

Barnham Parish Council

Locum Clerk: Pauline Smith: barnhampc@btinternet.com 01359 221934

The Annual Parish Meeting
will be held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 7.45pm

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Annual report of the Parish Council
3. To receive any reports from District/County Councillors and Clubs, Societies or Organisations.
4. To invite members of the public to raise any matters of interest or concern.

The Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners on the Electoral Roll for Barnham to raise any matters of interest or concern that relate to the local community.

10May 2023

Pauline Smith

Locum Clerk to Barnham Parish Council

Lavender Barn, Bowbeck
Bardwell IP31 1BA

Reports to the Annual Parish Meeting of Barnham
Tuesday 23rd May 2023
Venue: Barnham Village Hall, Mill Lane, Barnham, IP24 2NG
barnham.onesuffolk.net

Report received from:
Barnham Parish Council: Ed Wyer

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

As I come to the end of my final year as Chairman, I wish to thank all councillors who have supported me during the last 9 years of my tenure, with a special mention of our County Councillor, Joanna Spicer and District Councillor Andrew Smith. Without their assistance some of the financially dependant projects would have been difficult to fund from PC funds alone and it enabled us to allocate funds for the Jubilee celebrations and the Coronation.

Joanna and Andrew have also been very active in assisting with our opposition to the proposed planning developments associated with the Station Rd Industrial site and the Quarry. After almost 10 years of opposition to the quarry by the PC and other entities and individuals the County Council Development and Regulation Committee finally refused permission by a narrow margin of 1 vote. This decision is still subject to a possible appeal, but we are much closer to preventing this unsightly and unnecessary development with its associated traffic and environmental issues from going ahead. The current permission for the A11 Borrow pit, which opened the door for the quarry application, has now expired and the bund erected around the excavation site should be levelled and the site returned to its original state in accordance with the conditions. Once the appeal period has expired, I hope the conditions are enforced to ensure full recovery of the land.

Our Clerk, Tash Deverell, resigned at the end of 2022 after a very successful year in office, and despite her original lack of experience she managed the Council with skill and authority. We were sorry to lose her and wish her well for the future. Replacements were hard to find due to the ever-increasing responsibilities being placed on Clerks due to changes in legislation, additional regulation, and the job becoming more pressurised. Although a short-term interim Clerk was found we needed a permanent replacement which we hope we have found in the guise of Mrs Pauline Smith. Pauline is a very experienced administrator and currently Clerk to Bardwell PC. She is working as our Locum Clerk and since February, when she joined us, has shown an exceptional willingness to go above and beyond the normal duties of a Parish Clerk. Her efficiency shone through during the preparation for the election and without her expertise it would have been a difficult transition period. The need for an election came as a surprise, for in the time Barnham has had a Parish Council we have always struggled to fill the number of vacancies for councillors. This time it was oversubscribed and resulted in an unexpected election. The upside was the encouraging number of volunteers, but the downside was the financial cost to the Council for the running of the election, the consequences of which are yet to be realised. Five of the current councillors stood for election and were re-elected along with 2 new members. Congratulations to all and welcome to the 2 new members, Helen Beck and Adrian Webb.

Finally, I must end this report with the sad news of the death of one of our longest serving councillors, Peter Keast. Peter was a stalwart of community life being involved, not only in the Parish Council, but also the Church where he helped with the administration of the Services and the Church Council. His contribution to village life was much appreciated and he will be sorely missed.

