**BARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES

Tuesday, 8th November 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**Present**: Cllrs. J. Bauer, I. Clark, A. Copeland, I. Heading, P. Keast, E. Wyer (Chair) and Mrs. S. Watson.

(Partly: Cllrs. Mrs. J. Spicer (Suffolk County Council) and A. Smith (St. Edmundsbury Borough Council).

Reporting: Mrs. C. Dowson (Clerk)

1. No apologies for absence
2. **The Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 13th September 2016 were agreed. Proposed IC, seconded PK.
3. **Matters arising** from those minutes (for report and not on the agenda)
4. **Moles in play area** – the clerk has spoken to the Village Hall Chair and contacted the “mole man”, the playground inspector and other local parish clerks. To summarize, feedback received would indicate that no action is needed to remove the mole hills, bearing in mind that the play park is next to a field and moles are part of everyday life in a village (mole hills do not feature in every play ground inspection report). Cllr. S. Watson has also asked some parents about this, whose children use the play area, and they didn’t think it was a problem and that it would be a waste of money to try to get rid of the mole hills. It was, therefore, agreed that the moles are not considered a dangerous hazard and that it would be very difficult to remove them on a permanent basis which would involve significant costs. (It was noted that Cllr. Copeland is concerned about possible damage to the new surface area and so this will need monitoring).

Action: none at this time

1. **Church clock** – Cllr. Keast reported that the Parochial Church Council would donate approx. £1,000 providing there is a survey undertaken for the work. In the meantime, following an advert for volunteers to look after the clock in the village newsletter “The Link”, four people have contacted the clerk. It was agreed that Cllr. Keast will contact Ken Jordan to confirm if the volunteers will be able to carry out the maintenance and winding of the clock and also whether we will still need a quotation for a winding mechanism. Noted that for the precept meeting in January we will need to be aware of any potential costs.

Action: PK

1. **St. Thomas’ Charity** – Cllr. Wyer asked if Cllr. Copeland had approached the charity commission regarding this. Cllr. Copeland is still researching this.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – none.
3. **Reports**
   1. Suffolk County Council – Cllr. Spicer
      1. **New bus stop opposite the school**. Cllr. Spicer reported that Euston Estate are happy with the plans for this. The county council will be contacting the clerk when work is to commence.
      2. **Resurfacing Works**. It was noted that there are a lot of road works taking place in the area. Cllr. Spicer stressed that it’s important to report pot holes, damaged curbs and areas prone to flooding. Cllr. Watson mentioned the flooding by the junction of the Bury Road by the Village Hall car park (clerk has already reported this and it’s considered a flash flooding problem). Cllr. Watson also mentioned that the hedges are very overgrown which hampers visibility at this junction on the Bury Road.
      3. **Tree at Portal Close**. It was noted that the County Council have given notice that this tree will not be removed, but it will be monitored. (The residents’ association and resident who reported the tree have been informed by the clerk).
      4. **Barnham Camp** is still listed for disposal on the most up to date list (Cllr. Heading reported that this is far into the future - something like 2041). Cllr. Heading has asked that this be included in the next liaison meeting agenda. Cllr. Spicer and Smith would like to be involved in any discussions with regards to this
      5. **Speedwatch.** Cllr. Bauer reported that there wasa session a couple of weeks ago and six cars were recorded as speeding - travelling from Euston. There are eight volunteers helping with this, with another person to be added shortly.
   2. **St Edmundsbury Borough Council**

Cllr. Paula Wade has resigned and the Chair welcomed Cllr. Andrew Smith who has been appointed to represent Barnham. Items relating to the Borough Council were outlined:

1. **Appeals - The travellers Site at The Orchard, Station Road**. An extension of three months until January 2017 has been given by the Enforcement Officer. Noted that the site seems busier – so there is no compliance with the enforcement notice to clear the area and pay costs. Cllr. Smith explained the situation with travellers in Bardwell and he is happy to look into this with the Enforcement Officer on our behalf (Enforcement Officer has the same name: Andrew Smith).
2. **Planning – Stable next to the garage on the Bury Road** – opposite RAF Barnham. Cllr. Clark also noted there is a planning enforcement issue with this site. This had been reported to Jane Stanley, the Enforcement Officer at the time, about five years ago. Cllr. Smith will also make enquiries about this.

**Action**: EW and IC to give copies of correspondence to Cllr. Smith

1. **Suffolk Association of Local Councils** (SALC) has sent us a copy of their response on behalf of Suffolk and Norfolk local councils concerning a consultation which proposes introducing automatic precept referendums (which could be extended for even the smallest councils). Cllr. Wyer explained that SALC’s information implies that if a Parish Council increased the precept by more than 3%, there would need to be a referendum. SALC have proposed not to accept this. Cllr. Smith reported that he is involved with a response on behalf of Bardwell Parish Council as there are concerns about the correct interpretation off this consultation. Cllr. Smith will keep us informed about this.

