dealing, this is a 999 call. If it is after the event, then this should either be reported either online or by calling 111. A piece will be put on Facebook to share this advice.

Action Cllr Steer/Chalmers/Clerk

8.3.1 Policing

New policing model: PCC and Chief answer your questions

The way local policing is delivered in Suffolk is changing and a new county policing model goes live in December 2023. In advance of the changes, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, and Chief Constable, Rachel Kearton, are hosting a series of meetings to talk through the plans with local communities and answer any questions they may have.

Meetings will be held across the county through September and October with an on-line meeting in November. All meetings start at 6.30pm and there is no need to book, just turn up on the evening.

WEST AREA: Thursday September 21, 2023, at Bury Town Football Club, Cotton Lane, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1XP.

SOUTH AREA: Wednesday October 4, 2023, at Police Headquarters, Portal Avenue, Martlesham IP5 3QS

EAST AREA: Tuesday October 10, 2023, at Wherry Hotel, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft NR32 3LN

MID SUFFOLK: Tuesday October 17, 2023, at the new Stowmarket Police Station, IP14 2QU

There is also an on-line meeting on Tuesday November 7, 2023, at 6pm via Microsoft Teams.

Please email spcc@suffolk.police.uk to register and an invite will be sent through via email in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Chalmers and the Clerk will be attending the MID SUFFOLK session on Tuesday October 17, 2023, at the new Stowmarket Police Station, IP14 2QU

Action Cllr Chalmers/Clerk

8.4 Grass cutting.

The Parish Council are happy with the current arrangements for the grass cutting and as such will not be going out to tender for next year.

9. Finance.

9.1 To consider invoices for payment.

Various	Admin	£1,472.34
Countryside, conservation, and tree services	Aggies	£450.00
Countryside, conservation, and tree services	Hedges	£570.00
Countryside, conservation, and tree services	grass Cutting	£633.60
GB Sports	play area	£233.40
SALC	Training	£144.00
Various	Admin	£517.42
PKF Littlejohn	Internal Audit	£378.00
West Suffolk Council	Election costs	£81.91

It was further agreed to pay for works to Village Hall trees and new bench for Bishops Croft once invoices have been received.

Action Clerk

9.2 Bank reconciliation and budget report

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

9.3 To consider items for inclusion on the 2024/25 budget.

Consideration will be given to repairs potentially required for the Church car park. **Action Clerk**

9.3 Request for information Barclays.

Barclays have requested some information regarding the Parish Councils accounts . In the past this has created a problem. This was completed and hopefully this will not be the case this time.

Action Clerk

9.4 To note conclusion of 2023 audit, with no matters outstanding.

It was recorded that the notice of Conclusion of Audit has been received and that there were no matters outstanding.

10 Village matters.

10.1 To receive update of traffic calming measures, Coney Weston Road.

A complaint has been received about speeding cars in Coney Weston Road. See under item 5, Cllr Spicer's report.

10.2 To confirm works to overgrown hedges.

The hedge at the junction with Church Road and Bardwell Road has been cut back. The hedge in Church Road is due to be cut back.

10.3 Update on bench replacement, Bishops Croft.

A replacement bench has been ordered for the entrance of Bishops Croft. Peter Kerry will remove the old bench and install the new bench once it has been delivered.

10.4 To discuss complaint regarding speeding cars Mill Road

A resident in Mill Road has written to complain about speeding vehicle in Mill Road. They have suggested making the road a 20-mph zone. See under item 5, Cllr Spicer's report.

11. Aggies Piece

11.1 To receive update on wetland project progress.

Cllr Baxter met with Sam Hurst at the scything event. He informed her that he has been to the site but so far has been unable to locate the exact location of the pipe under Aggies. He intends to borrow some equipment to help with the survey. It was agreed that Cllr Baxter would lead on this project going forward.

11.2 To receive feedback on scything event at Aggies Piece.

Cllr Baxter and her husband joined the volunteers for the scything event. A resident from the village and some other volunteers took part in the workshop, which was very good but extremely hard work. Most of the meadow was cleared. It was agreed to leave any further works on the meadow for this year and re-assess in the early spring.

Action Clerk

12. Caretakers report Circulated.

The cord I wrapped onto the Play Area gate as a stopgap measure, as mentioned last month, was removed in less than a week; I have now glued a foam pad to the gate to reduce the noise nuisance. I have also installed the three replacement swing seats at the Play Area. The litter bin at Aggie's Piece has been filling with rainwater recently so I have drilled further drain holes in it. Following the levelling-up of four graves in the Lawn Cemetery (by the gravedigger) I have sown the area with grass seed despite it being rather late in the season for this; I did manage to get the seed for half price though.

Having rediscovered my rather basic cordless hedge-trimmer in my shed I have been carrying out some light trimming in Sandy Lane and at the coppiced bank in Church Road. I also trimmed the shrubs at the elevated path and hand weeded both sides of the path there.