Report received from:
Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE

REPORT TO BARNHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Being your annual meeting may I first thank Ed Wyer and former parish council members for making me welcome at meetings throughout the year and also thanks to Andrea and now you are fortunate to be supported by Pauline. I look forward to meeting your new members

- I was so sad to hear of the sudden death of Peter Keast and would want to join you all in remembering his many helpful years on the parish council.
- It has been a busy year for the County Council as we continue to post pandemic recovery, sort the ongoing implications of Brexit and in the last year respond to the implications of the Ukrainian war and the worrying cost of living crisis.
- The county council has a gross budget this year of over £1 billion. As in previous years about 75% of our expenditure is on adult care and children's services including special needs (SEND) and child protection.
- For Barnham a great deal of my focus has been on the three separate occasions that the development control committee of SCC have considered the application for sand and gravel extraction alongside the C633. This was finally refused in February and credit to Ed Wyer and the Watsons for coming to Ipswich to help me argue for refusal. The decision could still be appealed.
- I would like to congratulate Mark Hirst and the speedwatch and lorrywatch volunteers for all their excellent work in the village. Additionally, SCC provided an ANPR camera in February and letters were sent out by the Police to those drivers exceeding 35 mph.
- I am pleased at the continuing success of Barnham School – inspected this year and rated "good" by OFSTED. The Reception year intake is again over subscribed for September with 20 places offered. SET Ixworth is again full for Year 7 admissions
- Also the county council has been dealing with a series of problems, and a planning application now withdrawn) for Countrystyle Recycling. I asked this week for an update on the conditions imposed with their original application – this is summarised in an email from SCC enforcement.

Dear Cllr Spicer

I visited Countrystyle this morning with my colleague Harry McQuilliam who will be the monitoring officer for this site going forward.

There was a change of manager at the beginning of the year and as a result the site has become more organised but these works are still in progress.

The improvements to the entrance to the highway have been carried out but the maintenance of the private road has yet to be completed. Apparently Countrystyle have confirmed the availability of the money to carry out these works but they are awaiting contributions from Elveden Estates and the tenant farmer.

Harry will chase this up to make sure this is carried out as soon as possible or to serve a Breach of Condition Notice to ensure that it is completed.

In the past I have inspected the ecological management on the site and this has progressed but I will be arranging a visit with Elveden Estates to discuss the aftercare of the works.

Kind regards Jo

***Jo Lloyd** Senior Monitoring & Enforcement Officer Suffolk County Council*

Report received from:

BARNHAM VILLAGE HALL: JUDY JORDAN

Over the past 12 months the hirings have remained steady. We have raised the hire fee for non-residents and will raise the fee for residents next year.

Fundraising this past year has been successful particularly the Daffodil Teas, and the monthly social evenings as well as the two Craft Fairs. It is good to see the Community coming together to support these events. The Barnham Warm Spaces held in the winter months also contributed to village hall funds and we are grateful to the Parish Council for setting this up.

New and more efficient heating was installed in August and the floor and stage were refurbished in February.

However significant increases in expenditure has been required this past year. The Village Hall is over 65 years old and does require a lot of routine maintenance and repair and it is always a challenge to match income with expenditure.

The Village Hall is grateful to the Parish Council for their ongoing support.

Report from:
West Suffolk District Councillor Andrew Smith, Bardwell Ward

BARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

West Suffolk's budget for 2023 - 2024 was presented to full Council on the 21st February and was approved 45 for and 8 against. The budget was balanced, that being no small achievement with so many councils all over the country experiencing financial difficulties and presenting budgets with large deficits.

For 2023/2024 the council tax increase is just under 10 pence per week (£4.95/yr. for band D). We also agreed for one year only, to increase the maximum council tax reduction claimants would be entitled to under the West Suffolk Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 91.5 per cent to 100 per cent. The proposal is highly targeted and will reach those who are already on means-tested benefits which is around 4,700 residents.

Despite all the challenges over the last year we have supported and continue to support a number of initiatives to help our residents through the energy crisis with schemes like warm homes; and warm spaces.

We are still working on the Local Plan which because of recent Government changes to the NPPF has meant we have had to push back the schedule for a few months.

During the year I was able to support with funding from my Locality budget the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration in Barnham.

I have assisted on some planning and enforcement matters e.g. NRG.

I was delighted to have been elected unopposed as your District Councillor.

I remain committed to supporting our rural community in Bardwell Ward and across West Suffolk.

End of reports