**BARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

Tuesday, 11th July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**Present**: Cllrs. John Bauer, Alan Copeland, Ian Heading, Peter Keast, Charles Merrifield, Susan Watson, Ed Wyer (Chair)

Reporting: Caroline Dowson (clerk)

One member of the public – Mr. E. Heading

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs. Andrew Smith (Borough Councillor) and Joanna Spicer (County Councillor)
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 9th May 2017 were agreed. Proposed: IH and seconded PK.
3. **Matters arising from those minutes**:

* **Barnham Heath** - Cllr. Wyer has spoken to Rob Williams, the chair of the housing committee, to see if there are any community areas that would benefit from improvements. Still awaiting a response. The clerk will write to Mr. Williams.

Action: Clerk

* **Broadband**. Cllr. Keast reported that the church PCC is looking into whether a mast on the church might be feasible.

1. **Declarations of Interest** – none.
2. **Reports**
   1. **Suffolk County Council – Cllr. Spicer** has submitted a short report as she is unable to attend the meeting.
      * Installation of the new bus stop opposite the school should be starting soon. (Due to start at the end of June). Clerk will check the start date.

Action: Clerk

* + - Cllr. Spicer has heard that there is speeding in St. Martin’s Lane which is causing a nuisance. Parish councillors are not aware of this.
    - Congratulations to the speed watch team who have been out in action. The police van has also been visiting the village.
  1. **St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Cllr. Smith** has submitted a report as he is unable to attend the meeting. This was distributed and read by parish councillors.

* 1. **Village Hall – Cllr. Watson** reported that the village hall committee is concerned that the bin at the play park isn’t fit for purpose as it is difficult to empty and litter blows around (it has no lid). Clerk will investigate different types of bins and purchase an appropriate bin (liaising with Mrs. Jordan the chair of the village hall committee). Proposed: PK and seconded by CM.

Action: Clerk

* 1. **RAF Honington** **– Cllr. Heading** attended a liaison meeting at the end of May. A new medical centre has been opened and there will be a Families’ Day on 20th July with a flying display between 4 and 7pm. The next meeting will be in November. The clerk has invited the new community representative to attend parish council meetings, but no response has been received – the clerk will remind her of the meeting dates.

Action: Clerk

* 1. **Police report**. The clerk will check the situation regarding police attendance at parish council meetings.

Action: Clerk

1. **Planning**
   1. **Applications**:

**DC/16/2815/FUL – land west of North Farm, Little Heath**. 2 no. storage tanks for liquid organic waste – Mr. Watson. This was reviewed by the Planning Committee and a “no objection” response was submitted.

* 1. **Appeals**:

**SE/12/1555/FUL (December 2012). Land north of Linden Bungalow, Station Road.** The Orchard Community Group. Cllr. Wyer reported that this is at a very sensitive stage with the applicant not complying with the Enforcement Notice. Cllrs. Wyer and Smith will be meeting lawyers and senior Borough councillors later this month.

* 1. **Neighbourhood Plan**

Two items were discussed:

1. **Should the council proceed with preparing a Neighbourhood Plan**? There was a wide ranging discussion covering the advantages and disadvantages of preparing such a plan. Cllrs. Merrifield and Copeland recently attended a Forum organised by the Borough Council and it was decided it would be good to receive further advice about what type of plan, if any, would be most suitable for Barnham. It was agreed that Cllr. Merrifield should invite the person who recently presented at the Forum to brief the parish council before the next meeting if possible. The clerk will invite councillors when date is known, this will be an extraordinary meeting called by the Chair).

Action: CM/Clerk

1. **If yes, agreement to identify with St. Edmundsbury Borough Council the Barnham boundary for such a plan**. It was agreed to leave this question until after the briefing. However, in the meantime the clerk will ask the Borough Council for a digital plan of the Barnham boundary and also see if the parish council can have access to the Ordnance Survey maps on line.

Action: Clerk

1. **Play Park**
   1. It was noted that the grass is quite long. This is being cut by Mr. Thrower as an extra item (£20 each month for a strim). The clerk will ask Mrs. Jordan if the village hall grass cutter (Thomas Dunning) might include the play park with their grass cutting.

Action: Clerk

* 1. Cllr. Copeland noted that even though the fixings keep appearing on the inspection report – he has checked these and there isn’t anything wrong. He will be meeting the engineer later this month.

Action: AC

1. **Speed Watch update** – Cllr Bauer.
2. There have been a number of planned surveys and they are still reporting people speeding (in excess of 50 mph). There are two new members. A new battery has been delivered and the clerk will arrange payment as soon as the invoice is received (approx. £30).
3. A road sign that lights up indicating the speed of approaching cars or “slow down” is still considered a good idea with the cost in the region of £2875 plus VAT (mobile or fixed still to be determined). The clerk will ask Cllrs. Smith and Spicer if there might be funding available from their locality budgets.

Action: Clerk

1. Cllr. Wyer will write to Cllr. Spicer regarding Barnham’s 40 mph speed limit through the village as this seems high for a Suffolk village (smaller, neighbouring village have a 30mph speed limit).

Action: EW

1. **Finance**
   1. **Clerk’s report**

* The council’s Transparency Fund application for £278.88 has been approved by NALC. This includes an extra two hours per month for the clerk to maintain the website.
  1. **To note cheques being issued**
* The clerk noted that the parish council used to give “The Link” some funding, but that this has slipped over recent years. It was proposed that £50 should be given to St. Gregory’s Church each year for the parish newsletter which is delivered to each household. Proposed: IH and seconded: SW. This was unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk

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| 101033 | 11.7.17 | SALC (Training for Cllr. Merrifield and guides) | £41.79 |
| 101034 | 11.7.17 | Mr. D. Thrower (grass cutting June) | £215.00 |
| 101035 | 11.7.17 | Mrs. C. Dowson (clerk June-July) | £376.57 |
| 101036 | 11.7.17 | Barnham PCC (donation for The Link) | £50.00 |
| Dir. Debit | July | St. Eds. Borough Council (emptying of bin) | £36.40 |

Clerk to invite the police. And RAF Honington lady.

1. **Items for report or next agenda** – none.
2. **Date of next meeting**: Full Council Meeting – Tuesday, 12th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.