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

13.1 To discuss options to replace damaged ladder on the cricket meadow.

Cllr Chalmers, the Clerk and Peter Kerry and a representative from HAGs met to discuss issues with some equipment on the playing field. A complete piece of equipment is being sent to replace the ladder unit. Peter Kerry will be removing the old unit ASAP and the replacement will be installed as soon as he is able to do so, potentially in early spring. The Clerk will speak to the school about access for the delivery of the equipment and access to the field to carry out the work. The damaged stepper was also discussed, Peter Kerry is looking to see if this can be repaired. It was suggested that we inspect the zip wire for wear. This has never been flagged as an issue, but Peter Kerry will carry out an inspection. The representative from HAGs is looking at delivery times for the equipment and the cost of a replacement part for the stepper, as an alternative option if a repair is not possible.

Action Clerk

13.2 to discuss issues with scramble net anchor.

Cllr Steer will inspect this and see if he is able to affect a repair.

Action Cllr Steer

14. Churchyard/Cemetery

14.1 Update on works to Cemetery, to discuss progress.

Cllr Chalmers and the Clerk met with the deed holder of one of the graves in the lawn Cemetery. Unfortunately, a solution was not found at this time. We will continue to work on this issue and will give the deed holder an opportunity to rectify the situation. If this is not forthcoming the Clerk will write to the deed holder again, explaining the deed holders agreed obligations. We will add some additional information to the deed of grant to make certain obligations clearer.

Action Clerk

14.2 To discuss the re-positioning of the noticeboard in Cemetery.

Cllr Chalmers will look at the logistics of moving the noticeboard to make it more visible. Cllr Baxter will clean the Perspex so the notices can be seen more clearly.

Action Cllrs Chalmers/Baxter

14.3 To note grass seeding.

The Caretaker has re-seeded the topped-up graves in the lawn cemetery.

14.4 To note request for further interment, for the late Daphne Parr.

The Clerk has received a request for the interment of ashes for the late Daphne Parr.

Clarification is still being sought as to whether this is a new grave or the re-open of an existing grave.

Action Clerk

14.5 To receive update on Lychgate replacement.

The replacement gate is likely to be installed mid to late September.

14.6 To receive complaint about parking at St Andrews Close

A complaint about overnight parking, at the car park opposite the Church, has been received. This was not considered to be an issue at this time but the Councillors will continue to keep an eye on the situation.

Action All

15. Neighbourhood Plan.

15.1 To review draft plan ahead of submission for consultation.

The following timeline for the plan was discussed at the July working party meeting.

Ian Poole to start work on writing the plan over the next month. Once a draft is available Ian will send it to the group for agreement on content and proofing, looking for typo's etc and to query any factual information. Ian will also ask West Suffolk Council to have a look at the plan to check for

compliance with local plan policies. The intention then being a draft copy of the plan will go to the Parish Council in time for discussion at the September meeting. If agreed at the September meeting, we would then take this forward for a six-week public consultation with the residents of Barningham and other statutory bodies. This would start around one month after the meeting to allow for the Plan to be desk top published, a leaflet to be published for distribution and all the consultation arrangements to be prepared. Unfortunately, the Councillors present did not feel confident to sign off on the plan in its current state at this meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would do some work on the draft, once it has been received in word form, tracking changes, and then a zoom meeting will be held, with both the Parish Council and working party members, to discuss the document. It is unlikely that the plan would be signed off before the October meeting which means the desired timeline will need to be adjusted.

Action Clerk/All

15.2 To agree date for consultation event.

This will be put on hold until the draft has been signed off.

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

16.1 DC/23/1154/OUT Outline Planning Application (means of access to be considered) for demolition of existing buildings and structures to provide new employment floorspace (Classes E(g)(iii), B2 and B8) including vehicular access with all other matters reserved. Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate East Sumner Road Hepworth.

The Clerk will submit a '**holding objection**' and the Councillors will work on the full response ahead of submission after the next meeting.

Action Clerk

16.1.1 Correspondence from Green Ixworth re Copart application.

The matter of a fire at a Copart depot was discussed under item 6, Cllr Bulls report. A report, from Copart, will be shared with the Councillors and any applications received will be discussed at the October meeting.

Action Clerk

16.2 DC/23/1250/TPO TPO 024 (2017) tree preservation order - three silver birch (T1, T2 and T3 on plan, within G1 on order) overall crown reduction by up to three metres. The Rowans Sandy Lane Barningham. **No objection.**

16.3 To note Publication of the Independent Examiners Report on the Walsham le Willows Neighbourhood Plan 2023 – 2037.

17. Councillors reports and items for future agenda

None received.

18. Correspondence for information.

19. Date of next meeting 4th October 7pm 2023 in Barningham Village Hall.

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.