* 1. **Village Hall.**  Cllr. Watson reported that, at the recent the AGM, concern was raised by the Village Hall Committee regarding:

1. Leaves along the church wall
2. The bin in the play area (noted the clerk is looking at bins in the village)
3. Mess in the bus shelter (noted the clerk is trying to resolve this)

* 1. **RAF Honington.**  Cllr. Heading will report in January after the November meeting.

1. **Planning**
   1. Applications:

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| DC/16/2357/TCA Mwt Cottage, Water Lane, Barnham | Trees in a Conservation Area Notification - 12no. Birch - reduce by 30% in height and remove branches overhanging neighbours’ boundaries. Mr. J. Dunning |

Agreed to submit a “no objection” response

Action: Clerk

* 1. **Removal of public payphone and adoption of kiosk for £1 scheme**

BT have applied for planning permission to remove several payphones in the area and the Parish Council has submitted an objection (Application no. DC/16/2017/TE3). The clerk noted that three people have volunteered to look after the kiosk and that we are awaiting news about whether the Parish Council’s application to keep the kiosk has been successful. Although there may be costs involved with this, it was agreed that the Parish Council should progress this. Proposed IH, seconded IC.

Action: Clerk

1. **Play Park update** – Cllr. Copeland reported that the bark has been removed and the new mulch under the slide has been installed – the representative from the company is happy. It seems very well installed. Thanks to the Cllr. Copeland and the volunteers who helped: Ryan Mitchell, Matthew McDonald, Jono and Sarah Waller, Harry Wright, Allan Watson and Ivan Jermy.

**Speedwatch update** – Cllr. Bauer will be replacing the broken battery (£35 purchase price was agreed). Two other councils have written to us for information about the scheme and Cllr. Bauer suggested that we include a summary of the project on the parish Council website so that we can direct any enquiries to there. The Speedwatch should be mentioned in “The Link” again. Cllr. Bauer will give details of the number of offenders so that these can be published on the Parish Council website.

Action: Clerk

1. **Finance**
   1. The Clerk’s report was distributed to councillors on 1st November which gave details of correspondence received and items to note since the previous meeting. The following points were noted:

* **Transparency fund grant.** To comply with the transparency work on our website a grant has been approved and £135.44 has been received.
* **The bank mandate** hasbeen amended so that the Chair is a signatory. The councillors authorised to sign cheques are now: Cllrs. E Wyer (Chair), I. Clark (Vice-Chair) and I. Heading. (Cllr. Keast can no longer sign cheques).
* **Clerk’s salary**. SALC have notified councils that the clerk’s salary (SCP 17) rates from 1st April 2016 are: £17,547 = £9.16 per hour (increase of 21p) and from 1st April 2017 £17,772 = £9.237. These increases were approved - Proposed EW, seconded AC.
* **Facebook page**. The clerk will set this up to advertise events in the village and information forwarded from other organisations (eg. Police/NHS). Proposed: PK and seconded: IC.
* **Bins**. It was agreed that a bin is needed in the bus shelter by the school. Proposed IC and seconded PK. Clerk to liaise with the Borough Council for the purchase and emptying of the additional bin.

Action: Clerk

* 1. To note cheques being issued = £5467.48

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| Cheque no. | | Date | Payee | | | Amount | |
| Dir. Deb. | | 31.10.16 | St. Edmundsbury BC (Emptying of litter bins) | | | £36.50 | |
| 101019 | | 8.11.16 | Abacus Playgrounds Ltd. | | | | £4,560.00 |
| 101020 | | 8.11.16 | Community Action Suffolk (website host) | | | £60.00 | |
| 101021 | | 8.11.16 | Mrs. C. Dowson (Clerk Oct/Nov) | | | £363.98 | |
| 101022 | | 8.11.16 | Mr. D. Thrower (Grass cutting Sep/Oct) | | | £430.00 | |
| 101023 | | 8.11.16 | Royal British Legion (Wreath) | | | £17.00 | |
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* 1. **Preparation for precept application** – councillors were asked to think about any funding that might need to be included in the proposed budget for 2016/2017 (Parish Council meeting in January 2017). Clerk will write to the various organisations in the village to ask for details about any help that might be needed.

Action: Clerk

1. **Items for report or next agenda** - none
2. **Date of next meeting**: Full Council Meeting – Tuesday, 10th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. (This will be the precept/budget meeting).